

CENTENARY REVIEW

OF THE

1659

ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL

From 1784 to 1883.

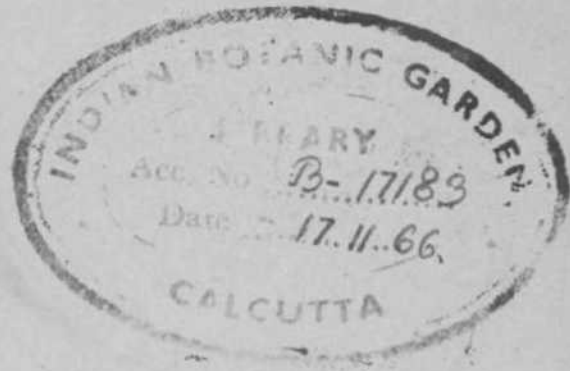
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OF THE
ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL
From 1784 to 1883.

PART I.

HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY.

BY

RAJENDRALALA MITRA, LL.D., C.I.E.

Printed for the Society.

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Centenary Review

OF THE

ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL.

From 1784 to 1883.

Part I.

HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY.

Introduction — **Foundation of the Society** — Foundation — Members — Name — Object — Rules — Ordinary **Members** — **Honorary** Members — Associate Members — Corresponding Members — Patrons — President — Vice-President — Secretary — Treasurer — Council — Special Committees — Meetings — House — Library — European book* — Oriental Manuscripts — **Summary** of the Library — Inscriptions — Coins — Pictures and Busts — Museum — Publications — Asiatic Researches — Journal — Proceedings — Oriental Publications — Miscellaneous Publications — Conservation of Sanskrit Manuscripts — Funds — Beil-rull — Summary.

A HUNDRED years have elapsed—a century of arduous and unremitting labour, and the time has now arrived for a review of the progress made and of the services rendered to the cause of literature and science by the Asiatic Society of Bengal since its foundation. Such a review will be as useful in showing what has been accomplished, as in suggesting what has to be done in the vast field which remains yet unexplored. It will be to the Society what a yearly stock-taking is to mercantile firms. It will also prove a source of profound satisfaction to those who now represent the Society for the eminent success with which they and their predecessors have worked for the advancement of knowledge.

. For convenience of treatment, this Review will be divided into three parts—*1st*, giving a succinct history of the Society; *2nd*, a *resumé* of the papers published on science generally ; *3rd*, a *précis* of all researches into archaeology, history, literature, &c.

•The idea of forming the Society was conceived by Sir William Jones, who came out to Calcutta in October 1783 as a Puisne Judge of the late Supreme Court at Fort William in Bengal. A distinguished scholar and linguist, who had already acquired considerable familiarity with some of the classics of India, and enthusiastically devoted to oriental researches, he soon noticed the want of an organized association in Calcutta as a drawback to progress. He felt, to quote his own language, " that, in the fluctuating, imperfect, and limited erudition of life, such enquiries and improvements could only be made by the united efforts of many, who are not easily brought, without some pressing inducement or strong impulse, to converge in a common point." Accordingly, while he engaged himself in the study of the Sanskrit language, which he had till then not acquired, he invited the co-operation of the leading men of the time in Calcutta for the formation of an institution where united action could be taken to promote the study of oriental literature and science, and where, by the co-operation of the many, the talents and abstract studies of the few would prove most effectual, and derive the stimulus which emulation, publicity, and a common interest never fail to excite. His exertions were warmly seconded by his friends, and a meeting was held on Thursday, the 15th of January, 1784, to come to some definite resolution. Thirty gentlemen attended this meeting, and they represented the *elite* of the European community in Calcutta at the time. The chair

was taken by Sir Robert Chambers, and the proceedings were opened by Sir William Jones, who delivered a learned and very suggestive "Discourse on the Institution of a Society for enquiring into the History, civil and natural, the Antiquities, Arts, Sciences, and Literature of Asia/¹ The address was enthusiastically received, and a resolution was come to establishing the Society under the name of the 'ASIATTCK SOCIETY.'

The gentlemen who took part at this meeting and Foundation Mem- bers, became the founders¹ of the Society were then, or subsequently became, the leading officers of the East India Company in this country, and included among them all the principal contributors to the pages of the Society's Transactions.

The name adopted for the Society at the inaugural meeting was borne on the records till the close of the fourth decade of this century. In 1829, soon after the establishment of the Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland in London, and the affiliation of the Literary Society of Bombay with that institution, a letter was received from the latter offering to the Calcutta Society the privilege of being affiliated, and in this letter it was for the first time

¹ These were: Sir Robert Chambers, Kt., Chief Justice. Supreme Court; Mr. Justice Hyde, Puisne Judge, Supreme Court; Sir William Jones, Kt., Puisne Judge, Supreme Court; General John Oarnac; Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Watson; David •Anderson, Esq.; Henry Vansittart, Esq.; Charles Crof tes, Esq.; William Chambers, Esq.; Richard Johnson, Esq.; John Shore, Esq. (afterwards a Baronet, and then Lord Teignmouth); Francis Glad win, Esq.; Charles Chapman, Esq.; Nathaniel Middleton, Esq.; Major William Davy; Charles Wilkins, Esq. (afterwards knighted); Jonathan Duncan, Esq.; John Bristow, Esq.; Thomas Graham, Esq.; Francis Fowke, Esq.; Thomas Law, Esq.; Captain Jonathan Scott; Francis Balfour, Esq.; J. David Paterson, Esq.; Ralph Broome, Esq.; Burrish Crisp, Esq.; Lieutenant James Anderson; Lieutenant Charles Hamilton; T. Reuben Burrow, Esq.; and George Hillarow Barlow, Esq. (afterwards made a Baronet). •"

designated as the "Asiatic Society of Bengal ;" but the Society_A did not accept the change.¹ As the parent of all the Asiatic Societies extant, it fitly retained its original name of THE Asiatic Society. In March 1832, when Mr. James Prinsep sought the sanction of the Society to use its name for the Journal he was then about to start, the resolution adopted used the words 'Asiatic Society' only (Journal, Vol. I, p. i); but the editor deemed it convenient for his purposes to add a local designation, and the Society took no notice of it. In 1843, when this Journal became the property of the Society, the new name had already become familiar, and it was formally introduced in the Code of Bye-laws published in 185L

In the terms of the original resolution, the object of Object of the so-^{tlie} Society was "enquiry into the his-
ciety-^{y-} tory and antiquities, arts, sciences, and literature of Asia." Dilating on this definition, Sir William Jones remarked: " You will investigate whatever is rare in the stupendous fabric of nature; will correct# the geography of Asia by new observations and discoveries; will trace the annals and even traditions of those nations who, from time to time, have peopled or desolated it; and will bring to light their various forms of Government, with tlieir institutions, civil and religious; you will examine their improvements and methods in arithmetic and geometry—in trigonometry, mensuration, mechanics, optics, astronomy and general physics; their systems of morality, grammar, rhetoric and dialectic; their skill in chirurgery and medicine, and their advancement, whatever it may be, in anatomy and chemistry. To this you will add researches into their agriculture, manufacture, and trade;

¹ Proceedings, January 1830.

and, whilst you enquire into their music, architecture, painting, and poetry, will not neglect those inferior arts, by which comforts, and even elegances of social life, are supplied or improved." To give emphasis to these details, Sir William Jones added : " If now it be asked, what are the intended objects of our enquiries within these spacious limits, we answer, MAN and NATURE ; whatever is performed by the one, or produced by the other." These words have since been paraphrased into—" The bounds of its investigations will be the geographical limits of Asia, and within these limits its enquiries will be extended to whatever is performed by man, or produced by nature," and this sentence now serves as the motto of the Society. How far this resolution has been faithfully and diligently carried out will be shown in the following pages.

In his inaugural address Sir William Jones expressed a strong feeling of disapprobation against

Rules.

an elaborate code of rules. He said: " It may be advisable at first, in order to prevent any difference of sentiment on particular points not immediately before us, to establish but one rule,—namely, to have no rules at all." He, however, qualified this by adding, ⁴⁴ This only I mean, that, in the infancy of any society, there ought to be no confinement, no trouble, no expense, no unnecessary formality. Let us, if you please, for the present, have weekly evening meetings in this hall for the purpose of hearing original papers read on such subjects as fall within our enquiries. Let all curious and learned men be invited to send their tracts to our Secretary, for which they ought immediately to receive our thanks; and if, towards the end of each year, we should be supplied with a sufficiency of valuable materials to fill a volume, let us present our ASIATIC Miscellany to* the li. ->rary

world, who have derived so much pleasure and information from the agreeable work of Kaempfer than which we can scarcely propose a better model, that they will accept with eagerness any fresh entertainment of the same kind. You will not perhaps be disposed to admit mere translations of considerable length, except of such unpublished essays or treatises as may be transmitted to us by native authors; but whether you will enrol as members any number of learned Natives you will hereafter decide, with many other questions as they happen to arise*; and you will think, I presume, that all questions should be decided by ballot by a majority of two-thirds, and that nine members should be requisite to constitute a board for such decisions.

* * * One thing only as essential to your dignity I recommend with earnestness—on no account to admit a new member who has not expressed a voluntary desire to become so; and in that case, you will not require, I suppose, any other qualification than a love of knowledge and a zeal for the promotion of it."¹ No formal resolution was adopted in regard to these suggestions, but they were unanimously accepted as the rules of the Society, and uniformly acted upon for several years. In August 1796, the necessity having been felt for devising "the best means of rendering the Institution permanent, and for determining whether a house should be provided for the future meetings of the Society,"² some new rules were framed, and the suggestions of the founder were reduced into the form of rules. Other rules were framed from time to time to meet special occasions, but nothing like a regular code was adopted until the beginning of the second half of this century. On the retirement of

¹ Jooies's *Woi*e*. Vol. I, p. G.

