

they have in common with the real article, which looks like squares of clear jelly powdered with sugar, and tastes of roses and orange blossoms, mingled with the piquant saltness of the pistachio nut. Crystallized fruits and many kinds of nuts are very abundant and cheap in Syria; and the art of extracting flavours from fruits and flowers is carried to great perfection. Their confectioners are by no means confined to chocolate, lemon and vanilla, nor have they learned to mix plaster of Paris and flour with their sugar. Add to these facts the further one that all classes are exceedingly fond of sweets, and critical in taste; and the surprising variety and excellence of the display in the sweatmeat bazaar is accounted for.

It was more difficult to account for the engrossing interest taken in our modest purchases by everybody in sight. While



SWEETMEAT STALL.

the dragoman was buying for himself and the party, and trying to do it with the least possible waste of time, a crowd that nearly blocked the street assembled to watch the transaction, pressing closer and closer in their eagerness to see and hear, until their attentions became embarrassing. Seeing this, Mr. Read came to the rescue; established communication with the crowd by means

of the "universal language," and induced them to follow him to the end of the street; whence we heard repeated shouts of laughter, and a gradually increasing tumult that finally led us to follow. We found our friend in the midst of a laughing, shouting crowd that quite closed the street; amusing them with a cane and a primitive musical instrument that he had borrowed from a boy near by. The noise may be imagined, but the climax was supplied by a pannier-laden donkey who had been patiently awaiting his driver's pleasure to move on, and watching this unknown species of juggler. Suddenly he lifted up his voice and expressed his amazement in tones that fairly silenced all other sounds; and the laughing crowd accepted the signal to disperse. Mr. Read was not forgotten, however, and, if we afterwards appeared without him, inquiries were immediately made for "the funny man."