

the tall maize plants, bending and fluttering so gracefully in the wind, and the interminable tracts of lush green meadow-land, form a fascinating and very animated landscape. Then there is that wonderful phenomenon—unknown among the mountains—which fills the heart with such a strange feeling of awe and deceives the eye in so agreeable a manner—the *fata morgana*, that remarkable aerial phenomenon which suddenly conjures up before the astonished eye, that a moment before saw nothing but the illimitable heath, vast lakes, or cities with their lofty spires and towers.

Numerous streams, some of them of considerable breadth, traverse this region; but the little springs, brooks and lakes which lend animation to mountain landscapes and clothe their own banks with perpetual verdure, are sought in vain here.



MAGYAR PEASANTS.

The population of the Hungarian Plain is about 5,000,000. By far the greater number of the inhabitants are of Magyar race, but in the south there are large numbers of Germans and Roumanians. These non-Magyar inhabitants have for the most part immigrated since the expulsion of the Turks, having been introduced by the Imperial Government to colonize desolate and deserted districts.

The Magyars of the Plain are, as a rule, tall, shapely, brown-haired, powerful, active, courageous, and of a certain dignity of mien. As a rule the men are much superior to the women in comeliness. The principal trait of character of these genuine representatives of the Magyar race is a great capacity for enthusiasm, they enter upon new undertakings with a fiery zeal which quickly dissipates itself and often gives place to complete