

Blocksberg, that a few hours' cannonading would reduce it to ruins. Possibly, too, as the rulers follow the milder and more generous policy which marks the present Emperor of Austria, the old antipathy may expire, and the Magyar become identified with his German neighbour.

Almost two-thirds of Hungary is encompassed by the Carpathian Mountains, which form a kind of stony girdle. At the foot of the highest group lies the *comitat* of Gömör, a district of singular beauty and variety. Here are mountains on the summits of which grow the Alpine lichen and the pine, while at their base flourish melons, and Indian corn; and here, also, have been recently discovered some remarkable caves, which even in the hottest summer are always blocked up with ice.



POLISH JEW OF MARAMAROS, SZIGET.

The whole of this region of the Carpathians abounds in cavities formed by the constant dripping of water containing carbonic acid on the limestone rock.

From the remarkable ice-caves of Gömör, it is an easy transition to the vast salt mines of Wieliczka, in the plains of Galicia. As it is said that the silver deposits of Potosi were discovered by the accidental uprooting of a shrub, so tradition reports that the salt mines of Wieliczka were first revealed

during the vigilant search for a lost wedding-ring. The ring dropped from the unaccustomed finger of the bride, and alighted on the one spot where the white salt protruded through the soil. Here the lost jewel was discovered by the happy couple, and with it a blessing for all Europe. The mines extend to a breadth of ten thousand feet, are seventeen hundred feet deep, and have now been worked for nearly a thousand years.

As the Lady of Shalott was clad in white samite, mystic, wonderful; so our traveller was clothed in white as she descended into the topmost story of these excavations. Led by boyish guides, who waved above them torches of burning broom, making the corridors sparkle as though set with myriads of gems, they at length reached a silent lake where a flat-bottomed boat was ready to take them across.