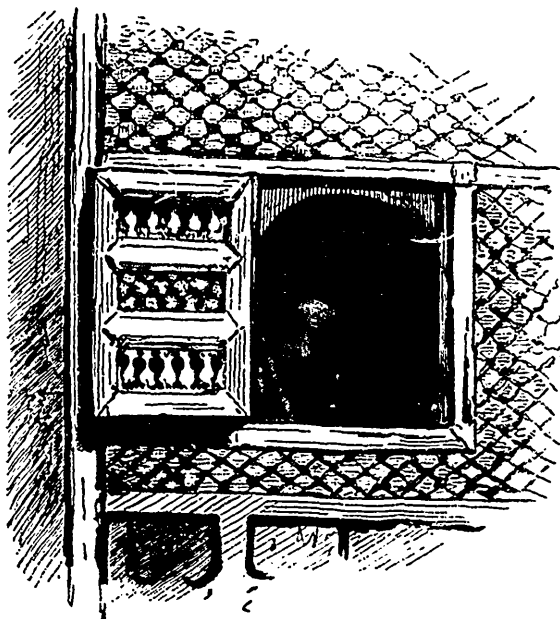




"LOOKING OUT AT THE LATTICE."—HAREM WINDOW.

of daubing them with untempered mortar which often falls to the ground, in Ezekiel xiii. 10. These are the "houses of clay" referred to by Job. Job iv. 19.

Dotted over the land of Palestine are many *tels* or mounds, like that at Lacish, which beneath the spade of the explorer reveal various strata of successive civilizations, going back to the dawn of time. Sometimes these bricks were burned, and on those of Babylon and Nineveh have been deciphered in arrow-headed characters important documents.

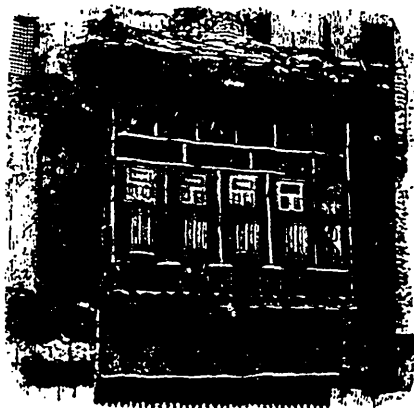
In the uplands of Palestine, especially in Judea, where material for brick is absent, first rude unhewn stones and then hewn blocks were employed for building.

sapped by the overflowing Nile, have mouldered back to undistinguishable dust.

The frail nature of these mud-brick walls lends point to the expression in Scripture "where thieves break through and steal,"—literally "dig through." Matt. vi. 19, 20; Ezek. viii. 7, 8. It also gives an explanation to the solemn words with which our Lord closes His Sermon on the Mount concerning the wise man who built his house upon a rock, and the foolish man who built his house upon the sand. Matt. vii. 24-27. The sudden rising of the torrents from the cloud-bursts on the mountains would readily sweep away these mud structures, unless placed high upon the rock, instead of on the low, sandy margin of the stream.

The walls were often plastered with lime and mortar, both within and without, and we have seen very dainty devices indented on the plaster. To this allusion is made in Leviticus xiv. 42, and to the practice

There is now very little wood in the country, and this is very expensive, so that everything that possibly can be is built of stone. The ceilings are arched and domed in stone or plaster, the roofs and floors are



LATTICE WINDOW, CAIRO.