



Massey's Illustrated

GROUP OF FEMALE VENDORS, JERUSALEM.

retired from active life, who seats himself Turkish fashion in a corner, smoking the much-used *nargheli* or pipe, hour after hour, in happy laziness. Chairs are used only for strangers, and seldom then. One of the two silversmiths works a bellows, which is a goat skin, so valuable in many ways to the Egyptians. Even shepherds make coats and mats out of it. The other workman heats his silver in the charcoal fire and forms and fashions the metal on an iron block, which bears some resemblance to an anvil. In the uncomfortable and cramped-up posture of sitting cross-legged, one cannot

produce very perfectly formed articles; notwithstanding, these artisans, with their tiny and rough instruments, do very fair work. This description does better justice to the inferior class of silversmith, who usually has a composition metal with a seasoning of silver and makes ornaments for the poorer people.

Machinery work is quite unknown in Egypt amongst bazaar workers, unless it be an occasional sewing or stitching machine, a hand lathe, or the like simple contrivance. Brass turning is very primitively done by these clumsy, unskilled laborers. A small lathe, with a roughly formed spur and chuck, is driven by a bow and string—the cord being wound around the brass to be turned so as to enable the turner to chisel or shape the brass by a backward and forward motion. The more advanced artisan uses a wooden pulley for his bow and string. Hammered brass work is quite extensively carried on. The tray or article to be worked is placed in the lap and, in the same sitting posture as before, the hammerer follows the chalked lines of the design and punches and hammers merrily away with his tiny instruments. The details are not accurate; however the whole presents a pretty

effect. Scroll and figure designs are gracefully and artistically marked out by the designer, and any one could soon learn to handle the punches dexterously enough to do very creditable work. Somehow these fellows do not know how to go at their work, being uneducated, dull of comprehension and slow to profit by experience; they are awkward in action and a long time accomplishing their object.

The weavers had a somewhat complicated loom, driven by foot power. The strings or threads converged towards a small circle, and when the machine was in operation the weaver would dexterously move his shuttles of various colored threads in and out through the warp.

I enjoyed watching the embroiderers making diverse designs of gold and silver threadwork. But they are too fond of cheap tinsel work, which for a time looks quite as good as the real gold and silver, though soon fades and tarnishes.

It would require a book to tell you half what one sees in these bazaars, and rather than be too prosy and lengthy, I shall avoid expatiating further on Cairo sights and immediately proceed to recount

some things of Jerusalem, which relate more or less to the bazaars.

I would call the Cairenes wholesale merchants in comparison with the petty vendors of Jerusalem, which has 50,000 inhabitants, one half of whom are Jews of the most abject kind. Here one meets daily in the streets no fewer than 30 to 35 distinct nationalities; thus Jerusalem is the most cosmopolitan city in the world. It is also the most mixed or promiscuous, having nearly every shade of human being except the Mongolian type. This is due to the intermarry-



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BREAD VENDORS, CAIRO.

TURKISH DELIGHT VENDORS, JERUSALEM.



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