

one of the silver pins is attached a loose banana handkerchief, used sometimes in the dance, and sometimes to mop the perspiring face of beauty. Round the waist is an immense length of silken belt, wound round and round the body, and hanging in tassels to the feet. Their feet are encased in little embroidered slippers, or red morocco boots, over which fall the monstrous silver anklets, whose clanking gives notice of the approach of the fair one, and reminds the traveller of a prison yard. From the shoulders falls a cloak, dark and thick, and over that again is hung a white-striped cotton and silk sort of burnous, which sometimes trails in the mud, and is occasionally drawn over the head. The head is the most remarkable thing of all, and gives its *cachet* to the figure, more especially when seen from behind, as it is a great deal wider than the body (about three-quarters of a yard across altogether) and quite without form. The hair is plaited into four times its ordinary bulk by the addition of horse-hair and wool; and over this is built up an edifice of chains, sequins, and gold handkerchiefs, such as would supply half-a-dozen ordinary women. The fabric is only taken down once in three or four months, and forms, with its profusion of adornment and glittering scarfs, a comfortable nest for every description of unclean insect, such as must, I should imagine, have been nursed in the heads of our great-grandmothers. Under the chin is often tied a gauze veil of red or green, which is knotted about the neck, and covers the whole construction. They steep their hair in henna as well as their hands, and this renders them even more filthy than they would otherwise be. Their silken burnouses and gowns are almost hidden under the weight of ornament with which they are encumbered — yards of silver chains about their necks and waists, on which are strung daggers and looking-glasses, and great boxes of talismans, all of solid silver; while the wealthier damsels have, in addition to all this, magnificent necklaces of coral and silver beads. Their arms are loaded with immense bracelets, and their fingers concealed by multitudes of rings. All these costly gewgaws flap and rattle as the ladies walk, and produce a singular effect where many are about. Their faces would not be ugly were they not plastered with rouge, and painted in patterns. The eyebrows glisten with oil, and the whole physiognomy is a mass of grease, otherwise it would crack with the thickness of the repulsive unguents. From behind, as I have said, they present a very droll appearance — a mere bundle of clothes with a wide top, a tag, or a handkerchief, or a bit of gauze, sticking out generally of some