

in bathing costume, she walks round the bath; her bridesmaids, similarly attired singing, as they walk beside her, a sort of epithalamium. Every one then salutes her, and presents her with jewels and other gifts, in return for which she kisses their hands. The succeeding morning, she puts on a red veil, bordered with yellow, and in a close carriage, which entirely screens her from view, she is conveyed to the bridegroom's house, preceded by trees borne aloft, from which hang waving festoons of gold and silver thread, while musicians and mountebanks divert the people, who gaze admiringly on the string of horses loaded with the bride's effects, and her relatives richly dressed, who follow in carriages. Festivities are kept up for some time; but as the sexes are not allowed to intermingle, they can hardly be called of social order, and chiefly consists in performances to be looked at, such as puppet-shows, dancing with castanets, and optical deceptions.

Marriages among the North American Indians form rather an exception to the rule of increased simplicity, in proportion to the advance of civilization; for their festivities are singularly brief and simple. A young "brave," whose courage has been tested in many skirmishes, who can exhibit plenty of scalps, and who is a good hunter, easily wins the favor of his Indian bride; and then seeking her father, while she stands by, he offers presents to the old man, who, if he is pleased with them and with the suitor, takes the hands of the young couple, and joining them together, the quiet ceremonial of the union is completed, and is followed by a little feasting.

In Spain, the warm climate and romantic temperament of the people are exhibited in the poetical ceremonies attended on courtship and marriage. When a mutual understanding has taken place between the young people, a night is appointed for the betrothment, and the lover seeks the fair one's abode, which is decorated with festoons of flowers. He is accompanied by torch-bearers, musicians, and attendants, who form a circle round the house, and a serenade is performed of the most flattering kind; and when she has been sufficiently wooed, the coy maiden opens a little window, and asks what the gentleman wants. This leads to another rapturous burst of musical tenderness,

and at last the lady throws down the garland from her hair, and promises everlasting constancy; the musicians immediately strike up a triumphant allegro; the windows are illuminated; the maiden and her parents come out and conduct the serenaders into the house; and firing guns and shouts of joy resound through the calm, delicious night-air of Valencia. The day of the marriage is celebrated with musical entertainments, horse-races, and divers other amusements, and at midnight the bridegroom bears away by main force the bride, who is detained as long as possible by her companions, to the beautiful arbor adorned for their retirement on the terrace upon the roof of the house.

Who wooer of the Swiss cantons commences his courtship by the more truly romantic offering of a bouquet of flowers, gathered on the brink of a precipice; and to see his beloved, he is often forced to journey many leagues over the mountains at night, exposed to the risk of being waylaid by jealous rivals. When the object of this nocturnal wooing has been accomplished, the wedding-day is fixed, and, preceded by musicians and bride-men, decked in gay ribbons, the young people walk to church, followed by a woman bearing a basket of flowers. The bride is dressed in a plaited apron, red hose, a floral crown, and a stomacher, upon which are inscribed her Christian and surname, and the date of the year, and the chief bride-man holds her by her apron. When the religious forms are completed, the spectators obstruct the way of the bridal party, who are obliged to give them wine before they can proceed to the village public-house, where the festivities are to be held. Here Swiss dances are succeeded by the appointed person taking off the bride's virgin crown, and casting it into the flames, whose crackling indicates that the young couple must not expect to be free from mankind's common portion of ill-fortune during their future career. Food is also distributed to the poor in an adjoining meadow, and, with the simple fervor of religious faith in mountainous countries, the newly-married are then conducted to the bridegroom's house, which every body enters, after first kneeling down, and praying for the welfare of the young people.

The Illyrians and Dalmatians are descended from so many mixed races of