

and rightly so, to be the Chamber of Justice, at the further end of which was a large throne emblazoned with burnished gold and studded with jewels of all descriptions. In the centre of this throne stood a large chair, and on the right of it stood a smaller one of equal grandeur. My guide stood in front of the throne, and after a careful survey of the room, said to me: "You are now, oh, noble stranger from earthly regions, in the royal chamber of the castle of the Auganatees, who are a very powerful race. I, Amolai, am Queen of all this vast domain, and here do I dispense justice and make laws for the guidance of my people who number millions. On three days in each year do I administer justice, and this is fortunately one of them. If you will deign to grace the throne on my right with your presence we shall be greatly honored." I quickly acquiesced and we then withdrew to partake of luncheon, which was served in an elaborate manner by six ladies in very strange garb. After finishing the repast, which was by far the finest I had ever sat down to, we adjourned straightway to the Chamber of Justice, where gathered on all sides were great multitudes of the people. The Queen, with head erect, firm step, and stately carriage, ascended the throne, and motioning me to the seat on her right, thus addressed the gathering:—"Faithful subjects, your Queen bids you welcome to the Chamber of Justice, and ye who have undergone wrongs will be heard in due time concerning them. We have by our side a distinguished visitor from regions unknown to you, who in his native land is a great counsellor, and we hope by his aid to-day to decide more satisfactorily than ever before the matters of difference between you." Throughout this speech the people stood with bowed heads, listening intently to each word which fell from their sovereign's lips. The manner in which the large lists of complaints were settled would astonish a person a great deal more learned than I. One case—the last—touched me most. A young

man, evidently about thirty odd years of age, came forward, and, making a low obeisance, spoke to the Queen: "Oh, mighty sovereign, your humble supplicant, Targand, acknowledging your wisdom and goodness, implores you to pardon his father, who was so unfortunate as to fall under your gracious majesty's displeasure some time ago, and was condemned to die. Think, oh, thou noble Queen, of the life at stake. Reflect on the good which you will do by releasing my aged parent, and allowing him to return once more to the bosom of his family, that his declining years may be made comfortable by his loving children. Oh, honored sir, whomsoever you may be, if you have any influence with our beloved ruler, I pray you intercede for me, and help restore happiness to a now heart-broken family." The Queen looked at me as though wishing my views on the matter, and after finding out that the man's crime was poaching in the royal gardens, I implored her to pardon the old man. After bestowing on me a smile which meant volumes to one so romantic as I, the Queen said to Thargand: "Thou, Thargand, hast pleaded thy cause well, and your Queen, recognizing the value of a life, as well as the humblest of her subjects, deems meet, by the intercession of her guest of honor, to pardon your aged sire his life, but," and here the mellow voice grew stern, "let not this be a bait to others of my subjects to poach in the royal gardens, for, by the memory of my ancestors, the next offender shall meet death at the hands of our musketeers." Everything having been settled, the people withdrew and left us alone. The Queen, after giving me a radiant smile, full of tenderness, said: "My noble, generous, high-souled friend, Amolai has reached the age of twenty-six, and has not yet taken unto herself a husband. It is the custom amongst the monarchs of our race that when they wish to wed they choose their own fiancee, and after a reasonable time has passed, they are publicly married. Since first I beheld your