

**THE WOMEN OF DAMASCUS.**—The young girls of Damascus are generally very handsome. Such various witnesses as Lamartine, Mr. Bartlett, Dr. Wolff, and Dr. Madden all testify to their extreme beauty. Lamartine, in rapturous style, tells us that he saw among the Syrian women daily "such countenances as Raphael had not beheld even in his artistic dreams," and proceeds in *crescendo* to declare that their numerous beauties of form and face render them "the very hours of the visual paradise." Their beauty, however, soon passes away; for they marry between twelve and fourteen years of age, they are faded at twenty, and quite old women at thirty. The ladies of Damascus usually wear a kind of gown or *gimnaz* of the striped or flowered silk made in Damascus, reaching nearly to the feet, and just discovering the ankle and bright-colored trouser. This gown is worn open to the waist over a chemise of white muslin or gauze, and is confined at the waist by a rich Cashmere shawl. Over this long underdress they place a short velvet or silk jacket of black or bright color, according to the fancy of the wearer. These jackets are richly embroidered with gold, frequently costing as much as twelve pounds sterling for the embroidery alone. The sleeves are wide, so as to fall back and show the arm and the bangles and armlets with which it is decorated. Usually string after string of gold and silver coins are wound around the throat, falling over the bosom, the number increasing according to the wealth of the owner, and placed amongst them two or three little triangular silver boxes, containing charms, scraps of the Koran, written on parchment; yellow morocco slippers, ornamented with gold, over white stockings, complete the lower section of the costume. The hair is usually worn hanging over the shoulders in real or borrowed tresses. Gold coins are plaited and interwoven in it, making a tinkling noise as their wearers walk or move. The Mahomedan women wear on their heads a turban studded with gold and diamonds; immediately over the brow they place a peculiar ornament, composed of gold pieces, generally of the value of twenty piastres, placed close to each other, and extending from ear to ear. These coins mingle with the hair, and have a beautiful effect, like a golden wreath. Those of the Damascene ladies who are sufficiently rich to possess a large diamond, place it immediately above the forehead. This special stone is called the *nafoor*; and, besides this one, they heap on as many more as they can procure. The Christian women somewhat vary this headdress; they wear a red cap or tarboosh, edged with coins, around which is tied a piece of bright-colored crape or gauze; then come the specially Christian head ornament, consisting of from 100 to 200 strings of black silk cord, about two feet long, into which are woven at intervals small conically-shaped bits of gold, each string ending in a solid tassel, like a knob of gold or silver. As many as three thousand bits of gold are sometimes woven into one headdress, though the usual number is from one to two thousand. These strings are all joined into one mass at the top of the tarboosh, the long silk tassel of which hangs over them. An ornament of gold filigree called the *koors* is generally worn at the top of the tassel, while from the front of the head, on one side only, a very pretty festoon of eight or ten chains of gold or strings of pearl is added. A brooch of diamonds or a bouquet of natural flowers is placed on the other side for festive occasions, and finishes this elaborate but pretty and graceful headdress. The Jewesses have their hair and eye-brows shaven off when they marry, and create a substitute for the latter by drawing a line in their place with kohl. The Mahomedan women are strictly forbidden to allow any man save their husband to see their hair after marriage, but are not compelled to remove it like the less fortunate Jewesses. For outdoor concealment, the lady of Damascus throws a white linen wrapper entirely over her head and person, puts her feet into a kind of clog or patten about ten inches high, and shuffles along, a shapeless mass of white, until she reaches her destination, when she throws off her wrappings in the court-yard, and emerges a brilliant butterfly from her chrysalis-like envelope. In the street all are alike ungraceful; but once in her own or her friend's house, the rich lady of Damascus shines forth as gay as bright-colored silk, velvet, and embroidery, gold and diamonds, can make her.

**WELL DONE.**—The sending a donation the other day to the Fountain Society by a person who signed himself "A Well-Wisher."

**EPITAPHS.**—The following collection of old epitaphs have been going the round of the papers:—

The precise locality of this cannot be recalled:—

"Here lies John Trollop,  
Who stones did roll up,  
When God called his soul up,  
His body filled this hole up."

In Pomfret, Connecticut:—

"I here bid ye emty  
World adieu,  
My dearest friends,  
& so must you."

In New Britain, Connecticut:—

"Now I am old and out of Mind,  
Upon this stone My name you'll find,  
And when My name you plainly see,  
You can no less than think of me."

In Hillsdale, New York:—

"Sleep on, sleep on my love  
Sleep on my love for you are my turtle dove  
My dear wife & children don't you mourn for me  
Heaven is my throne & earth is my footstool."

In Pittsfield, Massachusetts:—

"When you my friends are passing by  
And this informs you where I lie  
Remember you e're long must have  
Like me a mansion in the grave.  
Also 3 infants, 2 sons and a daughter."

**JAPANESE DENTISTRY.**—An American dentist living in Yokohama, sends to the Dental Cosmos an account of the Japanese habits in regard to their teeth. He says that as the young women have very fine teeth, it is remarkable that they should keep up the practice of blacking them after marriage. The Japanese, as a race, possess good teeth, but they lose them very early in life:—

"Their tooth-brushes consist of tough wood, pounded at one end to loosen the fibres. They resemble paint brushes, and owing to their shape, it is impossible to get one behind the teeth. As might be expected, there is an accumulation of tartar which frequently draws the teeth of old people. Their process of manufacturing false teeth is very crude. The plates are made of wood, and the teeth consist of tacks driven up from under the side. A piece of wax is heated and pressed into the roof of the mouth. It is then taken out and hardened by putting it into cold water. Another piece of heated wax is applied to the impression, and, after being pressed into shape, is hardened. A piece of wood is then roughly cut into the desired form, and the model, having been smeared with red paint, is applied to it. Where they touch each other, a mark is left by the paint. This is cut away till they touch evenly all over. Shark's teeth, bits of ivory, or stone, for teeth, are set into the wood, and retained in position by being strung on a thread, which is secured on each end by a peg driven into the hole where the thread makes its exit from the base. Iron or copper tacks are driven into the ridge to serve for masticating purposes, the unequal wear of the wood and metal keeping up the desired roughness. Their full sets answer admirably for the mastication of food, but, as they do not improve the looks, they are worn but little for ornament. The ordinary service of a set of teeth is about five years, but they frequently last much longer. All full upper sets are retained by atmospheric pressure. This principle is coeval with the art. In Japan dentistry exists only as a mechanical trade, and the status of those who practice it is not very high. It is, in fact, graded with carpenters—their word *hadyikfsan* meaning tooth-carpenter."

A REMARKABLE breach of promise case was tried recently. In this case the forlorn and broken-hearted damsel (?) commenced suit, several months ago, against the man who refused to fulfil his promise of marrying her, and during its progress married another man. The curious incident was, therefore, witnessed of a married woman bringing suit against a man, who was by this time also married, for refusing to marry her. The jury found it difficult to decide what amount would fitly heal her lacerated heart.