At half past eleven we were taken to the Imperial court, a building constructed in all the capital cities of provinces, and even in some others that are not dignified with that title. The Emperor’s tablet (*chap*) which is placed upon an altar in the principal hall, receives the salute of honour at every new and full moon from all the Mandarins. A discharge of artillery and military music announced our passage; first, before the troops that were drawn up in a line, and then in front of a long file of Mandarins. After these was the Governor of the Province and another great Mandarin who congratulated his Excellency and me on our arrival, and who conducted us to an outer hall to shew us the Emperor’s presents and entertainment, and then to the great hall beyond it. There, with the two great Mandarins and our two first conductors, we performed the salute before the Emperor’s *chap* with our heads covered. We then returned to the outer hall, where we were desired to fit down upon cushions, by little tables covered with sweetmeats and paltry.

As soon as we were seated a company of comedians began to perform upon a very neat theatre, erected on purpose opposite the hall. Several hot dishes, particularly roast and boiled meat, were afterwards served up, and cups of *Samsou* were presented to us for our beverage. We were waited upon by Mandarins of the gold button. We tasted a variety of things, and after having remained till nearly half past twelve, we rose, took leave, and departed.

The presents consisted of four half rolls of silk, and four pieces of narrow flowered silk (*pelang*) for the Ambassador, and the same for me. Half as much of the same articles was given to each of the five gentlemen in the suite of the Embassy, and the rest of his retinue received a few pieces of plain *panche*. The whole of these gifts were put into a little box, of which one of the Mandarins took charge.