

The answer from the Lhasa magistrate to his request to be permitted to proceed to Lhasa arrived a few days after his arrival at Gyantse. A passport was given him, transport and supplies furnished, and as he neared Lhasa he was met by a "respectable person on horseback, who dismounted and saluted," and who had been sent out by the Tibetan authorities to welcome him and conduct him to Lhasa.

The view of the Potala, "of the lofty, towering palace, which forms a majestic mountain of a building," excited his admiration, but if the palace had exceeded his expectations, he says, the town as far fell short of them. There was "nothing striking, nothing pleasing, in its appearance. The habitations were begrimed with smut and dirt. . . . In short, everything seemed mean and gloomy, and excited the idea of something unreal."

His first care was to provide himself with a proper hat, and, having found one, he proceeded to pay his respects to the Chinese Mandarin. Coming into his presence, he for the first time in his life performed the ceremony of *ketese*, or kneeling. The Mandarin received him politely, and said he had provided him with quarters. On the following day he visited two of the chief Tibetan officials.

On December 17, 1811, he went to the Potala to salute the Grand Lama. He took with him as an offering some broadcloth, two pair of china ewers, and a pair of good brass candlesticks, which he had "clean and furbished up," and into which he put "two wax candles to make a show." He also took "thirty new bright dollars, and as many pieces of zinc," and, besides this, "some genuine Smith's lavender-water . . . and a good store of Nankin tea, which is a rarity and delicacy at Lhasa, and not to be bought there."

Arrived in the great hall he made due obeisance, touching the ground three times with his head to the Grand Lama, and once to the Ti-mi-fu. While he was bowing, "the awkward servants contrived to let fall and