• *Researches*, Vol. VI, p. CSK.

Mr. Henry Torrens, the affairs of the Society were found to be in great disorder, and considerable differences of opinion existed on many important matters. A complete code of rules, providing for all contingencies, was, therefore, deemed urgently necessary, and a committee was appointed to prepare the same. After much deliberation and examination of the rules of European societies, the Committee submitted a new Code of Bye-laws, which was formally adopted on January 5, 1851.¹ One important clause in the Code required that every candidate for admission as an ordinary member shall address a letter stating that " he is anxious to promote the progress of science and literature, and is desirous of becoming a member of the Society," This was done as much in accordance with the opinion of the founder, who had strongly urged in his inaugural address, " not to admit a new member who had not expressed a voluntary desire to become so," as with a view to prevent unseemly repudiation of membership which had occurred in some cases. In practice, however, this rule was found to be unworkable, and had soon to be rescinded. Other clauses were also found troublesome, and a general revision was called for in 1859. On the establishment of the Indian Museum, the altered circumstances of the Society requiring extensive changes in the rules, a new Code was adopted in 1869.² This had again to be recast in 1876,³ and the last is the one now in force, with a few amendments since adopted.

The founder's inaugural address did not suggest any rule for the selection of members, but
 Ordinary Members. — — — — — c , i o . L
 at the second meeting of the society
 (January 22, 1784) members were proposed, who were

¹ Proceedings. ² *Ibid.*, January 1800, p. 10. ³ *Ibid.*, November 1876, p. 204.

balloted for and elected at the next meeting. At the third meeting such propositions were seconded, and ordered for ballot at the following meeting; and this plan has ever since been uniformly followed.

At first it was not expected that the Natives of this country would join the Society, and Sir William Jones said, "whether you will enrol as members any number of learned Natives you will hereafter decide;" and the question was not mooted for many years afterwards. On January 7, 1829, Dr. H. H. Wilson proposed some native names, and they were elected; similar propositions were subsequently made from time to time, and duly adopted. In the Code of Rules now in force, it is laid down, that "persons of all nations shall be eligible as members of the Society."

As the Society met at the Grand Jury Rooms of the Supreme Court, and no expense of any kind had to be incurred, the Members were not called upon to make any pecuniary contribution to the Society. In 1796, when the idea of providing a suitable house was first mooted, funds had to be raised by subscription, and it was ruled that Ordinary Members should pay a quarterly contribution of one gold moliur each for the support of the Society, old Members being required to make up for their previous membership by a payment of two gold mohurs each, in lieu of the entrance-fee which all new Members were called upon to contribute. The rule regarding the quarterly subscriptions was altered in 1859, when the amount was reduced to Rs. 12 a quarter for resident members, and Rs. 6 for non-residents. Looking to the numerical weakness of European society in India, and to the arduous character of the various occupations in which its members are engaged, it would be unreasonable to expect that many men would be found to devote their time to literary and scientific

pursuits. Such pursuits require leisure and ease of circumstances, early literary training, and an affluent retired life. Europeans coming to India have to fight the battle of existence, or to discharge onerous official duties, and when they have earned a competence and run through their allotted course of official career, they return to Europe to enjoy a life of ease. Natives, on the other hand, have, generally speaking, a defective education in early life, and cannot engage in researches, the fruits of which have to be recorded in a foreign language. The Asiatic Society has thus always laboured under a double disadvantage. But as Milton truly remarks, — "no man who hath tasted learning but will confess the many ways of profiting by those who, not contented with stale receipts, are able to manage and set forth new positions to the world," and the highly educated gentlemen, who came out in the civil, the medical, and the military services of the East India Company, fully bore out the truth of the observation. Notwithstanding the heavy duties they had to discharge in their respective spheres, many of them contributed largely to the efficiency, the stability, and the advancement of the Society by their literary labours and scientific researches. It is worthy of note, and not a little singular, that the members of the Civil Service took a much more prominent position in this respect than those of the more learned professions. As was to be expected, merchants, tradesmen, and other non-official Europeans took but a slender share in the work of the Society. The steady growth of the Society is best shewn in the statement given in Appendix A. It shows that, commencing with a total of 30 names, the number of members rose, at the close of 1788, to 89, and in 1876, when the subscription of resident members was brought down to Rs. 9 per quarter, to 285. It should be added,

liowever, that the various lists from which the statement has been compiled are misleading, as they do not discriminate under one uniform rule the efficient from non-efficient and absent members.

There is no record, in the first volume of the Proceedings, of any resolution having been adopted, laying down a principle for the election of Honorary Members. The first person elected as an Honorary Member was M. Carpentier de Cossigny. He was proposed by an Ordinary Member, seconded by another, and balloted for and elected in due course. Other elections followed from time to time, but without any definite rule. Exception was, however, taken to this course in 1828 ; and, in January 1829, it was resolved "that Honorary Members be in future proposed only by the Committee of Papers, members of the Society not in the Committee communicating their recommendation of an individual as an Honorary Member to the Committee, either directly or through the Secretary. The Committee not to be expected to assign any reasons, should they not see cause to make the nomination." When the resolutions and rules of the Society were codified in 1851, the qualifications for an Honorary Member were laid down to be " eminence for his knowledge of, or encouragement given to, science or literature, or for services rendered to the Society, to be testified by a written statement and supported by the votes of a 'majority of three-fourths of the members present at a meeting," limiting the elections at the same time to thirty in all. In 1876, the rule was further modified by omitting all reference to services to the Society. The roll of the Society shows that, on the whole, the selections have been judiciously made : it includes the names of all the European, *savans* who distinguished themselves

most by their oriental scholarship, and a great number of eminent scientific men of the last hundred years, as also two renowned Indian scholars,—Sir Rádhákánta, Bahddur, and Professor Bápudeva Sástii.

Another class of members was established on May 6, 1835, to secure the co-operation of competent persons in India, who would not offer themselves as candidates for ordinary membership. This was called Associate Member, to whom was assigned all the privileges of Ordinary Members except that of voting at the meetings of the Society. Under the rules now in force, this class is reserved for "persons well-known for their literary or scientific attainments, but who are not likely to become Ordinary Members." Their number is limited to 15.

A fourth class of members was established in 1851 to recognize the services of correspondents in foreign countries, but it was not much appreciated, and therefore abolished in 1869.

At the second meeting of the Society, Sir William Jones submitted draft of a letter to Warren Hastings, Esq., Governor-General and President, and Edward Wheeler, John Macpherson, and John Stables, Esqs., Members of the Council of Fort William in Bengal, requesting them to become patrons of the Society. The draft was approved, and the assent of the Governor-General and Council having been obtained, they were, at a subsequent meeting, duly elected. This election became a precedent, which was regularly followed until the time of Lord William Bentinck : on his election as patron, the Members of his Council were left out. Since then the practice has been to elect only the Governor-General as patron.

Along with the letter above referred to, a second was addressed to Mr. Warren Hastings, re-
 President. A
 questing him to accept the office of President of the Society. The offer, however, was declined. While expressing his appreciation of the honor done him by the offer, Mr. Hastings said:—"From an early conviction of the utility of the institution, it was my anxious wish that I might be, by whatever means, instrumental in promoting the success of it ; but not in the mode which you have proposed, which, I fear, would rather prove, if of any effect, an incumbrance on it. I have not the leisure requisite to discharge the functions of such a station, nor, if I did possess it, would it be consistent with the pride, which every man may be allowed to avow in the pursuit or support of the objects of his personal credit, to accept the first station in a department in which the superior talents of my immediate followers in it would shine with a lustre, from which mine must suffer much in the comparison, and to stand in so conspicuous a point of view the only ineffective member of a body, which is yet in its infancy, and composed of members with whose abilities I am, and have long been, in the habits of intimate communication, and know them to be all eminently qualified to fill their respective parts in it.

"On these grounds I request your permission to decline the offer which you have done me the honor to make to me, and to yield my pretensions to the gentleman whose genius planned the institution, and is most capable of conducting it to the attainment of the great and splendid purposes of its formation.

" I at the same time earnestly solicit your acceptance of my services in any way in which they can be, and I hope that they may be rendered useful to your researches."

In accordance with the suggestion contained in the above extract, Sir William Jones was elected President of the Society on February 5, 1784. He held the office till his demise on April 27, 1794. He was succeeded by Sir John Shore, who then held the office of Governor-General. In subsequent years, two other Governors-General, the Marquis of Hastings and Lord Hardinge, held the same office. It was found, however, that the reasons assigned by Mr. Warren Hastings were correct, and that the duties of so exalted an office as that of Governor-General of India did not admit of that close application on the part of the President to the duties of the Society, which was so desirable. The elections, therefore, have been confined to distinguished persons whose knowledge and zeal and opportunities were best calculated to promote the interests of the Society. The names of all the Presidents are shown in the Statement hereto annexed (Appendix B).

In anticipation of the acceptance of the office of President by Mr. Warren Hastings, Sir William Jones was elected Vice-President at the second meeting of the Society. But on his election soon after to the Presidentship, the office became vacant, and none was appointed in his place. On his death, however, when the office of President was held by Sir John Shore, the then Governor-General of India, some inconvenience was felt owing to his inability to attend every meeting of the Society, and in 1798 a resolution was adopted to appoint two Vice-Presidents. The number was afterwards raised to 3, and subsequently to 4 ; but by the rules now in force it is limited to 3. The Statement given in Appendix B shows the names of all the Vice-Presidents.

