

ferry. The river here is about sixty yards wide ; but its stream is dull and quiet. The town of Orcha is pleasantly situated on the west bank of the river, on a gently rising ground ; it is large and straggling, with eight churches, partly built of brick and of wood. The greater part of the town has been burnt : its population is about two thousand, and consists mostly of Jews : a more despicable, artificial, mercenary set of wretches cannot be seen ; they are without character, without patriotism, and without manners. No more are heard those generous bursts of execration against their invaders, which constantly issued from the lips of the poorest Russ. The women are yet more disgusting than the men ; they are clad in a most ridiculous and gaudy dress of silken rags ; on their head is a large white napkin rolled round, with three tails hanging over their shoulders ; and, under this head dress, a kind of flapping cover of pearls, with dangling steel ornaments, hangs over the ears and forehead. The body is covered with a loose silk vest, and a large petticoat of the same ; the arms are hid in long, loose, shirt-sleeves, terminated with a deep worked frill. The shoes are made without leather at the

heels, and every one appears *slip-shod*. Over their dress they wear a large silk gown, (and in some instances even *two*), the sleeves of which hang down the back; a fur cloak is suspended from the neck. All this superfluity of dress is huddled on, in the most careless manner, and the hands seem constantly employed in detaining it on the body. They take peculiar pride in their head dress of pearls; the more valuable denotes the distinction of wealth. In other respects, their dress seems a bundle of dirt and rags: there never was a more perfect antidote to love and the graces, than a Lithuanian Jewess. They command the men, and reign without controul. The mistress of the house reads her prayers every morning; but at the same time walks through the rooms, and in the midst of her devotion, observes, checks and roundly scolds at the faults committed.

The *native* Lithuanians generally wear a white flapping hat, and a white woollen shirt; their legs are wrapped up in pieces of sail-cloth, tied with leather strings—the shoes are clumsy, and made of the bark of the birch tree. They are a small class of men, with light hair, fair complexions
and



H. Dineen del.

J. Colburn del.

LITHUANIAN JEWESSES.

Pub. 11th June 1815 by J.J. Stoddart at Pall Mall.

