

surpassing grandeur—the snow-clad mountain tops, the dark belt of pines beneath, deep gorges with streams and waterfalls, high rock-perched villages, and the peasant people in their picturesque garb. On the lower slopes the terraced mountain-sides are clothed with vines—I counted over a hundred terraces upon one



EMBOSSSED HEAD OF BAAL, AT RUKLEH.

hillside—and the plains beneath with palms and figs and apricots, and fields of brightest wheat and barley; and ever stretching far beneath the eye, the broad blue Mediterranean, at times of deepest cobalt blue, lit up with snowy lateen sails or marked by the trailing smoke of a distant steamer.

It was a magnificent ride down the last slopes of Lebanon, following the many windings of the road, which coiled like a