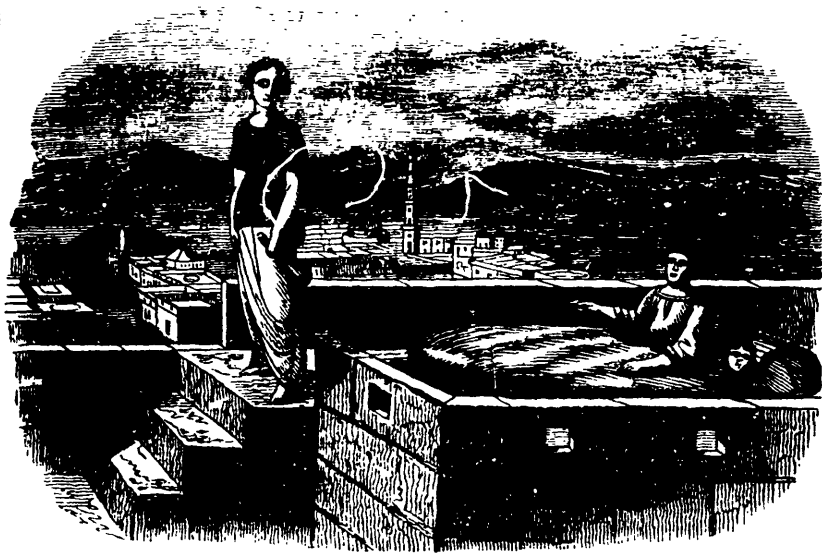


DWELLINGS.



"Eastern Town."

The most common dwellings in the earlier ages of the world were tents. The simple habits of life which were then more prevalent, and the climate of the first settled portions of the globe, made these the most convenient and comfortable dwellings; and tents of various sizes and shapes were formed by setting poles in the ground, and stretching over them a covering of cloth or skin, which was fastened to stakes by means of cords.

When the habits of mankind changed, and their pursuits fixed them to one spot, their dwellings were built with a view to permanency, and we may suppose that the science of building was well understood at a very early period. The skill required to build the ark, independently of inspired directions, must have been considerable. The attempt to build the tower of Babel would not have been made by those who had only a mere elementary knowledge of architectural principles.

To most of the eastern houses a structure is attached called *oleah*. It is sometimes built over the porch or gate-

way, and has two or three apartments; and, in other instances, it consists only of one or two rooms, and often rises one story above the main house. The *oleah* is used to entertain strangers; also, for wardrobes and magazines, or for places of retirement, repose, and meditation. There is an entrance to it from the street, without going into the house; but there is also a communication with the gallery of the house, when it is needed. It is observed that the terrace of the *oleah* afforded a much more retired place for devotional exercises than the roof of the main house, which was liable to be occupied at all times, and for various purposes, by the whole family.

The upper room, called the upper chamber, is supposed by Jowett to have resembled the upper room in modern houses of the east. He minutely describes a house in which he resided. The first or ground floor was appropriated entirely to storing oil and other articles; the second floor was occupied by the family for common daily use, and the third floor or loft was fitted up for social meetings, &c.