

for cows and bullocks. On one side is a large, fine room which is the family temple, where, on festival days, the gods are worshipped; opposite it on the upper floor is a verandah carefully closed with venetian blinds, and this is where the ladies of the family come on the feast days to see what is going on in the temple and join in the worship, without being themselves seen. Besides this temple there is, in the zenana, the part of the house in which the women live, a room for household gods where *puja* is performed daily at different hours by the male and female members of the family.

On the second floor are large, fine apartments often filled with costly furniture, but these are for the men only; no women are ever seen there, and except at feasts, or when there are European guests, no meals are taken in them. At the back of the court yard a passage, the door of which is often kept locked, leads to a smaller yard which is surrounded by the rooms in which the females of the family live; here also are the kitchens and dining rooms. The women's rooms are small and dark; the windows, if any, are high up so as to prevent looking out; the floors are bare, and there is no furniture but the charpoy or bedstead, a box for clothing and perhaps a mat; but the rooms are scarcely used except for sleeping in, the women and children usually gathering together on the verandah, on to which all the rooms open during the day.

In some of these great houses as many as two or three hundred people live together. The oldest of the men is the head of the household, and rules it with a firm hand. Sons, grandsons, nephews and other relatives all submit to his authority, and give him their earnings to expend for the common good. Even if they are away from home part of their salaries must be sent, for the wife and children are left under the care of the family head.

And now I will tell you something of how the girls and women who are shut up in the zenana, as the dingy miserable part of the house they occupy is called, are treated, and how they spend their time. Just as the head man has absolute rule over the other men of the household, his wife, who is often more severe and bigoted than himself, rules all the women and girls in the zenana. She is called the Burra Bow, the other wives are called Bows, and the youngest is known as the Choto Bow. All alike are prisoners in these dreary rooms; many living in cities have