Immediately after the establishment of the Society, Mr,

George Hillarow Barlow undertook the
Secretary.

duties of secretary ; but, two months after, Mr. John Herbert Harington was appointed Secretary by formal resolution, and for fifty years afterwards, one Secretary, aided at times by a Deputy Secretary, sufficed for the despatch of the Society's ordinary business, the financial affairs being conducted by a Treasurer. On the retirement of Mr. Jamas Prinsep, two Secretaries were deemed necessary, besides the Treasurer, and a third was added some time afterwards. Under the rules now in force, the number of Secretaries is not fixed, but four are generally appointed : one General Secretary, one Natural Science Secretary, one Philological Secretary, and one Treasurer.

In 1796, when subscriptions first began to be collected,
Treasurer. Mr. Trail, of the firm of Palmer and Co.,
Merchants, was appointed Treasurer, and his firm undertook to transact all banking business for the Society. In 1803, a native clerk was engaged to keep accounts, but all financial business continued to be conducted by Messrs. Palmer and Co. After a time, the duty of collecting subscriptions was made over to the clerk. On the failure of Palmer and Co. in 1828, the custody of the finances was made over to Messrs. Macintosh and Co., and, after their failure in 1833, to the Bank of Bengal. The clerk above referred to was the late Babu R&macomal Sen. He served the society for nearly forty years, latterly holding the office of what was called ' Native Secretary,' but really that of Treasurer. In 1840, Mr. Bolst, an uncovenanted assistant in the Bengal Secretariat, was appointed Treasurer, and he kept the records in the Bengal Office, or in his private dwelling. On his dismissal from the Bengal Office, the account-books of the Society could not be recovered.

In 1846, one of the Secretaries became the Treasurer, and that arrangement has continued since.

Soon after its establishment, the Society appointed a Committee of Papers, consisting of the Council. President, the Secretary, and four other members, to conduct its affairs. In November 1796, this Committee was strengthened by the addition of two Vice-Presidents, and four other members, and in 1849; another addition was made, bringing up the total to fifteen, including the office-bearers. Under the rules now in force, the minimum is fixed at fifteen, and the maximum at twenty.

In 1846, several active Committees having been organized, it was deemed expedient, with a view to prevent misunderstanding and confusion, to change the name of the Committee of Papers and to designate it the Council, as the governing body of the Society.

Although the Society was established with a view to, hold weekly meetings for exchange of notes among members and reading of papers on subjects of interest, the necessity soon arose for appointing special Committees for the consideration of questions of importance. Such Committees were, however, generally temporary, and their functions ceased with the determination of the questions referred to them. On the completion of the Society's house, when the means and accommodation for steady, continuous, and combined action were easy of access, Dr. Hare, in June 1808, moved, seconded by Dr. Leyden, " that a Committee be appointed for the purpose of physical investigations, the collection of facts, specimens, and correspondence with individuals whose situations in this country may be favorable for such discussions and investigations." This the mover subsequently modified, and recommended two Com-

mittees,- one for "Natural History, Philosophy, Medicine, Improvements of the Arts, and whatever comprehended in the general term of Physics;" and another "for Literature, Philology, History, Antiquities, and whatever is comprehended under the general term of Literature." This recommendation was, after some consideration, formally adopted on September 7, 1808, and the following elections were made:—

Physical Committee.

•
J. Farquhar, Esq.
Dr. J. Leyden. Dr. J.
Lieutenant A. Lockett.
George Davidson, Esq.
Rev. W. Carey.
W. Hunter, Esq.

Literary Committee.

J. H. Harington, Esq.
Leyden.
Lieutenant A. Lockett.
H. B. Bayley, Esq.
H. P. Forbes, Esq.
Rev. W. Carey.
W. Hunter, Esq.

It was at the same time resolved that other members of the Society should be invited to join the Committees and to frame rules for the conduct of their investigations. The Committees met several times, and prepared lists of desiderata and carried on some correspondence; but, after a time, they fell into disuetude, and no record is now extant of their proceedings. In 1818, the Physical Committee was revived, and it was in active work for several years; but its proceedings are not now forthcoming. At the annual meeting of the Society, on December 13, 1821, Dr. Wilson, then Secretary, proposed that "special Committees should be appointed to report upon the papers received by the Society and for other purposes, as also a House Committee, the President, one Vice-President, and the Secretary, being *ex officio* members of all the Committees." But its consideration was deferred, and never after taken up. In 1828, a Committee was appointed "to promote geological researches, working under the rules then in force for the Physical Com-

mittee, with such modifications as may be deemed expedient/ Dr. Calder was appointed its Secretary. At the same time the Transactions of the Society were divided into two parts, one to be devoted to Physical, and the other to Literary, subjects. The Physical Committee was in active work for some time, and spent large sums of money in boring operations in Fort William and other researches. A Statistical and a Finance Committee were appointed soon after. No rules, however, were laid down for the annual election of the Committees, and they fell again into abeyance. In 1847, the then Committee of Papers, adverting to the constitution of their body, which, though intended to represent the different objects of the Society, had at one time been almost exclusively composed of gentlemen who deemed Oriental Literature the paramount object of the Society, and at another period of those under whom researches in Oriental Philology were nearly abandoned in favor of Zoology and kindred sciences, recommended the appointment of Sections, or Standing Committees, for (1) Oriental Literature, (2) Zoology and Natural History, (3) Geology and Mineralogy, (4) Meteorology and Physics, (5) Geography and Indian Statistics, (6) Finances. The elections for these Committees took place at the annual meeting, and were followed up by fresh elections every year until the By-laws of 1851 placed the appointment of Committees at the disposal of the Council. An Historical Committee and a Coin Committee have since been added.

As already incidentally noticed, the original object of the Society was to hold weekly meetings
 Meetings. . . . " e . . . , ; , . °
 in mutation or the hebdomadal gatherings of the Royal Society two centuries ago, but this could not be regularly carried out for any length of time. In England, the professors of colleges, ministers of

religion, and educated men of independent means and retired from business, have a great deal of leisure time, and a habitual liking for literary and scientific researches, for which they are regularly trained by their system of education. In Calcutta, on the other hand, at the close of the last century, these classes were entirely wanting. As stated in the Introduction to the first volume of *tin** Researches, " a mere man of letters, retired from the world and allotting his whole time to philosophical or literary pursuits, is a character unknown among Europeans resident in India, where every individual is a man of business in the civil or military state, and constantly occupied either in the affairs of Government, in the administration or justice, in some department of revenue or commerce, or in one of the liberal professions ; very few hours, therefore, in the day or night, can be reserved for any study that has no immediate connection with business, even by those who are most habituated to mental application, and it is impossible to preserve health in Bengal without regular exercise and reasonable relaxation of mind. " And under the circumstances, notwithstanding the earnestness and devotion of the founders and a large body of very able men who placed themselves under the standard of the Society, papers could not be produced in such rapid succession as to keep up the interest of the weekly meetings. After the first few months, frequent interruptions followed, and during the close of the rains in the beginning of autumn, meetings had to be suspended for weeks. After the death of the founder, a resolution had to be adopted to hold monthly, instead of weekly, meetings.¹ In six months' time, even monthly meetings were found to

¹ Proceedings for December 5, 1799.

be too frequent, and a meeting once every three months was held sufficient.¹ The interval fixed by the last resolution, however, was found to be too long, and calculated to diminish the interest of the public in the Society, and after a short trial, the plan of monthly meetings was reverted to with occasional recess during the months of September and October. In 1818, some energetic members thought formal monthly meetings not sufficient for unrestrained friendly communications and conversation on literary and scientific subjects ; it was thereupon resolved (April 2, 1828) :—

I. That the apartments should be kept open for private meetings at 7-30 P.M. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month.

II. That the meetings shall be open to every member that chooses to attend and to every visitor whom he may wish to introduce.

III. That none of the official business of the Society shall be transacted at these meetings, and none of the officers of the Society shall attend, except in a private capacity.

IV. That the general attention of the Society at these meetings shall be confined to the promotion of those studies and enquiries which were originally contemplated in the institution of the Asiatic Society.

There is no record to show how these private meetings were attended, and when they were abandoned.

The day of the meeting was originally Thursday. When monthly meetings were resolved upon, the first Wednesday of every month was thought the most convenient, and it remains unchanged to this day. At the close of the last century, the time for dinner among Englishmen was early, and 7 P.M. was found a fit time for meetings, as

¹ Proceedings for July 2, 1800.

affording a means of recreation to men of literary habits after their meals ; but changes in the social rules of the European community early in this century rendered 8, and subsequently 9, P.M. as the most convenient hour for the meetings of the Society. Under the rules now in force a recess is observed during the months of September and October.

The business at the annual meeting in the time of Sir William Jones was limited to the reading of the annual address. After his death such addresses were not forthcoming, and no annual meeting was held; the office-bearers were elected, since 1796, at the ordinary December meeting. In 1828 it was resolved, that the anniversary of the Society should be celebrated by an annual dinner, but it was not acted up to in subsequent years. In 1833, Mr. James Prinsep introduced, for the first time, the practice of submitting a brief annual report in January ; Mr. Torrens discontinued it in 1841, but his successors revived the practice in 1847, and the rules of the Society now render it imperative. The Code of 1869 provided for an annual address from the Chair, and some very interesting addresses were delivered by Sir Joseph Fayrer, Sir John Phear, Mr. Oldham and Mr. Medlicott; but the practice of delivering such addresses has of late been dropped.

During the presidency of Sir William Jones, no necessity was felt for a house for the Society.

House.

