

## THE FEMALE COSTUME

IN THE REIGN OF EDWARD IV.



The costume of the ladies of the reign of Edward IV. was no whit behind that of their lords in extravagance or splendour. Monstrelet tells us, that, about the year 1467, the ladies left off the fashion of wearing tails to their gowns, and in their room substituted borders of lertice and marten skins, or of velvet and other materials, as wide and sometimes wider than a whole breadth of the stuff. They wore on their heads round caps, gradually diminishing to the height of half an ell, or three quarters, as some had them with loose kerchiefs atop, hanging down sometimes as low as the ground. They began to wear their girdles of silk much larger than they were accus-

tomed to do, with the clasps more sumptuous, and collars or chains of gold about their necks much quainter than before ("plus cointement"), and in a greater variety. Paradin says the ladies ornamented their heads with certain rolls of linen (he calls them "fontanges"), pointed like steeples, generally half, and sometimes three quarters of an ell in height. These were called by some, great butterflies, from having two large wings on each side resembling those of that insect. The high cap was covered with a fine piece of lawn hanging down to the ground, the greater part of which was tucked under the arm.

