

procession of elephants, led by one beast of wonderful bulk and beauty—his head and breast covered with plates of gold and silver studded with rubies and emeralds. On this lord-elephant waited eight or ten others, clothed in gold, silk and silver. Twelve similar lord-elephants, each with its retinue, followed—each shewing its training as it passed by, making a lowly obeisance to its lord and master. After this the whole court went out in procession. For the ladies came fifty elephants richly adorned, each bearing a turret canopied with silver cloth, with gratings of gold wire to look through. Then came the Emperor, wearing a turban with a plume of heron feathers, a ruby as big as a walnut, a diamond as large, and an emerald much larger. Upon his neck were three chains of most excellent pearls—above his elbows armlets set with diamonds—three bracelets on each wrist—rings on almost every finger—a coat of cloth of gold—slippers set with pearls—belts of gold, and a sword and buckler, set all over with diamonds. He rode in a coach drawn by four horses trapped in gold and velvets. Before him went drums, trumpets and loud music—canopies, umbrellas and ensigus glittering with rubies—and nine led horses caparisoned with precious stones. Behind him followed superb palanquins, and then the Empress NOURMAHAL—the prodigy of romance, beauty and power—riding in a coach, the present of the English king. Afterwards came twenty royal elephants, so rich in gems and furniture that they glittered like the sun. This was the royal procession, which was preceded and followed by elephants richly decked, amounting to six hundred; and all the way the road was guarded by elephants, each with a turret, four banners, and a swivel gun. Half a mile behind the Emperor came his wives on elephants. The procession marched to a superb camp where were glittering tents, a mother of pearl throne, and such a display of grandeur that the whole vale shewed like a beautiful city."