Whilst they were at Table, the principal Player, upon his Knees, presented the *Mandarin* with a Book of red Paper, containing a List of Plays written in black Letters; of which the *Mandarin* having chosen one, he bowed his Head to the Earth; and then rising up, began the Performance.

First, entred a very beautiful Lady, magnificently dressed in Cloth of Gold, adorned with Jewels, and a Crown on her Head. She sang her Speech, with a charming Voice, and agreeable Motion of the Body, playing with her Hands; in one of which she held a Fan. The Prologue thus performed, the Play followed; the Story of which turned upon a *Chinese* Emperor long since dead, who had behaved himself well towards his Country; and, in Honour of whose Memory, the Play was written. Sometimes he appeared in royal Robes, with a flat Ivory Sceptre in his Hand; and sometimes his Officers shewed themselves with Ensigns, Arms, Drums, &c.

By Intervals, a Sort of Farce was acted by their Lacqueys, whose antic Dress, and painted Faces, (says the Ambassador) were as well as any I have seen in *Europe*. As far as was interpreted to him, it was very diverting: Especially one Part; which represented a Person who had been tricked into a Marriage with a leud Woman; and, fancying her constant to him, had the Mortification to see another make Love to her before his Face: They also, according to their Manner, danced to the Lute. Three several Plays were acted, which held till towards Midnight. The twenty-eight,[[1]](#footnote-1) setting forwards, he passed a floating wooden Bridge over the River *Lungo*, which runs South-Eastwards to the Sea.

1. The Dates, which are omitted in the Original, are inserted from the Order of Time, and the Journal of *Adam Brand*, Secretary to the Embassy. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)