

colour of masses of rich-hued foliage that gave evidence of fertile soil and sunny skies.

More than three thousand years ago the envoys from the tribe of Dan, who had been sent to "spy out the land," found all their desires satisfied by this favoured spot, and reported of it as "a place where there is no want of anything that is in the earth." The words are accurately descriptive still. Sheltered by the majestic beauty of the mountains, watered by their melting

snows, the soil produces side by side the vegetation of widely different climes, all equally at home in this vale where nature wears her brightest smile.

It was our last view of the Holy Land, and as I turned reluctantly to obey the signal to ride on, I confess to having congratulated myself that I had seen all this, before the black smoke of the locomotive had defiled these pure skies, and its discordant shriek disturbed the solemn silence of the "Holy Mountain," where we had heard



TATOOED DRUSE WOMAN.

only the plaintive notes of a shepherd's pipe.

Half an hour later, rounding a spur of the mountain, every sign of luxuriant life suddenly disappeared; we entered a region of rocky slopes where only the hardy little thorn found sustenance, the valleys mere stony hollows with scanty groups of stunted olives. The golden light darkened into grey, the wind blew colder, great swirling masses of mist now and then blotted out the snowy crest of Hermon, along whose eastern shoulder we were slowly creeping. Soon we were in the midst of a driving storm; rain, hail and snow all at once, and from every quarter of heaven at once; though that was not altogether a disadvantage,