

which break on the sea-shore. I said to myself: An assembly of men of so many different ranks, who put their industry, and wealth, and joy in common, ought to make a city the abode of all delights. But if I am not suffered to approach it during the day, what hinders me from entering there by night? A little mouse, which has so many enemies, comes and goes where it likes, when favored by the darkness; it passes from the cabin of the poor man to the palace of the king? To enjoy life the light of the stars is sufficient for it; why should I require that of the sun? It was in the environs of Delhi that I indulged in these reflections. And they emboldened me so far, that I entered the city with the night; I passed in by the gate of Lahore. First, I traversed a long, solitary street, formed, on the right and left, of houses lined with terraces, supported on the arcades, in which the merchants' shops are situated. Here and there I met great caravanseries, which were securely closed, and vast bazaars or markets, where the most profound silence reigned. As I approached the interior of the town, I traversed the superb quarter of the Ourahs, filled with palaces and gardens, situated along the banks of the Gemna. The whole place resounded with the sound of the instruments and the songs of the Bayaderes, who danced along the river banks to the light of torches. I presented myself at the gate of a garden, in order to enjoy so sweet a sight; but I was repulsed by the slaves, who were driving away the wretched with blows of sticks. In retiring from the quarter of the great, I passed near several pagodas, where a great number of unhappy wretches, prostrated on the ground, had abandoned themselves to tears. I hastened to fly from the sight of these monuments of superstition and terror. Further on, the piercing voices of the Mollas, who were announcing from on high the hours of night, apprised me that I was at the foot of the minarets of a mosque. Close by were the European factories, with their flags, and the wardens, who cried out incessantly, "Kabardar"—take care of yourselves. I quickly reached the side of a large building, which I recognized as a prison by the sound of chains, and the groans that issued forth from it. Soon after, I heard the

cries of sorrow in a vast hospital, from which waggons full of dead bodies were issuing forth. Going on, I met robbers flying along the streets; patrols of guards running after them; groups of mendicants, who, notwithstanding the blows of the rattan, begged at the gates of the palaces for some of the fragments of their feasts, and on every side women, who led a public life of infamy, in order to obtain wherewith to live. Finally, after a long march in the same street, I arrived at an immense place which surrounds the fortress inhabited by the Grand Mogul. It was covered with the tents of the Rajahs, or Nabobs of his guard, and of their squadrons, distinguished from each other by their torches, and standards, and long canes terminated with tails of the cows of Thibet. A large foss, full of water, and bristling with artillery, went, like the place, completely round the fortress. By the light of the fires of the guard, I saw the towers of the chateau, which rose even to the clouds, and the long line of its ramparts, which were lost in the horizon. I was very desirous to enter in, but the large korahs, or whips, suspended on posts, took away from me even the desire to set foot within the place. I retired, then, to one of its extremities, near some negro slaves, who permitted me to rest by a fire, round which they were seated. Thence I observed with admiration the Imperial palace, and said to myself: Here, then, dwells the happiest of men! it is for his authority that so many religions preach; for his glory so many ambassadors arrive; for his wealth so many provinces exhaust themselves; for his luxury so many caravans travel; and for his security so many armed men keep watch in silence.

"While I was making these reflections, loud cries of joy were heard in all the place, and I saw eight camels pass, decorated with flags. I learned that they were laden with the heads of rebels, which the Mogul's generals were sending him from the province of Deccan, where one of his sons, whom he had nominated governor, had made war against him during three years. A little after, there arrived, with slackened rein, a courier mounted on a dromedary; he came to announce the loss of a frontier town of India,