

THE
JOURNAL
OF
THE ASIATIC SOCIETY
OF
BENGAL.

EDITED BY

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OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA; OF THE
PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF GENEVA; OF
THE ALBANY INSTITUTE, &c.

VOL. VI.—PART II.

JULY TO DECEMBER,
1837.

"It will flourish, if naturalists, chemists, antiquaries, philologers, and men of science, in different parts of *Asia*, will commit their observations to writing, and send them to the Asiatic Society at Calcutta; it will languish, if such communications shall be long intermitted; and will die away, if they shall entirely cease."

SIR WM. JONES.

Calcutta :

PRINTED AT THE BAPTIST MISSION PRESS, CIRCULAR ROAD.

SOLD BY THE EDITOR, AT THE SOCIETY'S OFFICE.

1837.

Nos. 19 and 20. क्लेशाकाश *klesha kântara*, a title of similar purport to *daridra kântara*, 'the cave of affliction.'

Fragments of Inscription from Cashmir.

No. 22, is a fragment of the only inscription Mr. G. T. VIGNES was able to meet with in his recent tour to *Cashmir*. It is quite illegible, though perhaps it may be asserted to be Sanskrit. It is hardly worth recording what the pandits of the valley pretended to make of it, (*mipadu dabha* 24,) as they were certainly wrong in every letter! It was found on a small *Buddha* stone, five feet high; and is therefore most probably a portion of the usual sentence on such objects.

No. 23, is copied from the impression of a fine *sulimani* or calcedonic agate seal, discovered in the vicinity of *Ujain* and presented to me by Lieutenant E. CONOLLY 6th Cav. I have inserted it here on account of the close resemblance of its character to that of No. 4, (plate XXXV.) It is also very like the elongated style of the *Saurashtra* coin legends lately deciphered. The reading is श्रीवटिखुद्दा ' (the seal) of ŚRĪ VATI KHUDDA'—a name unknown in Hindu nomenclature. It is rather uncertain whether the second letter be not open at bottom, in which case it will read *Bhati*.

Inscription on the Jetty at Singapur, Pl. XXXVII.

Numerous have been the inquiries about this inscription—numerous have been the attempts to procure a copy of it, from some of the constant visitors to the Straits for amusement or the benefit of their health. By some I was assured that the letters were evidently European and the inscription merely a Dutch record. Others insisted that the character was precisely that of the *Delhi* pillar, or that of *Tibet*. While the last friend, Lieutenant C. MACKENZIE, who kindly undertook the commission, gave it up in despair at its very decayed state which seemed utterly beyond the power of the antiquarian; and in this he was quite right. Nevertheless a few letters still remain, enough to aid in determining at least the type and the language, and therefore the learned will be glad to learn that Dr. WILLIAM BLAND, of H. M. S. Wolf, has at length conquered all the discouraging difficulties of the task, and has enabled me now to present a very accurate facsimile of all that remains any way perceptible on the surface of the rocky fragment at *Singapur*.

The following note from himself fully explains the care and the method adopted for taking off the letters, and I have nothing to add to it but my concurrence in his opinion that the character is the *Pāli*, and that the purport therefore is most probably to record the exten-

Scale, one twelfth of the original.

fig 2.



sion of the Buddhist faith to that remarkable point of the *Malay Peninsula*. I cannot venture to put together any connected sentences or even words, but some of the letters, the *g, l, h, p, s, y, &c.* can be readily recognized; as well as many of the vowel marks.

"On a tongue of land forming the termination of the right bank of the river at *Singapore*, now called Artillery Point, stands a stone or rock of coarse red sandstone, about ten feet high, from two to five feet thick, and about nine or ten feet in length, somewhat wedge-shaped with weather-worn cells. The face sloping to the south-east at an angle of 76° has been smoothed down in the form of an irregular square, presenting a space of about thirty-two square feet, having a raised edge all around.

On this surface an inscription has originally been cut of about fifty lines, but the characters are so obliterated by the weather, that the greater part of them are illegible. Still there are many left which are plain enough, more particularly those at the lower right hand corner, where the raised edge of the stone has in some measure protected them.

Having frequently made pilgrimages to this rock, and as often regretted that its present weather-worn condition hid from us a tale, of "the days of other years," I determined if it were possible, to save a few letters, could they be satisfactorily made out, to tell us something however small, of the language or the people who inscribed it, and hence eke out our limited and obscure knowledge of the *Malayan peninsula*.

These considerations however strong, were very apt to give way, when it was almost universally known, that many had attempted to decipher the writing in question, and had failed to make any thing of it, among whom was, one of great eminence and perseverance, the late Sir S. RAFFLES. Courage was nevertheless taken, and with the assistance of a clever native writer, to work we went, and the following method was adopted to insure correctness.

A learned friend of mine suggested, that well made and soft dough, ought to be tried, for even school-boys used it for taking impressions from seals: it was tried accordingly and found to answer well, and when the impression of one character was taken and copied, the letter itself in the stone was painted exactly over with white lead, as far as the eye could make it out, when the character was copied a second time, and if the two agreed, it was considered as nearly correct as possible, and although this was done to all the characters, it was more particularly attended to in the more obscure ones, for the letters

marked in the facsimile with more strength, could readily be copied by the eye.

There is another thing worthy of being noticed, which is, that after a few days' work, we discovered that when the sun was descending in the west, a palpable shadow was thrown into the letter, from which great assistance was derived, no doubtful letter has been admitted in the facsimile sent for your supervision, and it may be fairly doubted whether you will ever get a better or more honest copy.

As to the character in which the inscription is written, speaking from a very limited knowledge of the subject, my opinion the very first day, was, that it is in the ancient Ceylonese, or Pálí; but as you have lately, with great perseverance and deserved success, made plain inscriptions hitherto perfectly a dead letter, I have great hopes you will be able to make something out of this celebrated stone of *Singapore*.

I may as well mention that tradition among the *Malays*, point to *Telinga* and *Ceylon* as its origin, which may be seen more at length in LEYDEN'S *Malayan Annals*.

W. BLAND."

V.—*Note on the Primary language of the Buddhist writings.* By
B. H. HOBGSON, Esq. Resident in Nípal.

To the Editor, Journal As. Soc.

I have read article II. of the 66th No. of your Journal with great interest. With regard to the language in which the religion of SA'KYA, 'was preached and spread among the people,' I perceive nothing opposed to my own opinions in the fact that that language was the vernacular.

There is merely in your case, as priorly in that of Mr. TURNOUR, some misapprehension of the sense in which I spoke to that point.

The preaching and spreading of the religion is a very different thing from the elaboration of those speculative principles from which the religion was deduced. In the one case, the appeal would be to the many; in the other, to the few. And whilst I am satisfied that the Buddhists as practical reformers addressed themselves to the people, and as propagandists used the vulgar tongue, I think that those philosophical dogmata which formed the basis of the popular creed, were enounced, defended and systematised in Sanskrit. I never alleged that the Buddhists had eschewed the Prákrits: I only denied the allegation that they had eschewed the Sanskrit; and I endeavoured, at the same time, to reconcile their use of *both*, by drawing a