

Sir John Chardin's
TRAVELS
IN
PERSIA.

Never before Translated into ENGLISH.

CONTAINING,

A most particular Account, of the Religion, Government, Trade, Product, Rarities, Structures, Arts and Sciences of that great Monarchy

An exact Description of the Court and City of Ispahan, the Capital thereof; as also of the celebrated Ruins of Persepolis, the antient Metropolis of that Nation, and of several other Places of Note.

With Genuine Copies of the Instructions given by the *English, French* and other Powers, to their respective Embassadors in *Persia, China, Japan*, and other Eastern Empires; no less useful and instructive for carrying on the Commerce in those Parts, than satisfactory to the Curious.

Adorn'd and Illustrated with a great Number
of CUTTS.

By EDM. LLOYD, Esq;

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left in their Hands, after I had given them a Memorial of the respective Prices. As I was getting on Horseback the Pontif caus'd me to be call'd back, and having order'd me to sit near him, he fell on discoursing with me about *Europe*, and particularly concerning our Sciences, and our Mechanick Arts. At one a-Clock in the Morning he dismissed me, and order'd some of his People to conduct me.

C H A P. XVII.

The Ambassador of the Resqui, and Muscovy, admitted to an Audience. A Dispute between the French Envoy and English Agent about i reedency examined and settled. The Manner of the Ambassadors being conducted, with the Magnificence attending it.

ON the 15th, by break of Day, the Place-Royal was clear'd of all the Shops, and of all the Retailers who commonly there expose their Goods. This was done in order to render more magnificent the Audience and Entertainment which the King was to give the next Day to all the Ambassadors and Envoys who were at Court. It was swept, and all the Avenues thereof were shut up that no body might
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pass that Way. The First Minister notify'd at the same time to all the Ambassadors, by the *Mehemander Bachy*, or Guest-Keeper General, who is the Introducer of the Ambassadors, to prepare themselves, with their Presents, to receive Audience. The Envoy of the *French* Company, or to speak more properly, his Council, was very much surpriz'd at the King's Design, to give Audience to all the Ambassadors at once, and more especially, having been inform'd, that an Agent of the *English* Company, who was then at *Ispahan*, was likewise to have Audience; and that he had for some time been dealing secretly with the Ministers about the Precedency. He therefore immediately presented Petitions to the Nazir, and to the Grand Vizier, in order to prevent his receiving that Affront. He therein represented, That it was a Right due to the *French* Nation, to have the Precedency of all the Christian Nations, as well in the East, as in the West. These Petitions having been examin'd by the Ministers in Council, were answered to the Satisfaction of the Envoy. The Nazir told me so, at his coming from the King, and charg'd me to go from him, and acquaint the Envoy therewith, and to let him know, that he alone had stood firm in his Favour. The *Muscovite* Ambassador alledged, for Reasons of his having the Precedency; The vast Extent of his Master's Dominions, whom
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all the Christian Princes call'd Great, by Excellency, in which they show'd, said he, that they acknowledged him to be above them. The *English* Agent said, that he having a Letter to deliver from the King of *England*; whereas the *French* Envoy had only a Letter from the *French* Company; the Letter of a King ought to be preferred to that of an incorporated Society of Merchants. I found all the Family of the *French* Envoy busy in delivering to the Burghers of that Quarter, the Presents he was to make: I shall here set down the Order in which that is done. The Piskis Naviez, or Receiver of the Presents, notifies to the Great Prevost, and Governor of the City, that he must have such a Number of Men, such a Day, in such a Place, to carry the Presents of such an Ambassador. The Governor sends for the Commissary of that Ward or Quarter, and gives him his Orders accordingly, and the Commissary delivers them to the principal Burghers of the Quarter. The *Persian* Word for Burgher, is *Ket-Kuda*, which signifies *the Image of God*, because a good Head of a Family represents in his House, the Conduct of God in the Universe. These Burghers, to the Number of Eight or Ten, take a Man out of each Shop of the Quarter, or as many as are necessary, and repair, with a Clerk of the Receiver of the Presents, to the Ambassador's Lodgings where

where they receive his Presents according to the Memorial, and deliver them to these Bearers. Each Man takes a Piece, and goes away. Fifty Men very often are employ'd to carry to an Audience, what one Man alone might easily carry. This Practice, is to do Honour to the Person who makes the Present, because it makes him appear the more considerable; and likewise for the Grandure of the King, by reason that the People seeing the Presents that are brought to him, conclude that he is highly esteem'd by Foreign Nations. The Present is thus kept by the Bearers till the next Morning, when they repair to the Place which was appointed them, each with that Part that was deliver'd into his Hands. It sometimes happens that the Present remains even eight or ten Days in their Hands. One would think that in the Confusion that is caus'd by a Crowd of five or six hundred Men of the meaner Sort, (for sometimes there are so many employ'd to carry a Present) something should always be lost; yet that never happens, and the Account is always found exact. It is a thing impossible in *Persia* to rob the King; and, as the *Persians* say, the Sea itself is obliged to restore what it takes from him.

