

afraid of either receiving or communicating the plague. Over and over again, as with Western curiosity we were inclined to study the out-of-door life or domestic operations of the Arab women, our dragoman would remonstrate: "You must not go there, you must not look at these women, they do not like it." The novelty of seeing a Frank lady unveiled in the bazaar made shopping in Damascus exceeding embarrassing for the only lady in our Canadian party. The natives, after staring her out of countenance from one point of view, would move around to repeat the process from another coign of vantage, until Madame became so indifferent as to heed their attentions no more than she heeded the pigeons that hopped around her feet.

The jealous separation of the sexes destroys all public social life. At a summer picnic, which I witnessed at Baalbec, the women and children sat apart by themselves, and chattered like magpies, while the men smoked their pipes and sipped their coffee in secluded and dignified silence. The chief type of holiday enjoyment for women seems to be to visit on Friday—the Moslem Sabbath—the cemetery, and gossip among the graves beneath the cypresses, or to row on the water, guarded by a coal-black eunuch, looking like so many ghostly figures conducted by grim Charon over the river Styx.

The costume of women of Egypt is peculiarly ungraceful and ungainly. A long, closely-woven veil, of texture like black crape, completely envelops the face all but the forehead, leaving only an aperture for the eyes, as shown in our cut. Between the eyes is affixed a brass tube with transverse ridges which must be exceedingly uncomfortable.

Among the lower fellaheen, or peasant-class, and among the Arabs the women are not veiled, but many of them are instead tattooed on cheek, and chin, and brow, in a manner

which most effectively conceals any beauty they may have had.

Among the peasant-class throughout the East the women do much of the labour of both house and field. I have seen them ploughing the stubborn soil, digging with rude mattocks, making and carrying bricks, and preparing animal refuse for fuel. Of the gentler toil of folding and watering the flocks no complaint can be made. One arduous part of woman's never-ending work in the East is carrying



VEILED WOMAN OF CAIRO.

water from the village fountain, or spring, or lake, or river-side, to their homes for daily use. The water-jars are often heavier than I could lift, but these they will poise upon their shoulders and climb the banks of the Nile or steep slopes of the hill country to their often remote and secluded villages.

The congenial occupation of carding, spinning and weaving wool, or, in the more leisured classes, of sewing and embroidery, are still, as from