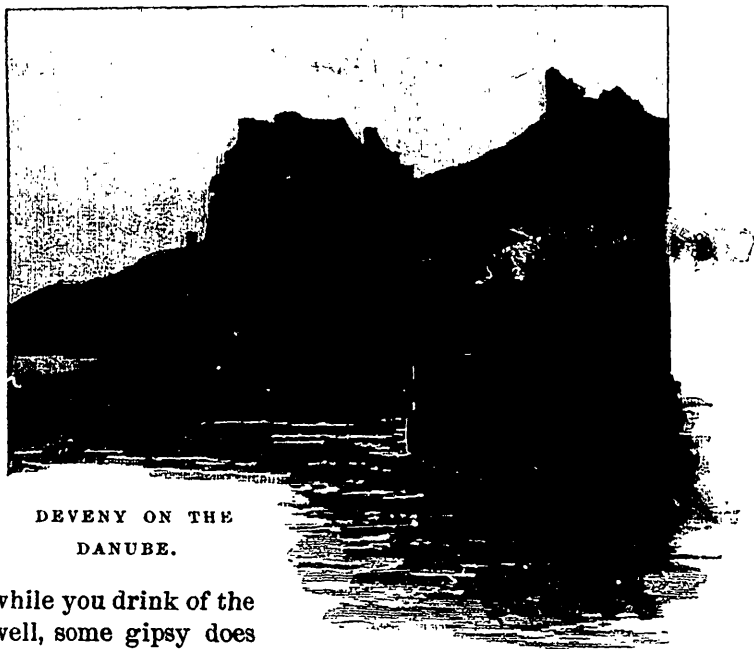


Clearly this dull monotony fully counterbalances the magnificence of the Tatra, or the excitement of passing through the Iron Gates. It seems natural that the inhabitants should have a touch of Orientalism, which corresponds admirably with the drowsy plains. In their costume, their manner of cooking, and in many other domestic customs, they bear a striking resemblance to their Turanian ancestors. Then the deep wells, out of which the water is raised by a rope and bucket attached to a long pole, which is worked by a cross-beam of equal length, form an exact counterpart of the wells seen in the plains of India; and it is strange if,



DEVENY ON THE  
DANUBE.

while you drink of the well, some gipsy does not make a profound

obeisance, and salute you with a truly Oriental "Salaam." Within quite recent years, during in fact the last twenty, the Alföld was infested by wanderers of a different class. Multitudes of "poor lads," who were originally fugitives from the Imperial conscription, found in these thinly-peopled plains an Eldorado for brigands, with the one trifling exception that there were not many travellers to attack. Still they existed by levying a blackmail upon the more orderly inhabitants, who yet sympathized with them; and at times they became so daring as to attack caravans of merchants. Less than twenty years ago, no fewer than twelve hundred of these robber-criminals were confined in the fortress of Szegedin. Rózsa Sándor, whose particular form of the profession was cattle-