

for Gades, an ancient Phœnician colony. Besides extending their commerce by sea, they traded overland, with many of the interior countries of Asia and Africa; and it is believed, by the intelligent historians, that they found their way to India through the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. Two of the cities of Phœnicia, Tyre and Sidon, were governed by their own kings. The names of two of these sovereigns, Hiram and Pygmalion, the brother of Dido, are preserved, the one in sacred, and the other in profane history. It will be remembered that Hiram was the friend and patron of David and Solomon, and furnished much valuable material for the building of the temple. But I am digressing,

a seaport. Beirut conspicuously shared in the vicissitudes brought about by the terrible Crusades, vestiges of which are still visible in the older portions of the town. It was also the scene of the victory of St. George, of Cappadocia, over the Dragon. Modern Beirut owes its existence to the energy of Djezzar, and it has been greatly improved and strengthened by the eminent and enterprising Mehemet Ali. When the latter invaded Syria, Beirut was bombarded, but the city was ably defended by Solyman Pasha, aided by Ibrahim Pasha with a large and tolerably well disciplined land force. It was finally evacuated, however, when the allies landed and took possession of the town. The bay in front of the city is large

Lebanon range. The country throughout the whole of Phœnicia is still very fertile and productive, being, as it is, a semi-tropical region; and especially in the vicinity of Beirut, the rural districts are favored with an even temperature through almost the entire year. The markets in the city are at all times stocked with as fine specimens of fruits as I have ever seen in central and southern California. The principal cereals grow almost spontaneously, and wheat might be exported in large quantities were there but a spark of enterprise among the people.

A ride in the country, a few miles from the city, is like a tour through the confines of Paradise. As Bishop Heber says in his beautiful hymn:



BEIRUT, PALESTINE.

and my only apology is the fact that it is difficult to give a popular description of the present city of Beirut without citing some essential preliminaries from the pages of ancient history. Modern Beirut, even in its subsidence and decay, is a splendid seaport, situated upon a small river of the same name. As a Turkish city, it is reckoned as one of the places within the Paahalic of Acre. Its approximate population may be stated at 30,000. Arabic and Turkish are the prevailing languages, while its inhabitants comprise a motley assemblage of Turks, Arabs, Armenians and Christians, with the usual foreign element incident to

and commodious, and affords good anchoring ground, where ships may ride in safety from most of the storms that prevail in this part of the Levant.

The view from the sea is beautiful in the extreme, but the essential features of the picturesque quickly vanish as soon as the tourist steps upon the rocky levee. Like so many other oriental cities, Beirut is sadly afflicted with crooked streets and dirty lanes. The engraving sent herewith gives a truthful view of the modern town from an elevated stand-point looking towards the north. A plain extends from the sea a few miles beyond the city, where it is cut short by the foot-hills of the

"Where ev'ry prospect pleases,
And only man is vile!"

In a word, the enterprise of the people is blasted by the despotism of the government. Beirut would stand, today, one of the most beautiful cities in the world, were it owned and controlled by a Christian and enlightened nation; but alas, an incubus has settled down upon it which must be coeval with the curse of Mohammedanism. I would detail the social condition of the people, but it would only be repeating much that has been said concerning the inhabitants of Cairo and Constantinople.

ORIENT.

Indian trouble in Sitka.