

Spain has probably been more frequently conquered and overrun with strangers than any other country of Europe. Even Britain does not seem to have had quite so turbulent a history, or to have had so many masters. And each of these people who have successively gained a foothold in it, and ruled it for any length of time, has left in some form its mark upon it. It is this which gives it one of its chief charms for the intelligent and thoughtful traveller. It abounds with the relics of the past. These exist not only in the products of ancient art but in the characteristics, habits and customs, and even in some instances in the very dress of the people. Time has not, as we have seen, completely obliterated all traces even of



SPANISH LADY WITH MANTILLA.

the ancient Iberians. The successive colonies planted there by the Egyptians, Phœnicians, and Greeks have all left behind them some memorials of their occupation. The Romans, in addition to the monuments which they reared in the shape of substantial and enduring public works, have given Spain its magnificent language.

The Arabs and the Moors of Barbary are the last great race that has occupied Spain; and though these people were ruthlessly banished or burned by the Inquisition, they have almost everywhere left their mark behind them. The towns and villages, especially in the southern part of the country, retain much of their Moorish character. And in numberless details of dress and daily life the same influence may be traced. The mantilla, for instance, which forms the head-dress of almost every woman in Spain is simply a relic of the veil worn by the wives and daughters of the Moslem.

But this article of dress is none the less graceful, as will be