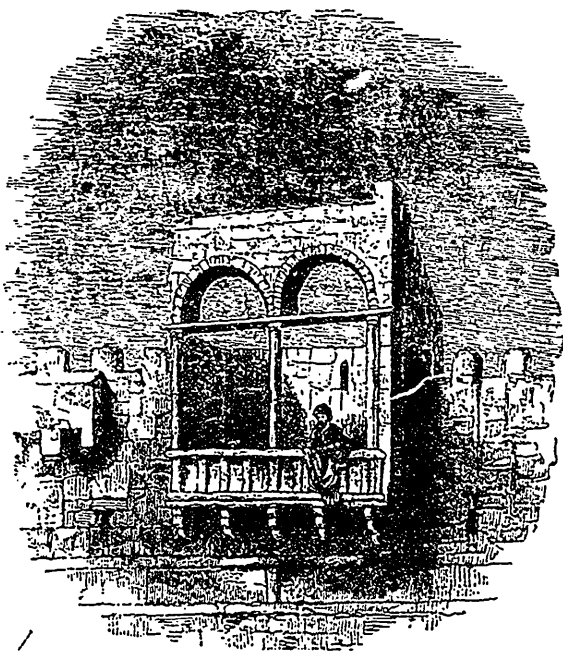


The Derb-et-Muskatim—"the street which is called straight" runs right across the city from west to east, and is a mile in length. Formerly it must have been a superb thoroughfare, straight as an arrow, and divided by Corinthian colonnades into three avenues. It is narrow now, and not straight by any means, and its splendid columns are either gone completely, buried in debris, or built into the rude modern houses which now line it. But it is the chief thoroughfare of the city still, and branching off from it are the other principal business streets, and the approaches to most of the places worth seeing.



CHAMBER ON THE WALL.

So, if you please we will take a walk down Straight Street, not forgetting the associations which have made it memorable, and with eyes and ears open to observe the quaint sounds and sights that greet us on every hand. The street is crowded with people, and the din is something tremendous sometimes, for your Oriental can get loud and excited of voice on very small provocation; and beside the ordinary hubbub of a crowd, the air is filled with the voices of the numerous street vendors, crying their wares in a score of keys, and a hundred intonations. Here are the sherbet sellers,