

called), are palaces that bear testimony to the taste and power of their former proprietors. The principal are the Auberges de Castile, and de Provence; and the palace of the Grand Master, now that of the British governor. The others are converted into barracks; and probably the costumes of their olden time did not differ more from one another than those of its present military occupants—the dark green of the rifleman, the scarlet uniform of the 88th, and the varied garb of the Highlander, “all plaided and plumed in his tartan array.” Every costume of Europe, Asia, and Africa, is to be met with in the streets, which swarm with the most motley and picturesque population. The brilliant sunshine gives an almost prismatic effect to every object, from the gorgeously clad Turk to the beautiful fish, streaked with every color in the rainbow; quantities of fruit and vegetables are ranged on tables along the pavé; and roguish-looking little children persecute you with flowers.

The principal dress of the natives is a bright blue cotton shirt, with a colored scarf round the waist, and a scarlet or blue cap hanging down behind, containing all their worldly goods. These last seemed to me to consist for the most part of a comb and a needle and thread. I speak of the poorer class, who generally sleep in the streets, and wear their clothes like their skins. They are a swarthy, stunted race, of very indifferent character, but with great vivacity and intelligence in their glistening eyes.

The population in both town and country abounds in a proportion eight times as great as that of England.\* Being very frugal and industrious, they are just able to keep themselves alive at present; but what is to become of them a few years hence, Sir Patrick Stuart and Malthus only know. The celibacy enjoined to the knights produced its usual licentious results; and the Order bequeathed its morals to the present inhabitants—a legacy which does not tend to diminish their number.

Many of the women are very beautiful, combining the gazelle eye of the east with the rich tresses of the north, and the statuesque profile of Greece and Italy. Their peculiar head-dress, the *onnella*, contributes not a little to the effect of their beauty. This

\* 130,000 within a circuit of sixty miles.