



TYPICAL "BIT" IN VENICE.

and the gondoliers chatter like birds in their Venetian idiom; there too are the fishermen in their busy, noisy, black-looking market, an assemblage of strange craft and strange types of humanity. As a pleasant contrast, on the steps of the bridge and stopping before the jewellers' shops, are girls from the different quarters of Venice, from Canareggio, Dorso Duro, San Marco, and Santa Croce, and from every corner of the town, come to buy the coloured handkerchiefs they deck themselves in, and jewellery of delicately-worked gold, or bright glass beads from Murano, or glass balls iridescent with green, blue and pink; while, wrapped in old gray shawls and showing only their wrinkled profiles and silver locks, the old women of the Rialto drag their slippers up the steps, and glide among the crowd, hiding under the folds of their aprons the strange viands they have just bought from those keepers of open-air provision stalls who ply their trade on the approaches to the Rialto.

THE STONE BIBLE OF VENICE.

Ruskin has written of St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice as follows: "It was in the hearts of the old

Venetian people far more than a place of worship. It was at once a type of the Redeemed Church of God, and a scroll for the written word of God. It was to be to them both an image of the Bride, 'all glorious within, her clothing of wrought gold,' and the actual table of the Law and the Testimony, written within and without. And whether honoured as the Church or the Bible, was it not fitting that neither the gold nor the crystal should be spared in the adornment of it; that as the symbol of the Bride, the building of the wall thereof should be of jasper, and the foundations of it garnished with all manner of precious stones; and that as the channel of the word, that triumphant utterance of the Psalmist should be true of it—'I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches?' And shall we not look with changed temper down the long perspective of St. Mark's Place, towards the sevenfold gates and glowing domes of the temple, when we know with what solemn purpose the shafts of it were lifted above the populous square? Men met there from all countries of the earth for traffic and for pleasure; but above the crowd swaying for