

in this country, a graceful girl ploughing a stony hillside field. As we approached she drew her veil closely over her face, permitting only her black, flashing eyes to be seen, and stood like a startled fawn at gaze.

Shortly after noon we reached the squalid modern town of Baalbec, the site of the most stupendous ruins in all Syria, or with the exception of Karnak, perhaps, in the world. From afar loomed up high above all surrounding objects, the six lonely columns with the shattered frieze shown in our initial cut. Once seen they haunt the imagination forever as probably the most impressive architectural fragment of the old Roman world remaining on earth. The Acropolis of Baalbec, surrounded by gardens, rises to the west of the little town. The great temple area was nearly one 1,000 feet in length and 450 feet wide, about the same size as that at Karnak. A broad flight of steps, 150 feet in length and 50 feet wide, led up to the great eastern portico. This portico was a majestic structure, 180 feet long and 37 feet deep, a fitting entrance to the great temple area behind. Beneath this are colossal vaults, far older than the Roman times, with richly carved bosses at the intersections of the groined arches. They have long been used as a shelter for flocks and herds. Here we entered, paying a Turkish dollar each for the privilege.

Flanking the portico are huge towers, built of massy stones, some of them twenty feet long, adorned with pilasters, niches and cornices. The upper parts were battlemented and fortified by the Saracens. The rear wall of the portico is 19 feet in thickness, also built of massive stones. Behind this is a hexagonal hall, 250 feet wide, with lofty chambers on every side, once adorned with stately columns; it is now, however, a mass of crumbled ruins.

A noble portal, 50 feet wide, gives admission to the great court, a quadrangle 440 feet long and 370 wide. This court is surrounded by rectangular or circular recesses, or chambers like that shown in the engraving on page 424; these were elaborately decorated with richly carved columns and scrolls, and columns of syenite from Upper Egypt. Fronting this, on the west, was the great Temple of the Sun, on a platform 300 feet long and 240 wide, and surrounded by a peristyle 290 feet long, 160 broad, consisting of fifty-four columns, $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick, 62 feet high, supporting an entablature some 18 feet in height, 80 feet above the base, and 130 feet above the level of the plain. All that remains of that magnificent peristyle are six columns with their entablature, "standing," says Dr. Thompson, "among the