

steadfast under direst persecution. The first trophy of the gospel in Europe was a woman, whose name is handed down for a perpetual memorial.

Upon a woman was pronounced the most splendid eponium that ever passed human lips. Matt. xxvi. 13. Dorcas and Priscilla, Phæbe and Prisca were fellow-helpers, with many others, in the gospel of Christ. Blandina, Perpetua, Felicitas, and many other faithful martyrs sealed

did much to degrade the status of woman. The traveller in the Orient is struck, especially, with her seclusion and social inferiority. In the cities of Cairo and Damascus, of Smyrna and Constantinople, the women go about swathed in long, white robes, like the shroud of the dead, which completely envelop their frame in a shapeless, balloon-like covering. A very small opening is left through which one or both black eyes may flash, all grace or beauty being effectually concealed. I have seen a girl, ploughing in the field, on my approach hastily draw the veil over her face and remain completely covered until I passed. Sometimes this veil has woven coloured figures which make it perfectly conceal the features from the observer, although very slightly, if at all, obstructing the vision of the wearer.

In Constantinople, however, where Western ideas have come into closer contact with Oriental life and thought than elsewhere, the veil of the woman has grown thinner and thinner, until it has become a filmy gauze which reveals rather than conceals the dimpling smiles and bright eyes of its wearers. The missionaries on Mount Lebanon informed me, that out of regard for the prejudices of the natives, the Chris-

tian women wear opaque veils when abroad, and in the churches sit on the opposite side from the men, and separated from them by a high screen.

In the railway trains and steam-boats there is often a separate compartment for women, at which the conductor knocks and waits patiently until bidden to enter and collect his fares. On leaving the station or steam-boat landing they scuttle hurriedly away as though they were



TURKISH LADY WITH VEIL.

their testimony with their blood. Monica and Paula were types of Christian matrons, whose saintly character is the crown and glory of the primitive church. The enthronement of virgin motherhood in art and dogma created an ideal of purity and ruth, during long, dark ages of rapine and of blood, that did much to keep alive the sense of chivalry in the world.

The rise of Mohammedanism with its odious system of polygamy,