

him. I think it was the next day I called at the house where she was, was received kindly, and had an opportunity of talking and singing, not only to her but to a few others (women) who had gathered round. Then, at the request of one of the listeners, I went with her to her house, and while there had a call to a Thakuranees near by (a Thakur is a sort of chief, and a Thakuranees is the wife of the Thakur). I followed the man who had been sent for me through a rather doubtful looking passage-way, which opened out, however, to a good sized courtyard, and in a room off this I met the Thakuranees. I had not been there very long when a messenger came from the Rani Sahib, calling me to the palace. So with a few words more to the Thakuranees and some of the members of her family, an invitation from them to come again, and a promise on my part to do so, I left and went with the messenger to the palace (these places were all near each other). For some reason or other I was not at once asked inside, but a chair was given me in the courtyard, where I talked with some women who had gathered around me, and then I was invited inside by the Rajah himself, and shown into a room where the Ranees and her daughter were seated. I believe the Rajah has three wives living, but only one was introduced to me. I think there were ten or twelve women besides the Ranees in the room. I told them something of the Gospel, and sang to them several bhajans, accompanying myself on the harmoniflute (a small portable instrument we got in London), with which they were greatly pleased. Something that was said led me to tell them of our marriage customs; and when I told them that with us marriages did not take place till 17, 18, 20, 30 and even 40 years of age, you should have seen their look. I also told them that husband and wife sat together and walked together, but I quite forgot to tell them that we took our meals together. But I have still another family to tell you of—Bapee Sahib's. He is a second or third cousin of the Rajah's, but is known as and called the Rajah's brother. Here in the East the word brother has a much wider signification than with us. We were both, my husband and I, invited here, and you will be surprised to hear of the amount of freedom these Rajpoot women seem to have when I tell you that a sister and nephew's wife of this Bapee Sahib, and two other women, remained sitting on the verandah within the courtyard while my husband was there, and