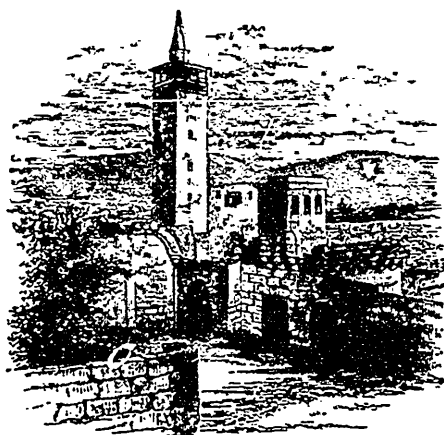


colours. The ancient wall of the city seemed in many places crumbling to ruin, and would offer no resistance to modern artillery. It is strengthened with round or square towers, and in its structure may be observed, at the bottom, an ancient Jewish or Roman work of large square masonry, then the construction of the Saracenic period of smaller stones, and at the top the crude brickwork of Turkish times. One of the towers bears an inscription with the name Nureddin, and the date 1171 A.D.

We were shown the traditional spot where Paul was let down from the wall in a basket. Near this is the tomb of St. George, much revered by Christians. He is said to have assisted St. Paul's escape from Damascus. Great heaps of rubbish are found outside the wall. A low, half-buried, vault-like structure has a sinister significance as being the spot where, "in one red burial blent," the mangled remains of the six thousand Christians of the massacre of 1860 were interred. Near by, in a quiet Protestant cemetery, over shadowed by melancholy cypresses, sleep the remains of Buckle, the English historian, who died at Damascus.



EAST GATE OF DAMASCUS.

At the East gate of the city, shown in our small engraving, and more in detail in the larger one, are the remains of an old Roman arch, some twenty feet wide and nearly twice as high, with smaller gates on either side. These have been built up for eight hundred years, and over them rises a square Moslem minaret. Here began the famous "street called Straight," mentioned in the Acts (Acts. ix. 11), now lined

with paltry bazaars, but in ancient times flanked with columns, the remains of which are seen in many of the native houses. In the heart of the city may be seen the picturesque pediment and lintel of an old Greek or Roman triumphal arch, eighty feet wide and seventy feet high.

A few minutes distant from this gate is the so-called house of Naaman, of squalid mud walls, which appropriately enough is now occupied as a lazaretto for lepers, whose decrepit misery appeals to the sympathy of every beholder. In this quarter,