

and ushered the two into an inner court of smaller dimensions, canopied and richly adorned with stuccoes and statuary: where they found themselves in the presence of the sovereign of the valley.

King Unicum was seated on a moveable throne of gold and silver curiously interwoven, one with the other, and adorned with precious stones; among which were cornelians, amethysts, and emeralds of an unusual size. His feet rested upon a stool, carved out of fossil ivory and shaped like a tortoise with two heads, the eyes of which were diamonds. Over his head, and attached to the back of the throne, was a canopy of brilliant plumes that radiated from a jewelled centre, like a star.

In singular opposition, however, to these accessories of royalty, the person of the monarch was almost devoid of ornament; but his white tunic was of the finest silk—a rare and costly article in Lahunzel, and his flowing mantle of the richest featherwork; with that delicacy of shading and lustrous freshness in the tints, peculiar to the breast of the humming bird, or a butterfly's wing.

His sandals were bound with gold, and the