

mbure are constructed of canes about the size of a finger, and each one is wound round with sennit as thick as a cod-line, made from the cocoa-nut husk. At a little distance, the whole house looked as though it was built of braided cord, and presented a singular and curious appearance, creating a favourable idea of the skill as well as labour expended in its construction.

There are others of small dimensions, of which the wood-cut on the preceding page, will give an idea. These are generally used as the depositories of the chiefs or persons of note.

The next building visited was that of the king's women. This is one hundred and eighty feet in length, twenty-four feet wide, and thirty feet high. Here were a number of women engaged in making mats, tapa, and baskets. They were gay and merry, though busily engaged at their work.

Another large spirit-house was next visited, in which the mountaineers congregate; and on their exit from it they saw a bull near the door, which the natives, in essaying to follow the party, had to encounter. It was not a little amusing to see them spitting at the beast to drive him off.

Ngaraningiou's dwelling was then visited. This is considered the most elegant house in the Feejees. It is very elaborately ornamented with sennit and braid. Order and decorum reign throughout, for Ngaraningiou is extremely dignified and reserved in his domicile, and is reputed to be somewhat of a tyrant. He will not suffer any of the natives to approach and gaze in at his doors, which is a common practice with them; and when, on one occasion, a stranger took the liberty to peep in at his door, he is said to have asked him if his head was made of iron that he dared thus to presume.

Thokanauto's house was occupied by several of our gentlemen during their stay. It is quite a large establishment, and was one of the noisiest that can well be imagined; for Phillips himself being absent with the boats, his wife did not possess the requisite authority to maintain order. On the first night of their lodging there, about fifty persons, men, women, and children, were collected, feasting, drinking ava, and maintaining a prodigious racket. They were apparently engaged in detailing and discussing the events that had taken place on board ship, and the narrative was constantly interrupted by jokes, laughter, expressions of astonishment, and arguments leading to sharp words, until the shrill voice of the young mistress of the mansion was heard in earnest expostulation. The eloquence of Phillips's orator, and his many barbers, was not to be so easily repressed; and, after a few moments' silence, an altercation arose, that gradually grew into a quarrel and