The Grand Jury Room of the late Supreme Court was always accessible for the meetings of the Society, and there being no office, no effects, and no establishment, no separate accommodation was wanted. On the demise of the founder, the case became different. The Court-house was not always so readily available ; books, papers, records, and specimens of various kinds had accumulated, and they required a store-room, and a natural desire

to secure permanency for these suggested the necessity of a local habitation. It was accordingly resolved¹ that an application should be made to Government for the grant of a free site for a house, and the members should pay a quarterly contribution of one gold mohur each and an entrance-fee of two gold mohurs, which, accumulating for a few years, would yield a sufficient sum to cover the expense of building a house. There is no record to show what reply was given by Government to this application. A second application was made, on July 4, 1804, for a spot of land at the corner of Park Street, which had before been in the possession of a Riding School, but had subsequently reverted to Government, and the Government granted it with the exception of a small portion on the western side, which was "required by the Magistrate of Calcutta for the establishment of a Police Thannah and a Fire Engine." On the remodelling of the Calcutta Police iii 1849, the Police-station at this spot was abolished, and, on the application of the Society, the spot was also given to it, free of all rent, for so long as the Society would be in existence. By a subsequent release, dated March 3, 1876, the Government has given the land free of all conditions. The pottah for the land is dated April 7, 1852, and covers an area of a little over three bigahs and a half.

In 1805, when the order of Government granting the land was received, the Society had accumulated a sufficient sum to be in a position to undertake the building of a house. Captain Lock, of the Bengal Engineers, designed a plan, which, after some modifications, was made over to one Jean Jacques Pichon, a Frenchman, settled as a builder in Calcutta, to erect the building. The contract with

¹ Proceedings for December 1, 1796. ..

the builder bears date February 1, 1806, and the cost settled was Rs. 24,000. It appears from subsequent Proceedings (April 6, 1808), that the contract amount had to be raised to Rs. 30,000. Extensive additions and alterations have since been made at a heavy cost. The Society took possession of the house at the beginning* of 1808.

Although built at the cost, and for the exclusive use, of the Society, the house has been always accessible to the public for literary and scientific lectures. In 1822, the use of the meeting-room was permitted to the Serampore Missionaries for a course of lectures on phrenology[^] and the Medical and Physical Society of Calcutta held their meetings and had their office and library in the house for upwards of thirty years.

One of the objects for which the house was built was to
 Library : provide accommodation for a Library and
 European books. _R Museum. From soon after the foundation of the Society, books, papers, manuscripts, drawings, copperplates and other articles were, from time to time, presented to the Society, and they had to be kept, owing to want of a better place for their, preservation, in the private dwelling-house of the Secretary for the time being ; and as the exigencies of European official life in this country led to frequent changes, the risk of loss was serious. The new house at once removed this difficulty. The books that had been received up to the time formed the nucleus of a Library, and funds were sanctioned every year, and also on special occasions, for the purchase of *UGW* books. Mr. H. T. Colebrooke was also appointed as agent in London to select and purchase books for the Society (October 1, 1817). Exchanges of publications were also made with leading European Societies, and of duplicates in the Library with private individuals, and members retiring from the

country sometimes presented selections from their private collections. A small but very valuable collection of works on art was given by Mr. Home, who was for several years a leading member of the Society, and a much larger one of historical and other works relating to India was got from Government on the abolition of the old College of Fort William as an educational institution, duplicates and works of general interest being given to the Calcutta Public Library. A very valuable collection of manuscripts, being diverse occasional papers and essays, and ten volumes of drawings of antiquarian and archaeological subjects, belonging to Colonel Mackenzie, for a long time Surveyor-General of India, were received in December 1822. A set of abstract translations of the Purānas, prepared by native scholars under the superintendence of Dr. Wilson, and several translations from Persian works, have also come to the possession of the Society. A collection of some illustrated works on Botany was received from Dr. N. Wallich in June 1817, but it was subsequently sent to the Hon'ble East India Company's Botanical Gardens, at Sibpur, near Calcutta.

To facilitate the use of the Library by members a set of rules was framed in January 1820. A catalogue of the whole of the Society's library was published in 1833. It shows a total of about a thousand volumes. After the accession of the College of Fort William collection, a second catalogue of the European books was prepared by the late Dr. E. Roer, and that shows a total of 4,315 volumes. A third catalogue was prepared in 1856 by the writer of this Review, and that brought up the total to upwards of 7,000 volumes. Accessions to the Library have since been very numerous and valuable, comprising, besides sets, more or less complete, of the Transactions of all the leading European and American learned bodies, nearly all standard

works of reference in science and oriental literature. The total, it is estimated, will exceed 20,000 volumes. Much inconvenience is felt by members from want of a good catalogue of this extensive and valuable collection—perhaps the richest in India. This, however, it is expected, will soon be supplied. There is now in the press an alphabetical catalogue carefully prepared under the superintendence of H. B. Medlicott, Esq., F.R.S., and it is expected to be completed before the close of the current year.

The early history of the Oriental Library is very much the same as that of the European one.

Library.- the same as that of the European one.
Oriental Department. *

The Society depended mainly on casual gifts from members, and they were not numerous. The first accession of any importance was a gift from the Seringapatam Prize Committee (February 3, 1808). It included a selection from the Library taken in *loot* from the palace of Tipu Sultan. There were among them many old and rare works, including a great number of beautifully illuminated manuscripts of the Quran, and of that part of it called *Pansurah*. An exceedingly well written old text of the *Gulistdn*, said to be the first copy from the original manuscript of the author, and a codex of the *Pddshdndmdh* bearing an autograph of the Emperor Shah Jehan, were among them. Presentations were also received, on diverse occasions, from the late College of Fort William and the General Committee of Public Instruction, of books published under their superintendence and from other sources. The total, however, did not, in 1835, exceed a thousand volumes. On the abolition of the College of Fort William, the whole of its Sanskrit, Arabian, Persian, and Urdu works, mostly in manuscript, collected at great expense and trouble under the superintendence of Gladwin, Carey, Gilchrist, and other distinguished oriental scholars, were placed under the custody of the Society,

with a promise that they would, on the sanction of the Hon'ble Court of Directors being obtained, be given to the Society, subject only to two conditions, namely,—safe and careful preservation, and unrestricted accessibility to the public at all reasonable hours. Pending the receipt of the sanction, the Government defrayed the cost of the establishment, amounting to Rs. 78 per mensem. The sanction was obtained in 1846, when the monthly grant was stopped, and the books and manuscripts became the property of the Society, subject only to the two conditions aforesaid.

When the manuscripts came to the possession of the Society, it was all but certain that they would ultimately be its property, and in anticipation of the sanction of the Court of Directors, Mr. Prinsep, then Secretary, caused catalogues to be prepared and printed not only of the new accessions but of all the manuscripts owned by the Society. The Persian catalogue bears date 1837, and contains a total of 2,742 names, out of which 1,013 are Arabic, 1,418 Persian, and 311 Urdu,—a few of these being printed books. The Sanskrit catalogue was issued in 1838, and it includes, besides Sanskrit, a few M&gadhi, Bengali, Hindi, Carndti, Tailinga and Mahratti names. The total is, in round numbers, 1,800. Annexed to this catalogue are lists of Sanskrit works then owned by the Sanskrit Colleges of Calcutta and Benares. These lists were very useful at the time, as shewing the extent of Sanskrit literature then known to exist. The catalogues were prepared by Maulvies and Pandits in the Indian style, and are not very convenient for reference now. They abound, too, in mistakes, and have become obsolete from the circumstance of the Library having been greatly extended since 1838. The accessions in the Persian Department have not been very numerous, in all 167, but several -valuable codices

have been obtained. The losses in this department have, however, been greater than the accession. The Sanskrit Library has been nearly doubled ; while the losses, though serious, do not exceed 250 codices. The want of a revised catalogue has, therefore, been much felt, and an attempt was sometime ago made to compile a *catalogue raisonné* of the Sanskrit works. It was then expected that the then Librarian of the Society would be able, with the assistance of a Pandit, to get the needful done. But on his retirement from **the** Society soon after, the work fell into abeyance. The writer of this Review, thereupon, undertook to finish what was then in the press, and brought out, in 1877, a royal octavo volume of 228 pages, containing descriptive accounts of all **the** manuscripts on Sanskrit grammar that were available in the Library. It comprised also a tabular statement of all the works of that class which had been met with in India. Other occupations did not, however, permit the editor to carry on the undertaking, and taking into consideration the immense time and labour necessary for such an elaborate work, it had to be finally abandoned. Dr. Hoernle has now in the press a nominal catalogue, which, it is believed, will be completed in a short time.

Besides these there are now in the custody of the Society 2,507 Sanskrit manuscripts, mostly new to the collection aforementioned, belonging to the Government of India, and some of great age and value. The ultimate destination of these has not yet been determined upon, but it is expected that they will be so kept by Government as to be always available to Indian and Anglo-Indian scholars.

In addition to the above, the Society possesses a rare collection of Tibetan xylographs, including one complete, and another somewhat defective, set of the Khahgyur and the Stungyr.r texts of the Buddhist Scriptures. For

the complete set the Society is indebted to Mr. B. H. Hodgson, by whose liberality and earnest efforts, its Library and Museum have been so vastly enriched. The second copy was brought down by M. Csoma de Körös. Of these voluminous collections there exists no other copy in India, and only two in Europe, both sent by Mr. Hodgson. To that gentleman the Society also owes its thanks for a very large and exceedingly valuable collection of Sanskrit Buddhist manuscripts, of which an analytical catalogue, prepared by the writer of this Review, has lately been published by the Society.

The Society has also, in its Library, upwards of 350 Chinese xylographs, of which there is, in manuscript, a descriptive catalogue prepared by Mr. Alabaster, the author of a *Life of Buddha*, published under the name of "The Wheel of the Law." There are, likewise, palm-leaf manuscripts of Burmese, Siamese, Javanese, and Cingalese works, to the extent of about 125 bundles, of which, however, there is no inventory of any kind.

