

instruments are clarinets. Their music is always in the minor, and some of it is very beautiful.

All the different nations have their post-office here as in other cities of some importance in Palestine and Syria. On account of the cholera we could not go to Damascus and Baalback; but we had a very interesting trip to the Mt. of Lebanon. Here the massacre of 1860 was terrible.\* The Druses a fanatical sect who profess a religion somewhat like the Moslems have always been enemies to the Christians. In 1860 the Turkish soldiers disarmed the Catholics throughout Lebanon on a pretext of making peace, but really with a view of having them exterminated. Ahmed Pasha is said to have given the signal for the massacre from the Turkish barracks. Men, women and children were killed by the thousands. In Damascus alone 6,000 unoffending Christians were murdered, and their bodies lay in heaps throughout the city. The clergy shared the same fate; many of them were slain beside the altars, where they had sought a refuge. It was only when Europe interfered in the matter, that a stop was put to the terrible slaughter. A number of the ringleaders including several Jews and Ahmed Pasha himself were arrested and beheaded by the French soldiers. Since that intervention, Lebanon has been formed into an independent district, the Governor of which has always been a Christian. About 250,000 of the inhabitants, which means nearly all the inhabitants of Lebanon, are Catholics; most of them are of the Maronite rite. They were formerly schismatics, but in 1182 they returned to the fold of the Mother Church from which they had separated in the 6th century.

We traveled by train as far as Junch. The plain over which we passed is very fertile. This part of the country is densely populated. We passed beautiful orchards, gardens, and green fields of sugar cane. The latter is all eaten raw as in Palestine, for there is no sugar factory in this part of the country. Near Junch the plain is very narrow: the mountains rise abruptly almost from the sea shore.