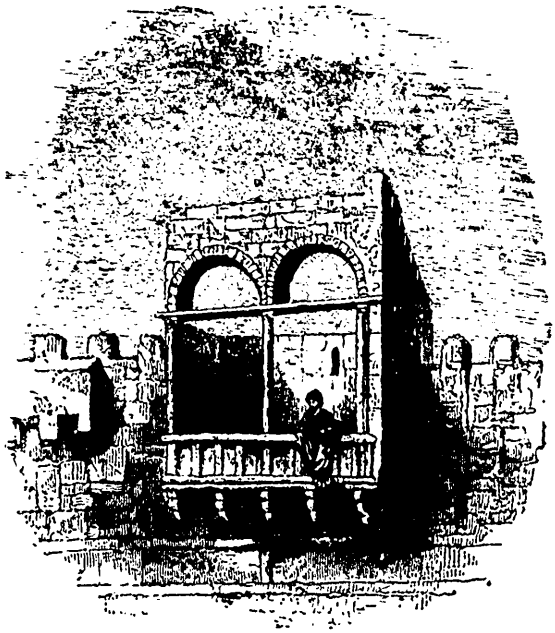


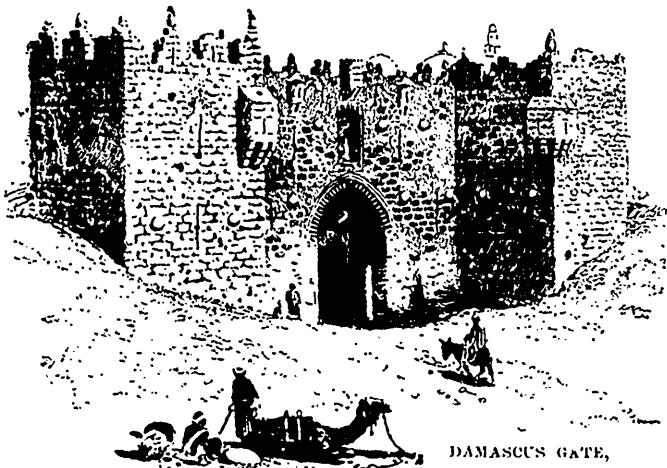
The summer parlour of the king of Moab was one of these latticed rooms, with many windows to catch the breeze. The houses of the rich were often very sumptuous, as that described in Jeremiah xxii. 14: "A house with large chambers, coiled with cedar and painted with vermillion." But for the most part the houses are unutterably cheerless. Those of the poor Jews in Jerusalem are squalid in the extreme. The house of a Druse shepherd on Mount Lebanon, in which we took refuge from a storm, had absolutely no furniture except some wadded quilts for bedding. The floor was of earth in which was a circular, unclosed opening to the stables beneath. Another house in the little village of Hina, the best in the village, that of the Greek priest, had no outer door, no glass windows, only wooden shutters, no fireplace, no chimney, no chairs or tables, nothing but

scanty bedding and, a rare sight in an Eastern house, a shelf of religious books in Greek and Arabic. The rain dripped remorselessly through the ceiling, and someone had to go up to roll the roof and so stop the leaks.

Official persons often had imposing gateways to their courtyards in which they took great pride. Here lounged the retainers of the great man, carrying the official staff and wearing the official costume, as did Mordecai at the king's gate, and as may still be seen in many Eastern cities. The official title of the Turkish



A CHAMBER OVER THE GATE.

DAMASCUS GATE,
JERUSALEM.