It has not been possible to count, for the purposes of this Summary of the Review, all the books and manuscripts contained in the Library, but partly from certain recent accounts and partly from memoranda prepared four years ago, it appears that the Society now owns, or has in custody, of—

English Books and Manuscripts	...	...	19,842	Vols.
Arabic ditto	...	...	1,161	"
Persian ditto	...	...	1,506	"
Urdu ditto	...	...	300	"
Sanskrit ditto	...	...	3,378	"
Ditto Manuscripts (Govt. property)			2,507	"
Tibetan Xylographs	...	...	256	"
Chinese ditto	...	...	350	"
Burmese, Siamese, &c. ditto, manuscripts on palm leaves	...	...	125	"
Total			<u>29,425</u>	

For a colonial Library such a collection of nearly 30,000 volumes, of which upwards of 8,000 are in manuscript, is, it is believed, unrivalled, and the members may well congratulate themselves on their work, bearing in mind that the bulk of it has been got up by private enterprise without any pecuniary help from Government. The work done is highly creditable. Had the Society done nothing else in the course of its career of a hundred years, this collection would suffice to secure to it the thanks of future generations.

Inscriptions and coins are closely related to books; they differ only in the material in which they are preserved, but are fully as valuable as written history, and at times much more so, being far more authentic. Their decipherment has engaged the attention of the Society from a very early date, and some of the most brilliant discoveries in Indian history have been thereby effected. Records of this description are not plentiful; many exist on scarps of rocks and on ancient buildings or sculpture; others occur on stones not easily removable, while records on copperplates are title-deeds which their owners do not part with, and coins are intrinsically so valuable that they are not readily to be had. The members of the Society have, however, been assiduous in their endeavours to obtain them either in original or in facsimile, and a great number has been collected.

Of inscriptions the Society had at one time upwards of a hundred. On the removal, however, of the Society's collection of antiquities from its premises to the Indian Museum, it was deemed expedient to make over all inscribed stones to the Museum, leaving behind in the Library-only the records—mostly land grants—on copperplates.

Coins in gold and silver, when they cease to be current, are soon melted down, and in India, where
Coins. the practice of wearing ornaments of precious metals is so universally prevalent, the cause of their destruction is constantly at work, while copper coins are not much cared for, and their material is subject to rapid deterioration by the influence of the climate. It is not remarkable, therefore, that the Society was never very rich in this description of relics. Many were exhibited at the meetings, and many more described in the Transactions of the Society, but few were given to it. Nevertheless, from time to time, a few coins were presented to it by various benefactors ; and after the death of Colonel Mackenzie, duplicates of such coins as existed in any number in his very large collection, were received through the liberality of the Government of Bengal. These made up the Society's collection of coins in 1832, when they were noticed by Professor H. H. Wilson in the Asiatic Researches.

" Subsequently a great many coins were received at different times; and an imperfect inventory of the collection was published by Dr. Roer in the Proceedings of 1843.

" The cabinet, as described by Roer, consisted at that time of 297 Roman coins, from Augustus down to the destruction of the Occidental Empire, mostly copper, and only a very few rare ones; of Greek coins there were 16; and of Bactrian, Indo-Scythian, Sassanian and Gupta coins only 116. There were at the time, however, two or three bags full of copper coins, which had not been described. A little later in the same year, it received a considerable addition of Norwegian coins.

"In the following year, 1844, it suffered a great loss, all the more intrinsically valuable specimens being stolen. A description of the Cabinet in this despoiled state, to

which, however, a few more coins had been added in the meanwhile, was given by Mr. Freeling in the Proceedings for 1857. In order to retrieve the loss, the Society determined to purchase the well-known and magnificent collection of Colonel Stacv, which had been offered to it for sale at the reduced sum of Rs. 4,000, in November 1856. A subscription was opened by the Council among the members, the Society itself contributing Rs 1,200 towards the purchase ; and early in 1859, this valuable collection was successfully secured. A priced catalogue of it had already been published by Mr. E. Thomas in the Journal of the preceding year, 1858.

" Since then many additions have been made from year to year, some by presentations, but mostly by purchase. A catalogue of the Cabinet in its present state is in course of preparation. It is particularly rich in Delhi Patlidns and Bengal Patlidns, also in the later Bactrius, Iudo-Scythians, Guptas, and the various sorts of ancient Hindu and Buddhist coins. It might be more complete in the Delhi Moghals; but it is most defective in the provincial Muhamliarian coinages of Malwá, Guzardt, Jaunpur, &c, also in some of the more ancient classes, as the Saurdshtrian and Sassanian coins. A small collection of Roman coins in gold was obtained from General Cubbon some years ago. They are of peculiar interest as coming from a trove discovered in the Madias Presidency. Among the copper, lead, and inferior coins generally there are a very large number of duplicates. On the other hand, there are also in the Society's collection a *few* coins which are unique, and a not inconsiderable number which are more or less rare."

The Society has, moreover, a small but very valuable collection of oilpaintin^s and some busts,
 Pictures and Busts.
 the latter memorials or the manv^rent

men, whose labours contributed so largely to establish and sustain the renown of the Society. Many of the paintings are also memorials, which the members secured of their distinguished collaborateurs; the others are of a miscellaneous character, and most of them belonged at one time to the studio of Mr. Home. That gentleman was an artist, and at the beginning of this century lived for several years in Calcutta, and took an active interest in the affairs of the Society. Subsequently he went up to Lucknow and made a fortune in the service of Ghazizuddin Hyder, the then King of Oudli. During his tour in Europe he collected many rare pictures, and on his death his two sons, who were then in active service as officers in the Bengal army, deposited them with the Society on the condition that should they not be able to remove the collection within a reasonable time, it shall become the property of the Society, and remain as a memorial of their father. The sons died about forty years ago, and the pictures accordingly now belong to the Society. Among* them there are originals by Rubens, Guido Rene, Domenichino, Reynolds, Canaletti, and Westmoreland. The Society has received from other sources originals by Chinnery, Poe, and Daniel.¹ Looking to the satisfactory state of preservation of the old pictures, it is easy to infer that the idea about the Indian climate being prejudicial to pictures is untenable.

In the inaugural address of the founder no reference
 Museum. was made to a M^{useum} •• but curiosities
 were sent in from time to time by
 fossil members, and in 1796 the idea was started of
 having a suitable house for their reception and preserva-
tion. Nothing practical, however, could be done at the

¹ For a list of the Pictures and Illustrations, see the Society's¹ printed Catalogue of Curiosities.

time, and it was not until some time after the completion of the house that measures were taken to carry out the object. On February 2, 1814, Dr. N. Wallich wrote a letter to the Society strongly advocating the formation of a Museum, and offering at the same time not only duplicates from his own rich collection to form a nucleus for it, but his own services to look after it, and in bringing the letter before the Society, the Committee of Papers submitted the following notes, which, though long, are worth quoting to show clearly what it was that the Society undertook :

" A collection of the substances which are the objects of science and of those reliques which illustrate ancient times and manners, has always been one of the first steps taken by Societies instituted for the dissemination of specific or universal knowledge. Such a collection was one of the first objects also of the Asiatic Society, and any person engaged in the study of the history and language of this country, or in the investigation of its natural productions, must have had frequent cause for regretting that such a purpose should have been hitherto so very incompletely carried into effect. No public repository yet exists to which the naturalist or scholar can refer, and the only sources of information, beyond verbal and often inaccurate description, have been found in the accidental accumulations of individuals, always of difficult access, indiscriminate selection, temporary duration, and little utility.

" The Asiatic Society is now called upon to adopt active measures for remedying this deficiency, and collecting, from the abundant matter which India offers, a Museum that shall be serviceable to history and science. In the former of these departments the Society is already in possession of several valuable articles, and there can be no doubt that enquiry and exertion, and the assurance of their being properly bestowed, would soon add considerably to the number. There are, however, many tilings of extremely easy attainment, that would afford much useful illustration, and the student of the original languages and compositions would be frequently extricated from perplexity and doubt by having it in his power to refer to specimens of various Eastern implements and instruments in daily and domestic use amongst the natives of these regions.

" It is, however, in the departments of science that a Museum in this country would be found most specially serviceable, and the facility of its accumulation is proportionable to the extent of its utility. In Natural History, Botany, Anatomy, Chemistry, Mineralogy and other branches, a collection would accumulate rapidly if once commenced ; and from the first moment of its accumulation would furnish additional matter to the stock of knowledge. Many objects with which we are exceedingly familiar in this country are riew or imperfectly known to general science, and a vast variety of articles may be derived from sources hourly acceptable, each of which would contribute some interesting supply to the extensive results of western enquiry.

" The importance of the measure is, however, so obvious, that it must be unnecessary to urge it further, and it only remains to consider the means by which it can be effected. The Society possesses accommodation fit for the purpose, and the expense of adapting these to the reception of contributions could not be any amount. The present establishment might perhaps be sufficient to take charge of it, at least for some-time, and at any rate no great addition could be requisite. The principal difficulty lies in the selection of a person willing and able to devote some time and trouble to procuring and arranging the materials of which such a Museum should consist, and the removal of this difficulty is the chief inducement at present for the Society to take the subject into serious consideration.

" Dr. Wallich offers, if the Society should determine to place the collection under his superintendence, to contribute to it the results of his owu enquiries, to appropriate to it such further contributions as come within his reach, and to devote all the attention in his power to the arrangement and conservation of the whole. "

After a careful consideration of the details submitted by the Committee of Papers, the Society came to the following resolutions :—

" Resolved accordingly that the Asiatic Society determine upon forming a Museum for the reception of all articles that **may** tend to illustrate oriental manners and history, or to elucidate the peculiarities of art or nature in the East.

" That this intention be made known to the public, and that contributions be solicited of the undermentioned nature :—

" Inscriptions on stone or brass.

