

humble obeisance to the son of our Queen, whose ancestors in those days were feudatories of the Court of Delhi, commanding forces more numerous far than the armies ever commanded by either Francis or Henry,—not one but many of them,—and now they cluster around the Calcutta vice-regal throne more submissive far to the merest nod of the Paramount Power than their ancestors to the most peremptory command of the Great Mogul. I am not going to give an elaborate description of the ceremony, and, as the reason for my forbearance, I need only say that the programme occupied four large sheets of printed matter, and I am sure it will be deemed satisfactory. As all whose names were on the Government House list received invitations, I got one among the rest, and had the good fortune to have my seat assigned in a good position near to the throne, and saw everything; and it was a scene of gorgeous magnificence, of Eastern brilliance combined with Western moderation and taste, which can never pass from the mind's eye. The Viceroy, as Grand Master, the various Rajahs and Maharajahs as Knights, or Knights Commanders, the Companions of the Order, the Governors, Lieut.-Governors, the Commissioners, &c., all in their robes, with pages, heralds, standard-bearers *et hoc genus omne*, formed a most brilliant procession into the Chapter tent and up to the raised throne, on which the Viceroy took his seat, with the Duke on his right hand, and the Knights Commanders, Knights, and Companions ranged on the lower level according to seniority. And then the Secretary having read Her Majesty's warrant for the assembling of the "Chapter" and her command for the investiture, and the ribbon, badge, star, mantle, and collar having been brought from the Duke's tent, the Viceroy requested the two senior members present—the Maharajahs of Scindiah and Jeypore—to invest the neophyte with the same, which they did, with the exception of the collar, which the Grand Master himself fastened around his neck, (he meanwhile kneeling before the throne), and addressed to him the admonition; and then came the volleys of artillery, the flourish of trumpets, the unfurling of the new Knight's banner, and the proclamation by the herald of all his titles and honours. This is the barest sketch of a pageant unique in modern times, and carried out with a felicitous blending of the Oriental and the Occidental, which united the gorgeousness of the one with the simplicity of the other, and gave the world the spectacle of a vice-regal throne, 6,000 miles from the seat of Empire, surrounded by a host of vassals, some of whose predecessors were powerful Princes whilst Harold and William were fighting at Hastings, and the forefathers of others of whom carved their way to all but independent authority, whilst we were only a company of merchants whose presence was tolerated only because we ministered to their luxuries or revenues. A choir of about 300 singers was also present, and sang "God save the Queen" at the beginning, and "Rule Britannia" at the close, of the proceedings. Earl Mayo the Viceroy, carried himself grandly all throughout. His portly form corresponded well to the enveloping and brilliant mantle which, as Grand Master, he wore, and his whole appearance corresponded tolerably well to the native conception of what a ruler ought to be,—“a man seven feet and a half high, and covered with jewels.” You will remember that when Mr. Disraeli gave Earl Mayo the vice-regal appointment, the Liberal papers, with that wretched want of generosity which they never fail to display to an opponent, from one end of Britain to another, set up a howl against the Earl, predicted misrule, incapacity, ruin, every evil under the sun. *Punch* joined in the outcry, and represented India as a captive maiden trembling with the dark and baneful shadow of Earl Mayo flung across her; the papers of India, European and native, took the alarm, and an all but unanimous protest was sent to Britain against the appointment; and Mr. Gladstone, when he rode into office on his “Irish Church Disestablishment” nag, was importuned to cancel it, though such a procedure would have been, to say the least of it, unusual and harsh, and for some time it seemed as if he would carry his party spirit even to that length; but the Earl