

ESMERALDA

logue as an eccentric sports costume. It was immaculately neat and clean; but, aside from the fact that it curiously became her, that was the best which could be said for it.

The blouse, or upper portion, was of white silk, open at the throat, about which was loosely knotted a large, man's-size handkerchief of pale blue silk! The lower portion was a skirt of dark corduroy; and on her feet were the most impossible shoes!

It was as simple a costume as a servant might have worn; yet no one would ever have mistaken her for one. Beside her, close at heel, stood the object that had roused the ire of Taki and Whaki—poor little darlings! It looked like a large rough yellow dog—a rather pathetic dog, because of the coarse hair over its eyes; a very common beast, at any rate, but apparently as unconscious of anything being wrong with itself as was its mistress.

During the instant that followed her dramatic appearance the creature