

with its high latticed windows, being seldom allowed to go out, and then closely veiled, for they must never see the face of man except that of father, husband, brother or son. They are not educated, have little to interest or occupy them, have few ideas of religion and nothing to comfort them in suffering and death, being only taught that implicit obedience to their husbands gives them a faint hope of future happiness.

The dwellings of the poor are wretched, whole families being crowded together in miserable hovels, and among them girls are entirely uncared for, run wild in rags and dirt all day long, are never taught anything useful, but too early gain a familiar acquaintance with such vice and impurity as would fill us with horror, though even these little street waifs veil their faces quickly if they see a man or boy approaching.

There are in Syria many Bedouin, or Wandering Arabs, who are, nominally at least, Moslems. Their women have greater freedom, but an Arab girl is generally more ragged, dirty, and ignorant of anything but evil than we can well imagine. She is ill-treated, ill-fed, and exposed to much suffering, and it is almost needless to add she knows nothing of God or of Jesus Christ. Two little Arab girls who were brought to a mission school grew pale at the sight of a carriage, did not like to be washed and combed, and cried bitterly over sleeping in a bed, saying "We do not like these white things to sleep on and there are no calves and donkeys." They had been used to cuddle down on the straw beside the calves and donkeys, and felt lost and lonely without them.

The Druses are a peculiar race living in some of the slopes of the Lebanon ranges. Among them also women are considered far inferior to men, and a Druse has only to say to his wife "Go home," and she is divorced. Girls are despised, as the following little story will show you. A Druse Sheik being asked by a lady missionary to send his daughter to school replied, "What is the use of sending that ugly, small cat to school; it is far more useful to send her to gather grass for the cow." Yet Druse girls are very clever and intelligent, and many of them are now being taught in mission schools, so that some fathers are beginning to understand the value of education. Not long since a Sheik employed a young Christian teacher to educate his three daughters, saying to her: "Make them like yourself." As I must reserve what I have to say of the Christian sects, and of Mission work for Syrian girls, for another paper, I will close