

THE WOMEN OF MONTENEGRO.

Correspondence of the London Standard.

The Montenegrin woman takes an equal share of labor with the man at field-work, and she does all the carrying. In travel here one engages a horse to ride and a woman for the baggage. Only those who have neither wife, mother, daughter, nor dependent female relation shoulder burdens as a common thing. Transport by animals also is a department of female occupation. Coming from Cettinje here, one meets pack-horses, mules, donkeys, going up in droves, with a gang of women following. Tremendous weights they carry, slung by straps that cross the upper chest, and as they go they knit or spin. These dwellers by the frontier are much better looking than the unmixed race of the interior, but not less hardy, strong, and independent. They have no shame or hesitation in begging, and universal mendicancy on the part of women and girls must, I imagine, have its influence on morality. In leaving Montenegro, the traveler carries with him a deep regard and admiration for the gallantry, the manliness, and the shrewd intelligence of this strange people. He is constrained to wish them well and to hope that they will acquire means to live at peace hereafter.

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