

are the scales at many of these booths and sidewalk stands, that the buyer is at the mercy of the vendor, and must trust to his honesty and fair dealing.

Instead of an inscription there is frequently a sign, as a brass dish for the barber's shop, a sugar-cane for the grocer's, or, as in the picture, a stuffed crocodile, indicating the entrance to a bath house.

holding the paper upon the palm of the hand, and writing with a reed pen. Such scribes are in special request for writing legal documents, marriage contracts and the like, and sometimes one may behold a heavily veiled woman dictating to a scribe perhaps some tender message to her absent lord and master.

Wherever there is a mosque in



"GOOD MEASURE, PRESSED DOWN, RUNNING OVER."

A common figure in the bazaars or streets—we have even seen them in Naples—is the public letter-writer. Few of the people can read, and fewer still can write. So when the unlettered Jew or Arab wishes to send a written communication, he must employ the help of one of these professional scribes. The writing is done in the most awkward way one can imagine, by

the East, says a recent writer, there is a letter-writer. If you sit all day, as many a painter does, within view of his trembling fingers (it is rare to find a rapid penman in the East), you will get an idea nothing else could give you of the life of the people. For this old man not only writes the letters of all applicants, but reads to them, too, those letters that have been written by