

The third wife is a Feejee woman, who is not regarded by the king with as much favour as the others.

Each of these wives has a separate house, and the king spends his time in lounging alternately in them during the greater part of the day. These visits constitute the great business of his life.



HENRIETTA'S HOUSE.

Of these three royal ladies, Yandi Muthuata was the favourite with the officers of the squadron. She always received them courteously, and would, on their entrance, immediately lay aside such household occupations as she and her women were generally found engaged in, for the purpose of attending to and conversing with them.

Henrietta, on the other hand, was occasionally found in ill-humour, which, however, is not to be wondered at, when we consider her history.

On the beach at Muthuata were two fine and large canoes, one of which belonged to the king, the other to his son.

Tui Muthuata has from eighty to one hundred towns under his control; and his territory extends from Unda Point to the island of Tavea, in Nalua Bay. Many of these towns are of small extent, and contain but few inhabitants; and I found that to estimate the population by the report of the chiefs themselves, would give erroneous results. Feejee men lie with great plausibility, and particularly if it is to swell their own importance.

After receiving the king's present, Captain Hudson, understanding that they were still under alarm on shore, sent word again to the king that he had nothing to fear, that they were friends, and again invited him to come on board. This message had a good effect, although he refused to come, on account of his sickness from his leg. Whether this sickness was brought on by his fears, was not determined; but he despatched his son, Ko-Mbiti, and several chiefs; an officer—Passed Midshipman Davis—remaining on shore to satisfy them that no advan-