

to fight before Sir Henry Fane, who, (the rhinoceroses), after punching each other on the head for some time, at last got angry one with the other. The blows got harder and harder, until at last one of the parties thinking he had had enough, turned tail, and ran at the top of his speed through a thick hedge into Mrs. F.'s flower-garden; where again gaining courage, he faced his opponent, who had followed him; the punching again commenced, and by the time the two brutes could be separated, the place of the garden, or the colour of the flowers, were both most difficult to discover.

THE GREAT MOGUL :

The Great Mogul still lives in the palace of his ancestors, if a ruinous mass can be called such. We entered it by a very handsome gateway, which is kept by our Sepoys since some disturbance which took place three or four years ago, when the inhabitants shut the gates and refused to acknowledge the Resident's order for admittance. After passing through this gate, which showed the remains of its former magnificence, we entered a large paved court-yard, surrounded by ruins.

We arrived in time at a low archway, through which the General's elephant could not pass; so that they hoped he would be obliged to walk, which would give additional dignity to the king, as his people would suppose that the English chief walked so far to show his respect for 'the Asylum of the Universe.' This charitable intention the General however balked, by getting into his jom-pawn, an open sedan-chair; in which he was carried to the entrance of the court-yard, where was seated the King.

This court-yard and hall of audience was about a hundred yards across, and on arriving in front of the red purdah (curtain) each of us was made to perform a low salaam. This being done, we crossed the court, and, entering by a side door, found ourselves in the colonnade room, which contained the august presence of his majesty of Delhi, seated on the peacock throne. We were severally brought up and presented, each making a present of a certain number of gold mohurs (value sixteen rupees) according to his rank. The General, in the course of the day, gave 124; the major-generals, 11; colonels, 9; majors, 7; captains, 5.

The king was handsomely dressed, and had on some really very fine jewels, particularly pearls. The throne, which is still called the peacock throne, was in the time of Akbar said

to have had jewels on it to the value of £20,000,000, and Nadir Shah took from it upwards of £14,000,000. A single diamond which formerly stood at the top, which is now replaced by a piece of glass (the Koh-e-noor), was valued at upwards of £3,000,000; and the peacocks which stand at each corner had each a string of pearls in their beaks, valued at £100,000. These, like the diamonds, are now replaced by false ones, and the jewels on the body of the throne have descended into coloured glass. The room, or open colonnade, in which this object stands, is very beautifully formed of white marble, inlaid with gold, and is still in tolerable repair, though the purdahs and carpets which composed its furniture were in a sad state of dilapidation.

After each had been presented and paid his money, which his majesty took especial care not to lose, we were severally led away to receive the *kelat*, or robe of honour—a farce which the government still keep up, in spite of its marvellous absurdity. The General was robed in the king's presence, but we of the small fry marched into another room, to be made such figures as never were seen, even at Greenwich fair. Each of us had first a piece of rag tied round our cocked hats, by way of turban; after which a robe of spangled white muslin was thrust over epaulettes, sword, and all; over which again they treated each of us to a jacket of cloth of silver; and in this tomfool's dress we were again trotted across the court, obliged (which was the most difficult performance of the whole) to keep from laughing, and again to be presented to the king and be bedizened with a parcel of glass jewels and trumpery, to the value of two gold mohurs; for which civility the company treated the king to another gold mohur from each.

A FESTIVAL AT THE COURT OF RUNJEET SING.

To-day begins the Seikh festival of the Koli, or rejoicing at the commencement of spring. The Rajah expressed a wish that the General would come, and be present at part of the ceremony at his tents. He accordingly went, accompanied only by us of the *personal* staff; and a most extraordinary scene it was. We found him seated, surrounded, as usual, by his court and, for the first time, the guard of Amazons, some thirty or forty in number, many of them very pretty, armed with bows and arrows, which they drew the moment we made our appearance, in the most warlike style. This corps is one formed of ladies, and which has been often previously men-