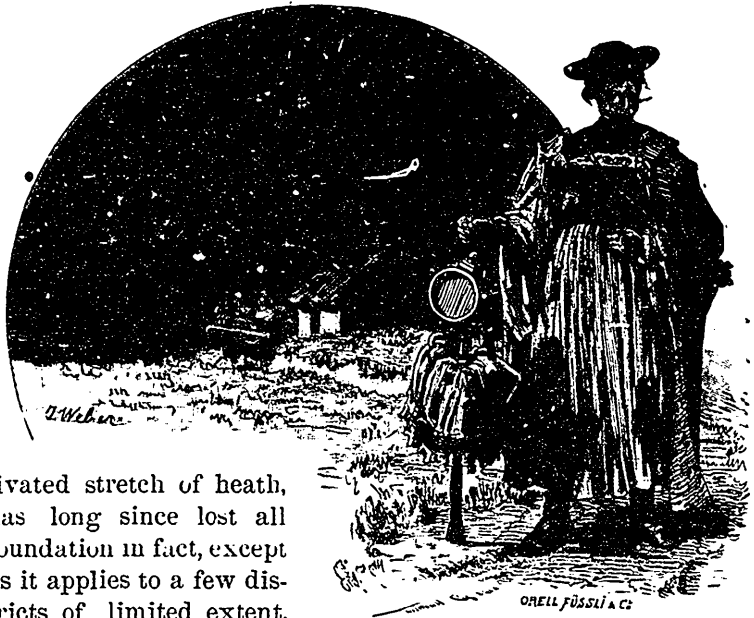


in rapid, endless succession, had suddenly been converted into solid land. Then, too, there are the curiously-shaped conical mounds, known to the peasantry as Turks' or Tartars' graves, though in point of fact they owe their origin, not to human hands but to geological processes. In some districts, it is true, the surface is as flat as a table, so that as far as the eye can reach it is unimpeded by any hill or so much as a slight elevation.

The notion, still to a great extent prevalent in the adjacent countries, that this Plain is an immense treeless, shadeless, uncul-



HERDSMAN OF THE HUNGARIAN
PLAIN.

tivated stretch of heath, has long since lost all foundation in fact, except as it applies to a few districts of limited extent. True, the Hungarian Plain proper can boast of no ancient forests cover-

ing square miles of territory, but it has some fairly extensive modern plantations. Farm-houses which were formerly uninterruptedly exposed to the burning glare of the sun, and from which not a tree could be seen for miles around, are now frequently surrounded by cool and shady groves, and while in former times the shepherd or the reaper could find no shelter from the noonday sun, except the scanty shade afforded by a tent of wheat-sheaves or a hay-rick, they are now frequently able to take their midday rest under the verdant foliage of some stately tree.

Although the charming variety and wealth of outline of mountain scenery is denied to the Plain, the endless waving cornfields,