- " Ancient monuments, Muhammadan or Hindu.
- " Figures of the Hindu deities.
- " Ancient coins.
- " Ancient manuscripts.
- " Instruments of war peculiar to the East.
- " Instruments of music.
- " The vessels used in religious ceremonies.
- " Implements of native art- and manufacture, &c, &c.
- " Animals peculiar to India, dried or preserved.
- " Skeletons or particular bones of animals peculiar to India.
- " Birds peculiar to India, stuffed or preserved.
- " Dried plants, fruits, &c.
- " Mineral or vegetable preparation peculiar to Eastern pharmacy.
- " Ores of Metals.
- " Native alloys of metals.
- " Minerals of every description, &c, &c.
- " That the names of persons contributing to the Museum or Library of the Society be hereafter published at the end of each volume of the Asiatic Researches.
- " That the Hall on the groundfloor - be fitted up for the reception of the articles that may be procured.
- " That the plan and expense of so doing be regulated by the Committee of Papers and Secretary and the person under whose superintendence the Museum may be placed.
- " That the expense which may be incurred in preparing materials that may be furnished in a state unfit for preservation be defrayed by the Society within a certain and fixed extent.
- " That the thanks of the Society be given to Dr. Wallich for the tender of his services.
- " That the services of Dr. Wallich be accepted, and that he be in consequence' appointed Superintendent of the Oriental Museum of the Asiatic Society.*

The Museum thus formed thrived rapidly. Contributions were received under all the heads noticed, and grants were made freely for their preservation. All coins, copper-plates, sculptures, inscriptions on stone, implements and miscellaneous articles received were placed in charge of

the Librarian, while geological and zoological specimens were classified, arranged, and preserved under the superintendence of Dr. Wallich, who was appointed their curator, all donations being duly announced in the pages of the Society's Transactions.

The archaeotectonic and miscellaneous collection was greatly enriched by contributions from Colonel Stuart, Dr. Tytler, General Mackenzie, Mr. B. H. Hodgson, Captain Dillon, Bábu Rdmacomal Sen and others. A partial inventory of it was prepared by Dr. Roer in 1843, and a complete catalogue was compiled by the writer of this Review in 1847, and published in 1849.

The Natural History Museum remained in charge of Dr. Wallich for several years. On his resignation the Society found it necessary to employ one Mr. Gibbon as Superintendent on Rs. 50 per mensem.¹ The Museum, however, did not, and could not, under the circumstances, get on satisfactorily. What was wanted was a competent knowledge of Zoology and Geology, and that could not be secured for the remuneration offered. The Society had, therefore, to revert to gratuitous aid from amateurs in the ranks of the medical service of the East India Company. The new impulse given to the work of the Society by the appointment of the Physical Committee in 1828, led to the employment of a paid Superintendent on Rs. 150 per mensem, and one Mr. Hichins was selected for the post (June 17, 1828). His successor, three years after, was appointed on Rs. 200 per month.

The budget of 1836 showed that there were no means available for the payment of a Curator's salary. As it was, however, not desirable to dispense with the services of so

¹ Proceedings, AuguBt 1817.

experienced and useful an officer, a resolution was adopted to pay the amount from the vested fund. This was received with great disfavor by some of the leading members of the Society, and a formal dissent, was placed by them on record. In the face of this, the plan of payment could not be continued in the following year. The Committee was thus driven to the alternative either of dispensing with the services of a Curator, or of reducing expenses in other departments. Neither, however, was deemed expedient; the latter course would seriously affect the progress of the Society, and the former was by no means desirable. "Viewing the maintenance of the Museum as a national object, and calculated to be of immense importance to science if placed upon a footing of efficiency, with a professional naturalist at the head, directing researches and systematizing information obtained from various sources, both public and private, in all the branches of Physical Science, but more particularly in regard to the Natural History of British India and Asia at large," it was felt that such a course would be highly reprehensible. It was accordingly resolved that "a full and urgent represent-

ject, and to solicit such support as is accorded in most other countries to similar institutions of national and scientific utility;" and "pending the result of the reference the Curator be retained."¹ The memorial submitted on the subject was written by Sir Edward Ryan, and its prayer was based on the high ground of public utility. After detailing the services rendered to the cause of literature and science by the Society, Sir Edward remarked:
⁴⁴ It is not from a declining Society that an appeal is made,

¹ Journal, Vol. VI, pp. 399f.

to save it from impending ruin or to enable it to support its expenses on the same scale of efficiency as heretofore. On the contrary, the Society never had a more flourishing list of contributing members, nor was it ever more actively engaged on the multiplied objects of its attention. Indeed, it would be difficult to mention any department in which its duties have not materially increased within the last few years."¹ He then went on to say :—

" The Asiatic Society, or it may be allowable to say the Metropolis of British India, has had the germs of a national Museum as it were planted in its bosom. As at *Paris* a new era was opened in the history of its great museum, the Jardin des Plantes, through the discoveries of extinct and wondrous animal forms exhumed from the rocks on which the town was built, and which required all the adjuncts of comparative anatomy for their investigation even by the master hand of the great CUVIER ; so in *Calcutta* through the munificence of a few individuals and development of fossil deposits in various parts of India hitherto unsuspected, we have become possessed of the basis of a grand collection, and we have been driven to seek recent specimens to elucidate them. Our desire has been warmly seconded by all who have enjoyed the opportunity of contributing; from *China*, from *New South Wales*, from the *Cape*, and from every quarter of the Honorable Company's possessions, specimens of natural history, of mineralogy and geology, have flowed in faster than they could be accommodated, and the too little attention they have received has alone prevented similar presentations from being much more numerous; for it is but reasonable to suppose that, of the stores continually despatched to England or the Continent, the Society would have received a larger share had it done proper honor to what it has received.

" In May 1835, the Society resolved to try the experiment of appointing salaried officers² to the charge of its Museum. For two years economy in other departments has enabled it to maintain this

¹ Journal, Vol. VI, p. 493. '

² Incorporation.

system, and the good effects of the measure are visible to all who visit the rooms. Yet, riot being able to purchase more than a small portion of the time of a competent naturalist, the benefit has been comparatively limited, and now at the very commencement of the experiment, the state of the Society's funds will compel it to withhold further support from its incipient museum, unless some fresh source of income be provided.

" These then are the motives that have persuaded the Society of the propriety of an appeal to the Killing Power:—not to contribute to the ordinary wants and engagements of the institution, but to convert that institution into a public and national concern by entrusting it with the foundation and superintendence of what has yet to be formed, for the instruction of our native fellow subjects, as much as for the furtherance of science,—a public depository of the products of nature in India and the surrounding countries properly preserved, properly arranged, and properly applied.

" To effect such an object it is indispensable that the services of a professional naturalist of high attainments should be engaged, and that he should have at his command the means of work in or effectually, and of devoting his whole time to the employment."¹

The prayer of the memorial was limited to a grant of Rs. 200 per mensem. The Government admitted that the expense of establishing such a museum could not be met by voluntary subscriptions, nor could it "be maintained in the creditable and useful condition necessary for the attainment of the object desired, unless aided liberally by the Government, in like manner as similar institutions in Europe are supported from the public treasury;" but they were not prepared to accede to the request without a reference to the Court of Directors. They said:

" There are many circumstances which induce the Governor-General in Council to consider that the proposition submitted on this occasion is peculiarly one to be decided by the Home

¹ Journal, Vol. VI, pp. 494-5.

authorities, rather than by the Local Government. In the first place, the Honorable Court of Directors are themselves at considerable expense in keeping up a museum and library at the India House, and though his Lordship in Council concurs with you in thinking that such institutions in Europe, however perfect, do not supersede the necessity of providing similar in India likewise,—with reference especially *to* the spirit of literary inquiry and scientific research which it is desired to excite and encourage amongst the native youths of India; still the fact that the Honorable Court have a separate institution of their own, points to the propriety of making them the judges of its sufficiency or the contrary for Indian purposes. Moreover, were the Government of India to sanction a specific annual grant for a museum and library in Calcutta under the management of your Society, such a grant would reasonably be made a precedent for similar applications from learned Societies at other Presidencies, and his Lordship in Council is not prepared to decide without a reference to England upon the relative claims of such Societies with reference to the circumstances of the institutions themselves and of the Presidencies and places where they may be established." (June 1837.)

On the receipt of this, a second petition was submitted, from which the following is an extract :—

"The Society feel that they have every reason*to be highly flattered with the condescension and consideration extended to their address by the members of Government; and although a reference to the Honorable the Court of Directors has been deemed indispensable before finally determining on the adoption of the Society's proposition for the formation of a national museum at the cost of the state, still they entertain the most sanguine assurance of a favorable issue under the encouragement and recommendation with which His Lordship in Council has been pleased *to* promise that the reference home shall be accompanied.

"On the strength of this confident expectation a very full meeting of the Society, held on the 5th instant, came to the resolution that it would be unadvisable at such a juncture to break up the establishment, and abandon the incipient Museum upon which

they had for two years devoted so considerable a portion of their income, and thus perhaps have to recommence their collection a year hence, should the Honorable Court acquiesce in the proposed measure.

"It was consequently resolved that a second respectful application should be submitted to the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council in immediate connection with their former address tainquire:—

"Whether, in order to maintain the Society's Museum in its present state of efficiency, pending the reference on the subject of its extension and conversion into a public institution, the Government would be disposed to sanction a monthly grant of 200 rupees, the actual sum which is now obliged to be withdrawn from this object on account of other calls on the Society's funds."¹

This prayer was at once granted, and Dr. Pearson was appointed Curator. He was succeeded by Dr. McLelland. The reply of the Court of Directors came in their Despatch No. 17, of September 18, 1839. The Court fully recognized the claims of the Society, and, adverting to the Society's immediate permanent want of a qualified person to preserve its collections, remarked, that they " would not object to the Government allowing the Society a monthly sum of 200 or 250 rupees a month as salary to a Curator, with a further sum of 50 rupees a month for the cost of preparing specimens and maintaining the collection in order." They went further, and said: " We shall not object to your granting to the Society funds for special purchases, as occasions arise, as far as may be compatible with a due regard to public economy. On all such occasions, you will forward to our Museum a selection from the articles which may have been so procured."² The only condition attached to this was, that " the articles to be purchased^ should not be of a perishable nature."

