

CHAPTER IV.

TYRE, SIDON, AND ACRE.

We wandered on to many a shrine,
By faith or ages made divine ;
And then we visited each place
Where valour's deeds had left a trace ;
Or sought the spots renowned no less
For Nature's lasting loveliness.

The Troubadour, by L. E. L.

THE road down the mountain was full of interest, and on reaching the plain we found a path that lay along the banks of a sparkling river, leading us out upon a finely curved and yellow-sanded shore. We galloped along these sands for several miles, and then entered Sidon, through a guardhouse and covered way filled with Turkish soldiers. We passed several groups along the shore that would each have made a highly-coloured painting : those who have been struck by the picturesqueness of gipsy encampments in England may fancy the amusement a wayfarer continually finds in a country where such life is universal ; but in the latter, the long beards of the Moslem, the gay colours of their dresses, and the trowsered women, with their various veils and turbans, infinitely diversify the groups.

Sidon is as irregularly built, and has streets as narrow, and as much varied by bazaars, cafés, and stables, as the other oriental towns I have endeavoured to describe. Its fortifications offered considerable resistance to the Anglo-Austrian-Turkish army in the late siege : the Archduke Ferdinand was the first to enter the breach when effected on the land side, and was well seconded in his attack by the fire of the British fleet.

There are some remains of Fakreddin's palace, standing out into the sea, and only connected with the town by a long and nar