

EVERY-DAY LIFE IN BIBLE LANDS.

BY THE EDITOR.

TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS.

II.

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Much in evidence throughout the bazaar is the confectionery stall. In the Orientals the sweet tooth is highly developed. A favourite mixture is known as the "Turkish Delight,"—a rich paste of arrowroot and pistachio nut, strongly

ly flavoured—as is almost all of their confectionery—with rose water and orange blossoms. The whole operation of manufacture may be seen in the bazaars, the charcoal fires, the many trays and bowls, slabs and jars, and the countless jumbles of bright coloured candies.

The inscriptions over many of the shops do not announce the name or business of the occupant, but consist of pious phrases, such as, "O Allah ! Thou who Openest the Gates of Profit !" "O Allah ! Thou who Helpest us in Want !" "Aid from Allah, and Rapid Victory !" These and similar ejaculations are invariably repeated by the shop-keeper as he takes down his shutters in the morning. When he leaves the shop he either hangs a net in front of it, or begs a neighbour to keep guard over it.

Another striking figure is the Sakka, or water-carrier, with his goat-skin of water on his back—an ugly, bloated carcase of most repulsive appearance. Sometimes

he carries an earthenware jar on his back, from which he dispenses water for a very small coin, and sometimes for nothing, being employed by pious Moslems, as an act of religious merit, to distribute water without money and without price. Often the water is flavoured with orange blossom or anise seed. The sellers of sherbet and other summer drinks make a continual clicking with the brass cups from which they dispense their rather insipid beverages. The street cries are of stentorian power, but are, of course, unintelligible unless interpreted.

A wonderfully picturesque place is the market at Assouan, on the borders of Nubia, with its great piles of wheat, or doura—a sort of pea, used for food for camels and for bread—of sugar-cane, dates, gum arabic, elephants' tusks, rhinoceros and crocodile hides, and the like, brought by camel caravans from the distant desert. The Arabs, Soudanese, Berbers, Bichereese, and other native races, give great variety and picturesqueness to the scene.

As we rode along through the bazaars, craftsmen of every sort are hard at work—the blacksmith, brazier and coppersmith ringing on their noisy anvils; boys polishing chains by shaking them in a bag; the dyer red-handed at his work, the turner at his lathe, the cabinet-maker and wood-worker seated on the ground, and holding their work with their toes, as shown in our cut; the corn merchant in his dusty bazaar, the date and fig seller in his stall, the vendor of sherbets, or of water, clashing his brass cups as he