

ZENOBIÀ—Queen of the East; Star of the East; Empress of the East.

After Aurelian had quelled an irruption of the Alemanni, and subdued several usurpers that had arisen in Gaul, he turned his arms against Zenobia, queen of Palmyra. This remarkable woman claimed descent from the Macedonian kings of Egypt; and while she equalled her ancestor Cleopatra in beauty and grace, she far surpassed her in virtue and valor. Her understanding was strengthened and adorned by study. She was not ignorant of the Latin tongue, and possessed in equal proportions the Greek, Syrian, and Egyptian languages.

Description of Aurelian's Triumph. This triumph was the most magnificent that was ever enjoyed by a Roman conqueror. Hundreds of the most curious animals, from all parts, opened the procession. The wealth of Asia, the arms and ensigns of many conquered nations, and the magnificent plate and wardrobe of the Queen of the East, were displayed. But the most interesting object in the whole procession was Zenobia herself, as bound with a golden chain, and so covered with costly jewels as almost to faint beneath their weight, she preceded on foot the chariot in which she had hoped to enter Rome. Aurelian afterwards built her a palace at Tibur, and allowed her sufficient to support her in almost regal splendor. Her daughters married among the nobles of Rome.

The Modern Queen of Palmyra was Lady Esther Stanhope; the following is a description of her journey, &c., to the ancient Tadmor (Palmyra). She landed at Latakia (the ancient Laodicea), and at this place took up her residence for a time, with a view of learning the Arab language, and of taking other steps preparatory to the commencement of exploring journeys into the most inaccessible parts of Arabia, of Mesopotamia, and of the desert. While prosecuting these initiatory measures, Lady Esther entered into free and frequent intercourse with all who were calculated to give her either counsel or aid in the execution of her enterprise. After being thoroughly familiarised with the language, costume, manners and usages of the country, she organised a numerous caravan, and loaded a great number of camels with rich presents destined for the Arab chiefs and their tribes. With this caravan she visited all parts of Syria, and sojourned, at various times, at Jerusalem,