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We have just been celebrating Easter - the Easter message has meant so much to me this season. I lived over again our experiences of 2 years ago when we were privileged to be in Jerusalem. We attended the service in the garden of Gethsemane Holy Thursday Night. Bishop McInnis lead by the light of a lantern hung on one of the Olive trees. On Good Friday we were present at a service in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem but best of all was the service by the empty Garden tomb Easter Morning. One certainly appreciates the note of Victory in some of the great Hymns we sang that morning. The stife is over the battle won for instance. But I was to begin where we left off a year ago - I think we went as far as Samaria. Samaria as you know is one of the large divisions of Palestine and is between Judea in the South & Galilee in the North. The City of Samaria is now nothing but a mud village. We climbed or tramped thru narrow dirty cobbled streets on our way up to the ①



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ruins of Ahab's Marble Palace. 1 Kmg 22, 29 the
view when we reached the top of the hill was
most beautiful. That wicked King & his very
wicked Queen Jezebel certainly chose a
beautiful site for their Marble Palace.
Our next stop in Samaria was at Nablus -
the ancient Shechem. This place has the
honor of being the oldest of all the Sacred
Cities - it was a City of Refuge. I remained
in the car while Mr Kerr and others visited
a very old Synagogue - the door of which
had 3 locks with as many keys kept by
as many priests. In this Synagogue there
are 2 Ancient Scrolls of the Pentateuch
written 13 years after the death of Moses.
They are at least 3580 yrs. old - the cover is
modern being only 900 years old.

The most interesting stop was made at
Sychar, Jacob's well is here. We in the
Western World expect transiency when we
say "Write it in water" but in Palestine
it stands for permanency. In Christ's time
this well was at least 2000 yrs old. There



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is a church built over the well now a kindly
priest lowered a lighted candle to show ~~us~~
how deep it is - at least 75 ft. We drank
of it. It was by this well in the long ago
that Christ revealed himself to the woman of
Samaritan, as the Messiah, the Saviour of the
World (John 4). Outside the country is
full of history. We listened to a Military
tell how the British during the war, all
but caught the German Turkish General,
who got away in his Pajamas by a runner
margin - in an airplane. The British
prevented a retreat by bombing the Pass
between Mt Ebal & Gerizim - mowing
down a host of the enemy - today it is
called "The Valley of Death". The Samaritan
still worship & sacrifice, close to Mt Ebal.
Resuming our journey we came to the
Plain of Shechem - a fine sheep
raising country and it was easy to
picture Joseph's brothers tending their
flocks.

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We reach Nazareth again but only to pass
thru it this time. I do have a mental picture
of this ancient City where Christ spent 28 yrs
of his life. These old places have changed
but little. Women still go to Mary's well
to draw water. We reach Tabanpha - the
ancient Bethsaida. before dark we could
again feast our eyes on beautiful Galilee -
We stayed at a Franciscan Hospice which
Father Tapper is the head. A more lovely
spot would be hard to find for his grounds
are built up from the shore of Galilee
a low wall surrounds it tables & chairs
on the grounds ^{where leaf} make a cup of tea a real
joy ~~prayer~~, while one looks over the blue
water of Galilee. Trees - orange lemon Mimosas
etc. - Bogavillia fine covered the large
porch and it was a mass of blossoms it was
blossom time any way in Syria & Palestine.
We leave this historic spot & the Hospitality
of Father Tapper's in the morning driving for
some distance around the Sea Lake in



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5-
a north easterly direction crossing a bridge
over the Jordan, our passports were examined
at Iser Banat Yaoub. Now with Jordan passed
we are in Syria again and on our way to
Damascus. A great deal of the way the
country is barren and covered with
lava for some of the ~~see~~ Mts in the Anti
Lebanon range are Volcanic. We drove
close to this range & could have gotten
out of our car & made snow balls. We
finally reach Damascus by the same
road Paul must have taken on his way
to that City to persecute the Christians. We
went to the Palace Hotel whose proprietor
was a graduate of Beirut University, there
were many guests from all parts of the
World. Damascus is the oldest City in
the World and should be preserved but
France did not think so for in the
recent Druze rebellion the French
destroyed a whole street & a large one
leaving not one single house standing. (5)



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And the bombing was done at night, ^{were} there
entrenchments were still up on one section of
the City. We drove thro the Street called Straight
mentioned in Acts 9.11. passing the house said
to have belonged to Judas where Saul or rather
Paul was sent after his conversion.
We went to the Hill in the West of the City from
which Mohamed viewed the City and that
it so beautiful he would not enter it saying
he wanted to enter Paradise but not
the Abana river & its branches gives
Damascus its beauty. There are trees
and flowers in abundance. Yet there
was more dust everywhere than I ever
saw in my life. It is a Moslem City
& has 284 Mosques & Minarets. We got
accustomed to the Muezzin the Moslem
call to prayer. It would take too long
to tell of all we saw in this wonderful
City. But I must mention the Mosque of
Amayyad for it is the largest ^{in Damascus} & most
beautiful. Inside there is a great tomb ^{Ala Vassla} 6



in which is buried the head of John the Baptist
Saladin's tomb is outside in the Court.
The Bazaars are wonderfully interesting
and the Brass factory. The Museum
is full of things not to be seen in a Western
Museum. The last Holy Carpet a precious
thing was there. Arabic Arms & Trappings
used by King Faisal when he was Crowned
King of Syria etc.

