

have all possible objections to sit at all, and when at last they consent after a promise of a tip, it is equally hard to induce them to lift so much of their veil that I can see what they are like. And if a father, husband, or brother, who has authority over the model, removes the veil with a sharp pull, she is shy and uncomfortable, and is much disturbed at being, against her will, the object of general attention, and above all of being exposed to the eyes of an unbeliever. She lowers her eyes and looks at her hands on her knees, she blows her nose and turns about, and cannot sit still a moment. If she has a screaming child in her lap, matters are by no means improved, for the little one's cries are an excuse for all kinds of liberties which are not all consistent with the duties of a female model.

They are anything but beautiful, and I look round in vain among the tag, rag and bobtail for a speaking face—a dreamy expression which may serve as a personification of the melancholy and aspirations of the desert,—a daughter of the wilderness, pretty and fair as the flowers of the steppe in spring. Their features, on the contrary, are coarse, and their complexion muddy and spotty. They may be young in years but they, nevertheless, are aged and wrinkled, and often bear the marks and scars of smallpox and other disfiguring diseases; the eyes have hardly a spark of brilliance, the mouth is inexpressive, and the lips are coarse, the nose lumpy and shapeless, the hair straight and stringy, forming no frame of graceful tresses round the face. And the whole person is swaddled up in a very defective conglomeration of wraps and clouts, which were perhaps at one time of different colours, but are fused into a neutral combination of faded, dirty, washed-out hues. The principal garment is a wrap which enfolds the whole figure, and serves as a veil over the head, under which is also worn a separate headcloth.

The men wear long coats, which reach down to the knees and are made of coarse blue cotton cloth. They have a dirty white belt round the waist, wide trousers, coarse coloured stockings, or, more frequently, no stockings at all, clumsy light yellow shoes, and on the head a *kullah*