

moment. How absurd, for instance, a lady in a crinoline appears to our eyes, to say nothing of certain varieties of tight and loose lacing, high waists and low waists, and the innumerable ways of dressing the hair which were in fashion not twenty years ago. The passing and often grotesque fashions will certainly not embellish the portraits in the eyes of posterity. On the other hand, look at the lasting beauty as works of art of the portraits of Reynolds and Gainsborough. The Olympian inhabitants whose traditional characteristics indicate them as models to be chosen are mainly three. For women of ample

and ripening beauty let the blonde Ceres with a tight-fitting costume be taken; a woman of proud and commanding features will choose Minerva as her artistic godmother, while Diana will be emulated by women of great physical perfections. Young brides, still timid and astonished, would be *ravissantes* as Hebe or Psyche.

A JAPANESE RIP VAN WINKLE.—The Japanese have the story of Rip Van Winkle in another form. A young man fishing in his boat on the ocean was invited by the goddess of the sea to her home beneath the waves. After three

days he desired to see his old father and mother. On parting she gave him a golden casket and a key, but begged him never to open it. At the village where he lived all was changed, and he could get no trace of his parents until an aged woman recollected hearing their names. He found their graves a hundred years old. Thinking that three days could not have made such a change, and that he was under a spell, he opened the casket. A white vapour rose, and under its influence the young man fell to the ground. His hair turned gray, his form lost its youth, and in a few moments he died of old age.

LORD BYRON'S DAUGHTER.—Byron's only child married the Earl of Lovelace, descendant of Lord Chancellor King, John Locke's favourite nephew, and had two sons and one daughter. Lady Lovelace had every right to be peculiar, and was so. Her eldest son, too, was perfectly and most inconveniently eccentric. While at Eton College he stopped a carriage, presented a pistol, and robbed some ladies, and committed divers other strange deeds; and, at length, having utterly exhausted the patience of his family, became a workman in Scott Russell's ship-building yard on the Thames, where, at the time of



## ALRY ON A CHARGE.

NOTMAN & SANDHAM.

his death, he was on the eve of marriage to a carpenter's daughter. He had some good points about him, notwithstanding his strangeness, and might perhaps ultimately have developed into a useful man; but this was not to be. He was succeeded by his brother, who inherited, at his maternal grandmother's death, her Barony of Wentworth, with a seat in the House of Lords. A few years ago Lord Wentworth, who, in current phrase, "doesn't amount to much," married the daughter of the Rev. George Heriot. His wife was for a season or two the reigning beauty of the day. But the marriage did not prove

happy, and about two years ago Lord Wentworth instituted a suit for divorce, but subsequently withdrew it. Lady Wentworth died lately, aged twenty-four, leaving an only daughter.

DAMASCUS.—One of the oldest cities in the world, which, through all the vicissitudes of history, has retained its primitive character in a greater degree than any other centre of population, either in the East or the West, is at present experiencing a period of depression unexampled in its long history. Damascus, mentioned by Abraham 1,917 years before the Christian

era in the book of Genesis, long afterwards the capital of an independent kingdom until its conquest by the Jews, and successively the prize of the Romans, Saracenic, and Turkish masters, is still the capital of Syria, but has fallen during the past eighteen years from a condition of prosperity, to one of squalid misery. The civil war and massacre of 1860 drove away to Aleppo a considerable portion of the silk trade, which in recent times had been the staple industry of Damascus. The opening of the Suez Canal, which virtually extinguished the old Bagdad overland trade, has also proved a serious blow to

the ancient Syrian metropolis, and the importers of European manufacture are now confined to Manchester goods of the commonest and cheapest descriptions. The population of the city does not, even according to the highest calculations, exceed 110,000 souls, and its trade is confined to supplying the wants of its half-ruined people, and the rude requirements of the Bedouins of the surrounding desert.

A new instrument, the electroscope, is said to have been invented, by which two persons can talk with and see each other at a distance of 500 miles.