

They had a moderate quantity of other ornaments—ear-rings, anklets, bracelets, and so forth. Their hair was spread over their shoulders, and plaited into an artificial braid, with camel's hair superadded. Their gowns were in the form of a pelisse, with open breast and pendant sleeves, and supported by a silken girdle, or sash, or shawl. The head-dress of an elderly maiden, I cannot otherwise describe than by saying it formed a 'round tire like the moon.' This elderly mother in Israel, at the close of our interview with her friends and relatives, formed our guide through the different portions and apartments of the mansion. It has two square courts, with a splendid suite of rooms on each side, mostly open to the front. The floor of these rooms was covered with rich oriental carpets, and at the extremity of them were elevated diwans, which formed almost the only furniture—chairs and tables being entirely wanting. The ceilings were wrought in plaster of Paris, and Mosaic and carved wood, exhibiting every variety of line and colour, intermixed with gilding. Several of them on the ground-floor had fountains playing in reservoirs of a smaller size than those in the courts without. Some of them were shaded in front by orange, citron, and lime trees. A more pleasant eastern residence, in the interior of a city, I have never beheld."—Vol. ii. 337.

The "street which is called straight," mentioned in Acts ix., is still "the most important and capacious street in Damascus, running from east to west, and at present one of the busiest scenes of eastern commerce within the city." Speaking of the walls, which are of the highest antiquity, Dr. Wilson says, "It is interesting to observe houses built on parts of them at the present day, as was probably the case when the disciples took Paul by night, and 'let him down by the wall in a basket.'"

Having journeyed to Baalbek, and inspected its magnificent ruins, the travellers crossed Mount Lebanon, on their way to Beirut. Of course, they visited the celebrated cedars:—

"They stand on what may be called the shoulder of Lebanon, on ground of a varying level. They cover about three acres. The venerable patriarch trees, which have stood

the blasts of thousands of winters, amount only to twelve, and these not standing close together in the same clump; but those of a secondary and still younger growth, as nearly as can be reckoned, to three hundred and twenty-five. A person can walk easily round the whole grove in twenty minutes. The most curious instance of vegetable growth which we noticed in it, was that of two trees near its western side, stretching out their horizontal branches, and, after embracing, actually uniting, and sending up a common stem. We measured all the larger trees, one of which, at least, we found to be forty feet in circumference."—Vol. ii. 389.

They reached Beirut on the 17th of June, and there Dr. Wilson's travels in Palestine terminated. On the 30th, accompanied by Dhanjibhai, he left Beirut, in an Austrian steamer, for Smyrna. Thence he proceeded to Constantinople, which city he left on the 7th of August, and travelled by successive steamers, up the Danube, to Pesth, in Hungary. Vienna was next visited, and then they hastened on to Britain, by the usual route. On the 23d of September, they reached London.

We cannot refrain from copying Dr. Wilson's reflections on closing his journey in Palestine:—

"Everything which we had seen of its physical features, ancient sites and remains, and present depression, tended to confirm our faith in the authenticity, genuineness, and credibility of both the historical and prophetic records, which will be associated with it in the devout recognition of the people of God, till time shall be no more. What we have witnessed and felt will never be forgotten (may it never be misimproved!) by any of our party. 'Have we not trodden together this land of wonders?' says Mr. Graham, when writing to me a couple of years after our journey was completed; 'Have we not deepened our assurance of the promises and prophecies of our faithful God, as we traced the exactness with which the curse has taken effect on this devoted country? From Lebanon, and Tabor, and Carmel, from the ruins of Bethel and Samaria, and from the Rock of Tyre and desolations of Jerusalem, we have learned new lessons of divine faithfulness and love. Indeed, these