The *English* were presently inform'd of the Resolution that had been taken in favour of the *French*. Their Interpreter, (who

was a Man of Intrigue, had an easie access to the Ministers, and who spar'd nothing on such Occasions (wrought so much by his Goings and Comings, that the Grandees being assembl'd at Night in the King's Palace, the **Affair of the Precedency** was again started, and very strongly debated: At last it was resolv'd, that Audience should be given the next Day to the *Muscovites*, and that the *French* and the *English* should be put off to that Day eight Days. The first Minister caus'd the Difference to be regulated after that manner saying amongst other Things; *The Muscovite is our Neighbour, and our Friend, and the Commerce has been a long time settled between us, and without Interruption: We send Embassadors each to the other Reciprocally almost every Year, but we hardly know the others. The Power of their Kings may be as Great as it is Represented, but it is so remote from us, that it is with Difficulty we receive any News of it. It is therefore necessary to have a regard to our Neighbours at any rate.*

The 16th, about eight a Clock in the Morning, the Place Royal appear'd water'd from one end to the other, and adorn'd in the manner I am going to relate. On the Side of the great Entrance to the Royal Palace, at twenty Paces distance, were twelve Horses, the finest in the King's Stables, six on each side, set out in the stateliest and most magnificent Trapping the World can afford.

Four of the said Furnitures or Trappings were adorn'd with Emeralds, two with Rubies, two with Stones of different Colours intermix'd with Diamonds, two with Gold enamell'd, and two others with fine smooth Gold. Besides the Trappings, which were of this Richness, the Saddle, that is to say, the fore and back Part, the Pommel and the Stirrups, were cover'd with Stones suitable to the Trappings, These Horses had large Housings that hung down very low, some of Gold Brocard, rais'd with Pearls, and others of Gold Brocard very fine, and very thick, encompassed with Tufts, and Balls of Gold beset with Pearls. The Horses were made fast with Tresses of Silk and Gold, to Nails of fine Gold. The Nails are about fifteen Inches long, and of a thickness Proportionable, having a large Ring at the Head, through which the Halter passes, or the String belonging to their Shackles. In Reality, there can be nothing more Stately, nor more Royal than this Equipage, to which must be added twelve covercloaths of Velvet and Gold friz'd, or high napp'd, which serve to cover the Horses from top to bottom that were in Parade before the Rails, which run along the front of the Royal Palace. It is impossible to see finer, whether one considers the richness of the Stuff, or the Art and Delicacy of the Work.

Between the Horses and the Rails were four Cisterns, three Foot high, and large in Proportion, much like those that are made use of in *Paris* to preserve the Water in the Houses. Two of these were of Gold plac'd on Trevets, which were also of massy Gold; the other two were of Silver, plac'd on Trevets of the same Metal. Just by were two large Buckets, and two great Mallets, the largest that are to be seen; all these were likewise of massy Gold even to the very Handles. The Horses are water'd in these Buckets, and the Mallets serve to drive into the Ground, the Nails to which they are made fast. At the Distance of thirty Paces from the Horses, there were wild Beasts train'd up to fight with young Bulls. Two Lyons, one Tyger, and one Leopard which were made fast, each of them lying extended on a large piece of scarlet Tapistry, with their Heads towards the Palace. On the borders of the Tapistry were two Mallets of Gold, and two Basons also of Gold of the Diameter of the largest Cisterns for a Dining-Room. These are to give Food in to these fine Beasts, when they are shown in Publick. Here you must observe, that all the Gold Plate that is in the King's Palace, is Ducat Gold, as I have found by tryal. Right against the great Portal, were two Coaches after the *Indian* Fashion very pretty, with Oxen put to them, after the manner of that Country,

Country, the Coachmen whereof were *Indians*, and clad likewise after the Mode of their own Country. On the Right were two Antelopes, (this is a sort of Hind, having white Hair, and whose Horns are strait like an Arrow, and very long;) and on the Left were two great Elephants cover'd with Cloaths of Gold Brocarde, having Rings at their Teeth, and Chains and Rings of Silver at their Feet; and one Rhinoceros. These Animals were near the one to the other, without shewing the least Aversion or Uneasiness, notwithstanding what the Naturalists say to the contrary *viz* That the Elephant and the Rhinoceros have an invincible Antipathy, that keeps them constantly at War. At the two ends of the Place, they walk'd up and down in Leashes, the Bulls and the Rams that were train'd up to fight; and there were likewise Companies of Gladiators, Wrestlers and Fencers, all ready to engage at the first Signal that should be given them. In fine, there were in eight or ten Places of the Square, Brigades of the King's Guards drawn up and under their Arms.

The Hall that was prepar'd to give the Audience in, was that fine and spacious large Hall, built over the great Portal of the Palace, and is the finest Hall of that sort that I ever saw any where. It was rais'd so high, that when one looks down into the Place, Men seem to be but two Foot high, and when

on the contrary one looks upward from the Place to the Hall, there is no knowing of any Body. I have given the Figure thereof in the Description of *Ispahan*. The King being come thither about nine a Clock, and all the Court, to the Number of above three hundred Persons, there came into the Place from the Eastern Corner, the Ambassador of the *Lesqui*. This is a tributary Nation to *Persia*, and inhabits a mountauous Country on the Confines of the Kingdom towards *Muscovy*, and near the *Caspian* Sea. The Ambassador was a young Nobleman, very handsom, and very well dress'd. He had only two Horsemen to follow him, and four Footmen who surrounded him. An Assistant or Under-Master of the Ceremonies conducted him. He caus'd him to dismount at the Distance of about an hundred Paces from the great Portal, and led him very fast to the large Hall where the King was. The Captain of the Gate, who is call'd *Jehic agasi bach*, receiv'd him there, and conducted him to the kissing of the King's Feet. Thus they call the Salutation which his Subjects pay him; and all those Strangers who have the Honour to approach him, of what Quality soever they be. *Pabous* is the *Persian* Term, which signifies to kiss the Feet. It is also call'd *Zeminbous*, that is to say, to kiss the Ground, and *Ravi Zemin*, which implies, the Face upon the Ground. This Salutation
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