Lebanon - Cedars in Lebanon (Cedrus libani), Once a Symbol of Sublimity and Immortality - Anonymous - c. 1875

July 7, 1842

The famous grove of cedars is located about one and a-quarter hours away from the northernmost tip of the Lebanon; it may well contain about five or six hundred trees, including a few score of very great age; five that are really remarkably large and attractive are said to date from the time of Solomon. One of these has a girth of over thirty-five feet, although about five feet above the ground, it divides into four to form four mighty trunks.

We rested for more than an hour under this oldest-known monument of the plant kingdom.

(Journey of a Viennese Woman in the Holy Land, Ida Pfeffer, 1844)
Baalbek: Portal of the Temple of Bacchus from the East
Anonymous: c. 1875
Saturday, September 14, 1850
The coloration of the ruins of Baalbek is wonderful, some columns have become almost red; just now, at midday, a part of the frieze that crowns the six large columns that are still standing seemed to me like a bar of chased gold. This is truly a historical landscape, the like of which no painter has yet, to my knowledge, succeeded in creating; it lacks nothing, neither the ruins nor the mountains, neither the shepherd nor the gushing water, whose murmurings I can now perceive. The moon has not risen yet, I hope to see it above the frieze tomorrow.
(Journey in the Orient, Gustave Flaubert, 1853)
Baalbek - Portal of the Temple of Bacchus with a Masonry Support for the Keystone - Anonymous - c. 1875

The wall on the right displays an advertisement for the photographer, Félix Bonfils (inset below right).

Once one of the most splendid cities in Syria, Baalbek is today a place with 2000 inhabitants. It was already mentioned in the war chronicles of the Assyrians and Egyptians, and it was called Heliopolis, City of the Sun, in the Graeco-Roman period. Then came the Arabs under Omar, the Crusaders, the Turks and Mongols swept like a ravaging whirlwind over the country, and also, on occasion, the earth trembled and obligingly assisted in the work of destruction... Colossal blocks of limestone and marble were piled up to make cyclopean walls and, in subterranean passageways and vaults of labyrinthine intricacy, comprise the substructures of a platform upon which the serene columns of the temple raise up their Corinthian pediments into the azure blue of the sky. (A Modern Crusade, Dr. Adam Karrollon, 1898)
Cilé of Bacchus with a Masonry
[Anonymous] c. 1875
ys an advertisement for the
(inset below right)

cities in Syria, Baalbek is today a
t was already mentioned in the war
Egyptians, and it was called
the Graeco-Roman period. Then
he Crusaders, the Turks and Mongols
over the country, and also, on
nd obligingly assisted in the work of
destruction... Colossal blocks of limestone and marble were piled
up to make cyclopean walls and, in subterranean passageways
and vaults of labyrinthine intricacy, comprise the substructures of
a platform upon which the serene columns of the temple raise up
their Corinthian pediments into the azure blue of the sky.
(A Modern Crusade, Dr. Adam Karrillon, 1898)
Damascus - The City Gate, Bab el-Amara, to the North - Anonymous - c. 1875

While we were standing there [on Mount Salahieh] and looking down upon Damascus, ... our guide drew our attention to the red soil extending into the cracks in the rock under our feet. According to the faith of the Mohammedans, this is the earth out of which Adam was formed, because Damascus with its surroundings was Paradise, and if there is anyone who doubts this, then Abel's tomb, which is shown nearby, will teach him the error of his ways. The footprints of Cain are still to be seen, too, as he fled from here "to foreign parts to enter into marriage with fear and trembling," according to an old song.

(A Modern Crusade, Dr. Adam Karfullan, 1898)
Bab el-Amara, to the North -

there [on Mount Salahijeh] and ascus... our guide drew our attent-ion into the cracks in the rock to the faith of the Mohammedans, high Adam was formed, because andings was Paradise, and if there is, then Abel's tomb, which is i him the error of his ways. The it to be seen, too, as he fled from ier into marriage with fear and an old song.

[Im Karrillon, 1998]

Damascus - Panorama with the Citadel (Begun in 1207) and Saladin's Tomb in the Foreground - Anonymous - c. 1875

Not far from the city lies Mount Salahijeh and a village of the same name at its foot. Anyone who wishes to gain a comprehensive view over Damascus has to take himself thence when the sun is already low and is still casting its last rays over the Anti-Lebanon ("East Mountain," as distinct from West Lebanon). At this time, being not too dazzlingly illuminated, the sprawling sea of houses lies amid a forest of fruit trees above which rise the crowns of palm-trees, just like the countless minarets above the dwarfish houses...

[A Modern Crusade, Dr. Adam Karrillon, 1898]