¹ Proceedings. July 1837.

* *Ibid.*, November 1839.

The question now arose as to whether a competent Curator should be brought out from Europe, or one appointed in India. Opinion was very much divided, particularly as the officer then in charge of the Museum, Dr. McLelland, was thoroughly well-qualified for the office. That gentleman, however, did not agree to the terms proposed of two hours' daily attendance at the Museum, and a monthly report of progress. It was resolved, therefore, to write to Dr. Wilson, then the London Agent of the Society, to select a fit person. The person selected was Mr. Edward Blyth, who took charge of his office in September, 18'41.

It was generally expected that the Curator sent out from England would be able to take scientific charge of the whole of the Museum; but this could not be done. Thoroughly competent as Mr. Blyth was as a naturalist, he had not studied geology to such an extent as to be fit to be a scientific curator of that department. In his letter to the Secretary, dated September 22, 1841, he himself said: " It is in the Mineral department, unfortunately, that I am at present less qualified, by previous study, to devote my immediate and first labors advantageously for the Society; but with the opportunities for study which are now before me, and with the liberal encouragement and support I may reckon upon receiving, I do not fear but that I shall soon render myself competent to discharge that portion of my duty which relates to the efficient management of the Museum of Economic Geology; this being a subject in which I feel the liveliest interest, and with the high importance of which I am deeply and thoroughly impressed."¹ This difficulty was, however, soon overcome. The satisfactory working of the coal mines at Rániganj, and the reports

¹ Journal, Vol. XL, pp. 75C.

of Dr. Heifer and other scientific officers had invited the attention of Government to the mineral resources of the country, and a resolution was adopted in 1835 to establish a Museum of Economic Geology, in order to make typical specimens readily accessible for reference to the public. An officer was deputed to England to obtain such specimens. Captain Trimenheere came out with them in May 1841; and for want of suitable accommodation elsewhere the Government deposited them in the rooms of the Society. Provision was also made by Government for the custody of these by a competent curator on a salary of Rs. 250 a month, with an allowance of Rs. 64 for contingent charges. The money was placed at the disposal, and under the control, of the Society, which appointed Mr. Piddington as Curator, and placed under his charge the collections of the Museum of Economic Geology as also its own Geological and Palaeontological specimens. Fossil bones belong as strictly to Zoology as recent ones, but, for the sake of convenience, and on account of the peculiar qualifications of the two Curators, the unscientific course adopted was unavoidable. This arrangement lasted till 1856, and the two departments thrived most satisfactorily under the management of the officers appointed. The usefulness of the Zoological collections was greatly enhanced by the publication of valuable catalogues of the Mammals and Birds by Mr. Blyth, of the Eeptiles and Fresh-water Shells by Mr. W. Theobald, and of the Fossils by Dr. Hugh Falconer and Mr. H. Walker. Full monthly reports were submitted by both the Curators, and they were very favourably received by the scientific public.

The Geological Museum was never a cause of heavy expense to the Society, and at first the relief afforded by the Government grant enabled the Society to carry on

the Zoological branch with but a small contribution from its general resources. But the collections increased rapidly under the energetic management of Mr. Blyth and the hearty co-operation of the most useful members interested in Natural History, and the demands of the Museum soon outgrew the resources of the Society.

On the formation of a general Museum in connection with the then recently established department of Geological Survey of India, the Government desired the transfer there of the Museum of Economic Geology.¹ It proposed at the same time that the Society should deposit there its own collection of fossils and other geological specimens. The last proposal gave rise to much discussion. On the one hand it was obvious, that the collection would be better preserved, better laid out, and better taken care of by the very able officers under whom it would be placed than in the Society's premises. But on the other it was felt, that the dissociation of a part of the Museum, and that the least expensive but highly valuable, would prove injurious to the interests of the Society, if not to endanger its very existence, and at the same time postpone to an indefinite period the great object which the Society had cherished since 1837 of seeing a national museum worthy of the metropolis of British India established here. The offer of the Government was, therefore, declined.²

The removal of the Museum of Economic Geology enabled the Society to devote more space for the accommodation of its zoological collection, but it had already become an unmanageable burden which no private association could sustain. It required more room and more establish-

¹ Proceedings, July 11, 1856.

* -****! November 5, 1856.

ment to preserve it than what the Society could provide. Taking these circumstances into mature consideration a resolution was adopted to the effect, that " the Council enter into a communication with the Government on the subject of the foundation at Calcutta of an Imperial Museum, to which the whole of the Society's collections, except the library, may be transferred, provided the locality, the general arrangement, and management be declared, on reference to the Society at large, to be perfectly satisfactory to its members."¹ The Mutiny of the native troops in the N. W. Provinces, however, soon after followed, and the matter was consequently left in abeyance. In October 1858, the question was revived, and a representation was submitted to Government, giving in detail the Views of the Society on the subject of the proposed museum; but it failed in its object. The Government, while recognizing it as " its duty to establish in the metropolis an imperial museum for the collection and exposition of specimens of natural history in all its branches, and of other objects of interest—physical, economical and historical"—declined to entertain the project on financial grounds. At the same time it renewed its offer regarding the geological and palaeontological collections. The Society, thereupon, submitted a memorial to the Secretary of State, and, while awaiting a reply to this, applied for an extra grant from the Government of Rs. 200 per mensem, which, though at the time declined,² was[^] on a renewal of the application two years after, sanctioned.

Adverting to previous correspondence, the Government, in May 1862, announced that, " in the opinion of the Governor-General in Council, the time had arrived when the

¹ Proceedings, May 6, 1837.

³ *Ibid.*, April and June 1859.

foundation of a public museum in Calcutta, which had been generally accepted as a duty of the Government, may be taken into consideration with regard to its practical realization," and then gave a sketch of the terms on which the Society's collections may be transferred to it.¹ Negotiations now followed, which were protracted till the middle of 1865, when the following conditions were finally settled, *viz.*:—

1. That, in consideration of the Society's making over its zoological, geological, and archseological collections to a public museum to be established and maintained by Government, and made over to a Board of Trustees, the Society shall be provided with suitable accommodation in the house which was to be built by Government for the museum, and to have exclusive possession, occupation, and control of the portion so allotted to it.

2. That the Society shall have the right of nominating from its own body one-third of the members of the said Board.

3. That it shall retain exclusive possession of its own house.

4. That it shall make over to the new museum all archaeological and natural history specimens that it may, in future, receive from its members.

A law to this effect was passed in 1866 (Act XVII), and the collections were formally made over to an officer of the Board of Trustees appointed under it. An arrangement was also made to allow the collections to remain in the Society's premises until the proposed building could be completed.

The time occupied in building the new house was pro-

¹ Journal for 1662, p. 320.

tracted, and the inconvenience felt by the Society from want of room for the accommodation of its daily expanding Library was great ; and a special house-allowance was granted by Government at the rate of Us. 40D per mensem from December 1, 1874.

A misunderstanding: arose about this time as to the number of rooms the Society should be permitted to occupy in the new house. The officers in charge of the Museum and the Board of Trustees were of opinion that the whole of the accommodation available in the house then in course of erection would be ultimately required for the purposes of their charge, while the members of the Society were reluctant to enter into a house where accommodation was insufficient, and freedom of action cramped. It was felt, too, that the Society's position as an independent body would be injured by its office being huddled in the corner of a house occupied by two such large Government establishments as the Geological Survey and the Natural History Museum, and forming as it were a mere annexe to them. The Government, thereupon, referred the matter for settlement to a Committee consisting of Sir Ashley Eden and Dr. Oldham,*and, at their recommendation, granted a sum of Rs. 1000 per annum as compensation for its claim to accommodation in the Museum building.¹ This arrangement has proved highly beneficial both to the Society and to the Museum.

The exertions made for the establishment of the national museum, and the endowment of it with the richest collection of specimens available in India, are acts for which the Society deserves high credit. To quote the language of an elegant writer in the 'Calcutta Review:'

¹ *Proceedings*, July 1876.

" Had it done nothing else to promote science during the last ten years, it would have entitled itself to the gratitude of posterity for the vigor with which it has prosecuted to success a project fraught with so much public usefulness."

Although Sir William Jones contemplated the publication of a volume of 'Asiatick Miscellany' every year, no attempt was made to get out such a periodical during the first three years of the Society's career. Most of the papers received during the first year were short and unimportant, and it was not until the middle of the year 1787 that the Society was in a position to go to press with the first volume, of its Transactions. The Society, however, had no funds of its own at the time, and there was no publisher in Calcutta who could undertake the work at his own responsibility. Ultimately one Mr. Manuel Cantopher, of the Hon'ble East India Company's Printing Office, undertook the job as a private speculation, on the understanding that every Member of the Society would take the book at Us. 20 a copy. The name then approved for the periodical was "Asiatick Researches," instead of what the founder had originally suggested. The first volume appeared in 1788, and the second followed in 1790. The third, the fourth, and the fifth volumes appeared successively in 1793, 1795, and 1797, under the same conditions, the price being reduced to Rs. 16 per copy. The work created quite a sensation in the literary world, and the demand for it was so great, that a pirated edition was brought out in England in 1798. This also sold so rapidly that, within the next five or six years, two other editions were brought out in octavo. The demand for the work was also urgent on the Continent, and a French translation was "brought out in

Paris under the title of "*Recherches Asiatiques.*"¹ In introducing it to the public, the translator, M. A. Labaume, remarked: "cette collection a inspiré en Angleterre un intérêt, qu'il est à-peu-près impossible de se procurer aujourd'hui un exemplaire de l'édition originale de Calcutta, et qu'il en a été fait à Londres trois éditions, qui sont presque entièrement épuisées: cependant elles sont fort incorrectes et remplies de fautes importantes." The translation was a faithful one, and it was enriched by a series of valuable notes on the philological and historical papers by M. Langlès, and on the scientific papers by MM. Cuvier, Delambre, Lamarck and Olivier. The estimation in which the work was then held was thus indicated by the editor: "la plus riche collection de faits qui existe sur l'Inde, ce pays qui attire les premiers regards de ceux qui veulent étudier l'histoire des hommes."

