

as yesterday we saw Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus that Naaman preferred to wash in rather than the Jordan. Strange and unique Damascus! It is worth while to cross the Atlantic and Europe to see it. Though it has been the place of battle and massacre, and of ancient affluence and splendor as well as it is of present prosperity, to me its chief attraction arises from the fact that here the scales fell from Paul's eyes, and that chief of apostles here began that mission which will not end until heaven is peopled with ransomed spirits."

This renowned city of Damascus is delightfully situated, 135 miles north-east of Jerusalem, in a fertile and an extensive plain on the eastern side of Lebanon, and is watered by numerous streams which flow from the mountain range into the desert. Its situation is no more delightful than advantageous. Being directly in the route of the great caravan to Mecca, to which vast multitudes of Mohammedan pilgrims resort, most of whom combine the views of trade with those of piety, it must necessarily command a vast trade. Its present inhabitants number about 200,000, many of whom are the true followers of the Prophet. Damascus has long been a city of extensive manufacture, and is "still remarkable for its silk manufactories and for its jewellers, silversmiths, white and coppersmiths; also for its carpenters, trunk and tent makers;" but perhaps the various articles of leather are the most prominent manufactures. These are boots, shoes, slippers, saddles covered with velvet, and bridles highly ornamented with cowrie shells, besides the trappings of camels and the common equipments of a caravan, such as tents, strong net bags, water skins, etc.; indeed, no where else in the East can caravan preparations be made with the same advantage and speed. The swords of Damascus manufacture were extensively celebrated during the wars of the middle ages, when "each man prayed for a strong steel blade as the crown of his own desire." Owing to the vast influx of travellers calling at Damascus, an immense consumption of food and other daily necessities are required to meet the demand. There are some 500 public cooking establishments in the city, in which ready-made dishes are prepared for sale, which are well patronized by pilgrims and travellers of all nations.

"The early history of Damascus is shrouded in the mists of a hoary antiquity." "Leaving the matters written of in the first eleven chapters of the Old Testament out, and no recorded event has occurred in the world but Damascus was in existence to receive the news of it. Go back as far as you