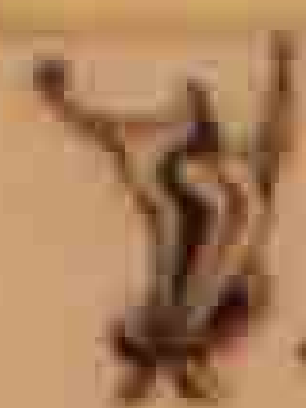
One thinks of Naaman, Captain of the host of the
King of Syria - the leper who when told by the
Prophet Elisha, if he wished to be healed of
his leprosy, he must bathe in the River
Jordan seven times said: Are not Abana
& Pharpar rivers of Damascus better than the
waters of Israel?

But we must leave Damascus
for we had planned to see Baalbek 40 miles
North West of Damascus. It was once the
most magnificent of Syrian Cities full of
Palaces, fountains, beautiful monuments
& Temples. It is now famous only for the



Splendor of its ruins. The word Baalbek means - Sun town. The great Temple of the Sun was 200 ft long by 160 ft - the roof was supported by many columns - Six of which are standing and some lying on the ground. These enormous columns were 22 ft in circumference and 80 ft high including the pedestal & Capital. There were ruins of many other temples all showing beauty & strength. The early history of Baalbek is not known. Some historians say Solomon built the great Temple. In later years Christianity under Constantine became the dominant religion. Terrible barbarities were practiced on the early Christians.

The Arabs believe Nimrod built his famous tower - the tower of Babel here. Arabic Literature says that after the Flood Nimrod reigned over the Lebanon & sent Giants to build the Fortress of Baalbek. When one looks at the enormous blocks (9)



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of stone used in the buildings of these
heathen temples we think too that
only giants could have handled them.
There is a picture of one of them - this one
is however said to be the largest stone
ever quarried it is - 72 ft long - 13 ft high
and 13 x 14 ft - and is said to weight 1500 tons
stones in the temple walls weighed 1000 tons
& were placed at least 75 ft high.



Aug 23 1864. We were guests of Miss
Horn for dinner in the school dining room.
Our foreign Board provides Miss Horn's salary
& that of Miss Jessup & the Up Keep of the Bldg.
The salaries of the other teachers come from tuition.
There are only Syrian girls in Miss Horn's School
no American - The Syrians feel themselves superior
to Americans. There is a school for American girls
it was organized by two elderly sisters named Webb
formerly Miss. in Turkey - American Board Missionaries
One has had to give up - and a Miss who are
doing a piece of real Miss. work. There is a school
for American boys too but I did not visit it.
We are naturally more interested in our
own Presbyterian work but there is one
institution in Beirut under the British
that I want to speak about for it appeared
to me to be above the average - This sch. institution
is the British Syrian Mission with a Training
College in Beirut and schools in a number of
cities in other parts of Syria - Damascus - they are
as fine schools as you would want for your
children and taught by consecrated teachers
of a high order. This large training college
with its practice schools was founded in
1860 after a terrible massacre of men
by the fanatical Druses - all Europe
shuddered at the wail which rose from
20000 desolate widows & orphans, spared as
the Druses savagely threatened, in order that their



hearts might bleed. A Mrs Bowen Thompson of England heard that cry and gave herself in the name of her sorrow to the help and uplifting of these children of the East. Mrs Thompson's idea was to open an Industrial School. She began with 30 women but in a week the number had swelled to 200. The Book - the Bible was the key note of Mrs T. work and today if you speak to one, any one of the teachers of the great success of this school you will likely be told as I was "We uphold it". Now there is a school in Sidon I want to tell you about.

The Junior College for women was organized in 1925 - it is really an extension of the American school for girls. It is located in a private house - a large one & an addition was being built - when I was there. The girls come from Iraq, Syria, Turkey - Some are protestants, Greek Catholics, Gregorians and Moslems.

In 1926 - there were 3 graduates in 1926 - 4 schools in Palestine & Egypt are now sending girls to the Junior College. This Junior College for girls in Syria is the first institution to offer higher education to women in this part of the Near East. The curriculum is planned to develop the physical, social, mental and spiritual lives of the students.

In the Social Science courses the students are taken on excursions to see actual conditions & institutions and to study first hand the problems in Syria. They visited for instance, a rug factory, the American Refugee