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TENT LIFE IN PALESTINE.

BY THE EDITOR.

DAMASCUS.

DAMASCUS—"The Pearl of the East," "The Garden of Paradise," "Glorious as Eden!"—such are some of the titles given by its admirers to this oldest city in the world. And after crossing the arid desert or the sterile mountains, small wonder that pilgrims of every land and age have joined in the praises of this oasis of beauty.

How wonderful the story of this ancient city! The first Biblical record of Damascus is in Genesis, xiv. 15, nearly two thousand years before the Christian era, when the confederate kings made war upon Sodom and Gomorrah, and "Abraham pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left



FLOWER-SELLER, DAMASCUS.

hand of Damascus." A few verses later we read of the steward of Abraham's house, "Eleazer of Damascus." A village in the neighbourhood still bears the name, "the Habitation of Abraham."