

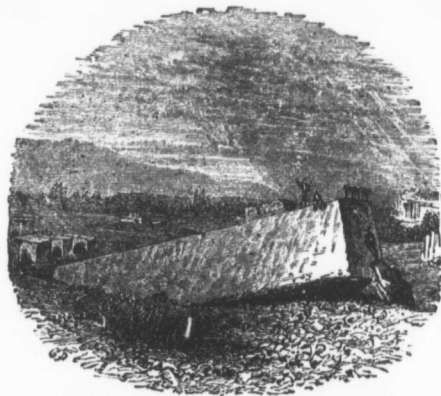
SUNDAY SCHOOL BARRER

for
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GREAT STONE IN THE QUARRY, AT BAALBEC.

Immense Stones, Baalbec.

BY THE REV. GEO. J. BOND, B.A.

THE greatest wonder in Baalbec has yet to be described. It is the massive masonry of the ancient walls below the Great Temple, and dates far away back to early Phœnician times. Fancy a tier of stones thirty feet long and some thirteen feet high, and of the same thickness, and above these again a tier of stones, three in number, one sixty-four feet long, another sixty-three feet eight inches, and another sixty-three feet, in all one hundred and ninety feet eight inches! Their height is thirteen feet and their thickness about the same, and they are twenty feet above the level of the ground. Suppose one of them to be set on end and hollowed out, it would make six rooms twelve feet square and ten feet high, one above the other, with walls

six inches thick, and floors eight inches thick! How were these stones ever put there? That is the question one naturally asks when looking at these cyclopean stones. By what process of lost engineering art were these enormous masses, for each of them weighs about a thousand tons, set in their places in this most ancient wall? The most probable supposition is that there was an inclined plane built from the quarries, a half a mile away, to the level required, and then human labour, the toil and sweat of thousands of slaves, did the remainder, slowly pushing or pulling the ponderous masses on rollers up the grade till they rested on the spot prepared for them. These gray, giant, and ancient stones, what stories they could tell of awful oppression and horrible cruelty, as well as of the might of mind and skill in those who planned and built this wonderful wall.

When leaving camp next morning, we rode