SKETCH OF ANTONIO BISHALLANY, A SYRIAN OF MOUNT LEBANON

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Sketch of Antonio Bishallany, a Syrian of Mount Lebanon by Charles Whitehead

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CHARLES WHITEHEAD

SKETCH OF ANTONIO BISHALLANY, A SYRIAN OF MOUNT LEBANON





Tom your loving brother Ac Bishallong

SKETCH

OF

ANTONIO BISHALLANY,

A SYRIAN OF MOUNT LEBANON.

BY REV. CHARLES WHITEHEAD.



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ANTONIO BISHALLANY,

A SYRIAN OF MOUNT LEBANON.

CHAPTER I.

Antonio Bishallany was born August 22, 1827, in the village of Salima, on mount Lebauon. This mountain is said to be three hundred miles in circumference, and its loftiest peak not less than ten thousand feet high; some parts of it being covered with perpetual snow. Its sides and the valleys lying between its various ridges are remarkable for their fertility, and abound in fruit and trees of beautiful shape and foliage. The almond-tree, the fig, the olive, the mulberry, and the vine grow luxuriantly, and yield their delicious products in abundance. Here also is seen a peculiar tree resembling somewhat

in appearance the apple-tree, though more bushy and thickset, with darker and longer leaves. It is called the kharub, and bears a pod which is used as a food for swine, and with which, it is said, the poor prodigal would have filled his belly. Here too grows the sycamore-tree, not the one which bears that name with us, commonly called the button-wood, but a tree bearing several crops of figs during the year, usually planted by the wayside, and easily climbed; so that Zaccheus found a convenient position among the branches of the sycamore, to wait for the passing crowd and catch a sight of the great Travellers speak too of groves Redeemer. of pines, the box, the fir-tree, and the my .tle-rich evergreens, that are pleasant to the eye, and give to the mountain its deep verdant tinge and velvet richness, when gazed upon with delight by those who visit the holy land and behold the goodly Lebanon.

The mountain is especially celebrated for its large and valuable cedars. But of these noble trees comparatively few remain. To them the psalmist compares the Christian. "The righteous shall flourish like the palm-