

THE FEMALE COSTUME

IN THE REIGN OF HENRY V.



The female costume of this reign is distinguished by a head-dress which may indeed be called horned. The satirical effusions of such writers as John de Meun, and the Knight of Normandy, appear to have no other effect upon the ladies than to induce them, in the true spirit of contradiction, to justify to the fullest extent the odious comparisons of their censors. There is no longer any thing extravagant in the charge of wearing a gibbet on the head, or rivalling the crested honours of the brute creation. The head-dress exhibited in the illuminations and on the effigies of this period is certainly as ugly and

unbecoming as can well be imagined: fortunately, however, for the painter or the actress, the fashion does not appear to have been so general as to render its introduction on the canvass or the stage indispensable. The simple golden network confining the hair, and a quaint but elegant head-tire consisting of a roll of rich stuff, sometimes descending in a peak on the forehead, or circling the brow like a turban, exist to extricate the lovers of the picturesque from so disagreeable a dilemma. Taste is ever the true friend of fashion, and can see and amend her follies while most admiring her inventions.



The robe or gown with a long train and hanging or tabard sleeves, and the cote-hardie with its spencer-like variety, are seen as in the last reign; but where girdles are worn, the waist is considerably shorter. An inner tunic is sometimes discernible by its sleeves, which descend

beyond those of the robe and cover the hand, as in the time of Henry I.; gloves not yet forming a usual portion of the female attire.

The horned head-dress at the head of this article is from the effigy of Beatrice, Countess of Arundel, in the Church at Arundel.