The plan of quarterly contributions from Members had placed the Society in some funds in 1798, when the sixth volume was about to be sent to press; and, looking to the rapid and profitable sale which the first five volumes had met with, the idea was taken up of bringing out the next volume on account of the Society. The proposal was that the same printer should continue to print the work, but at the cost of the Society, which was to reimburse its outlay by charging the Members at Rs. 12 a copy. Volumes VI — XII were published under this arrange-

¹ The full title of the translation runs thus: "*Recherches Asiatiques, ou Mémoires de la Société établie au Bengale pour faire des recherches sur l'histoire et les antiquités, les arts, les sciences et la littérature de l'Asie; traduits de l'Anglois, par M. A. Labaume. Revus & Augmentés de notes pour la partie Orientale, Philologique et Historique, par M. Langlès, et pour la partie des Sciences exactes et naturelles, par MM. Cuvier, Delambre, Lamarck, et Olivier. Paris, 1805, 4to. 2 vols.*"

ment.¹ This arrangement did not, however, prove advantageous. The cost of printing became heavy, and the sale-proceeds did not fully recoup the outlay. In 1819, it was therefore proposed that the copyright should be sold to a London publisher, and the work brought out at shorter intervals than heretofore. The project, however, fell through. Following the example of European Societies, it was besides resolved that the Researches should be given to members gratis. This increased the responsibility of the Society, and caused greater delay in the publication of its Transactions. In 1829, when the Physical Class was in active work, a resolution was adopted to divide the Researches into two parts, one to be devoted wholly to scientific papers, and the other to literary contributions. This plan was carried out in Vols. XVII, XVIII, XIX, and XX, but as the two parts were intended to be bound together, no appreciable advantage was gained by it. On the contrary, the scientific parts did not sell so readily as the literary ones, and many copies of the stock were accordingly made defective. In 1837, Mr. James Prinsep brought out a very carefully prepared analytical index of the first eighteen volumes of the Researches. This was a valuable acquisition, as it made the rich treasures of the Society's Transactions readily accessible to students. It did not suffice, however, to revive public interest in the valuable but tardily-issued publication ; and soon after the completion of the second part of the twentieth volume of the Researches in 1839, the work was finally abandoned.

The causes which contributed to the stoppage of this

> The dates in which Vols. VI to XX were issued, were :—Vol. VI, in 1799 ; Vol. VII, in 1801 ; Vol. VIII, in 1805 ; Vol. IX, in 1807 ; Vol. X, in 1808 ; Vol. XI, in 1810 ; Vol. XII, in 1816 ; Vol. XIII, in 1820 ; Vol. XIV, in 1822 ; Vol. XV, in 1825 ; Vol. XVI, in 1828 ; Vol. XVII, in 1832 ; Vol. XVIII, in 1833 ; Vol. XIX, in 1836 ; and Vol. XX, in 1839.

once popular and highly esteemed periodical were manifold. The first and foremost was tardy publication. From the foundation of the Society in 1784 to the close of 1839, within a period of fifty-five years, the Society published only twenty volumes, or one volume at an average in every two years and nine months. In many instances the interval was greater. In the early days of the Society this was not much felt, but latterly it became a source of frequent complaint. On January 8, 1820, Dr. Gordon moved that "the great delay in completing and publishing the volumes of the Society's Transactions being a source of general complaint and discouraging to the authors of papers for the Researches, some remedy should be adopted for publishing the volumes in parts," and it was resolved that "the Committee of Papers cause the several copies printed by the Society to be distributed to the members applying for the same, in such parts as, and at such periods and as often as, may, by the Committee, be found most convenient; 12 copies of each paper or of the part containing it to be sent to the authors." This did not, however, suffice to remove the cause of complaint. Another frequent complaint was the form of the * Researches.' A heavy quarto volume necessarily suggested elaborate and finished essays, and in the selection of papers for it, short notes, describing new discoveries or new ideas, however interesting, were frequently rejected. They were read at meetings, and then pigeonholed for decay. The Transactions in their quarto form could not be adapted for them. An outlet for these was, therefore, very much needed. For a time these found a place in the * Quarterly Oriental Journal,' which Dr. Wilson started in 1821, while short notes on scientific subjects were published in the * Transactions of the Medical and Physical Society.'⁹ Both those

publications, however, were dropped in 1827. A substitute for these was provided in 1829 by Captain J. D. Herbert, Deputy Surveyor-General, in a monthly publication which he started under the name of 'Gleanings in Science.' His primary idea was to confine it to extracts and abstracts from European scientific publications, but original contributions poured in so rapidly that he had to abstain from extracts. The Society benefited by this publication so far that a *precis* of its monthly proceedings, which had heretofore been preserved in manuscript, was regularly published. Captain Herbert, however, was appointed Astronomer to His Majesty the King of Oudh in 1830, and Mr. James Prinsep, who had been associated with him in the undertaking, instead of dropping the work, proposed to change its name and call it 'The Journal of the Asiatic Society.' The sanction was given in March 1832. The 'Journal,' however, as it appeared in that month, bore the name of the ⁴Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.' Its character, too, was entirely changed. Instead of being a scientific periodical, it became essentially literary. It came out also with the additional advantage of free postage, the Government having, in consideration of the Editor publishing Dr. Buchanan-Hamilton's 'Statistics of Bengal' as an appendix to it, conceded that privilege. For the first two years, moreover, it was given to the members free of charge. The frequency and regularity with which this Journal appeared recommended it strongly to the notice of authors, and many papers which would have been otherwise reserved for the pages of the 'Researches' found their way into the 'Journal.'

The Journal, thus established and conducted, succeeded the Researches. The privilege of franking allowed it was withdrawn

after two years.¹ But it had already established its name and fame as a standard periodical of European reputation, and the Asiatic Society made up for the loss by purchasing the necessary number of copies for presentation to its members. The Court of Directors also extended to it their patronage by subscribing for 40 copies.² It was devoted to the publication almost exclusively of papers received by the Society, and it thus became its organ, though not officially so recognized. Although many scientific papers were published in it, its literary character was generally maintained, for at the time there were two rivals—the 'India Journal of Science' of Dr. Corbyn, and the 'Calcutta Journal of Natural History' of Dr. McLelland, which diverted many scientific papers from its pages. On the other hand, the Government, at the request of the Society, allowed it access to all official records likely to be of general interest, and no want was ever felt of fit materials for publication.

Financially, nevertheless, it involved a small, but steadily recurring, loss to the editor. It injured also the *Researches*, by withdrawing valuable papers and by stinting the resources of the Society, which, after paying for the Journal for its members, had little means left to defray the cost of printing the *Researches*. The two volumes and the Index printed since the commencement of the Journal had to be paid for out of vested funds. On the retirement of Mr. Prinsep in 1838, his successor, Mr. Henry Torrens, took up the work and carried it on at his own risk. Matters, however, came to a crisis at the close of 1842, when Mr. Torrens resigned the secretaryship as well as the editorship of the Journal, and no one could be

¹ Proceedings, June 1834.

² *Ibid.*, February 1838.

of sufficient interest to be worthy of publication. Another change was also at the time suggested. The complaints which necessitated the division of the *Researches* into two parts in 1829 were now brought to bear upon the *Journal*, and a similar division had to be adopted. Care was at the same time taken to keep these Parts so distinct by separate pagination and separate indexes as to form two separate serials, so that the scientific scholar may have the scientific matter without the admixture of what to him appeared as literary lumber, and the orientalist may not have to pay for scientific matter, in which he did not feel himself interested. This arrangement necessitated the employment of three Secretaries, one to look after the general business of the Society and edit the *Proceedings*, one to edit the scientific part of the *Journal*, and a third to take charge of the literary portion.

The most frequent contributors to the *Journal* have been Mr. J. Prinsep, Mr. B. H. Hodgson, Col. P. T. Cautley, Mr. E. Blyth, Mr. H. Piddington, Dr. H. Falconer, Dr. G. G. Spilsbury, Dr. J. Campbell, M. Csoma de Kőrös, Capt. J. D. Cunningham, General A. Cunningham, Col. R. Everest, Major M. Kittoe, Capt. Hutton, Capt. J. W. "Sherwill, Col. J. Abbott, Capt. J. Newbold, Mr. H. F. Blanford, Mr. W. T. Blanford, Dr. R. Mitra, Mr. Wood-Mason, and Mr. H. Blochmann.

A list of all the contributors with the titles of their contributions will be found in Appendix D.

Counting each part as a volume, the Society has published, either directly or indirectly, and including the index, eighty-four volumes of the *Journal*, and nineteen volumes of the *Proceedings*.

These 103 volumes represent, roughly speaking, a total of 50,000 pages of closely printed matter, replete with innumerable essays, papers, monographs, and notes of great

interest. Their bulk, however, has made their use a matter of great trouble. To obviate this the writer of this Review prepared, and published in 1856, an index to the last two volumes of the Asiatic Researches and the first 23 volumes of the Journal; but it was compiled, as stated in its preface, "to render the varied and valuable matter contained in the Transactions of the Society easy of reference to the compiler, and pretended to be nothing more than a resumé of the several-volume indexes to the Journal and Researches, giving, under the usual alphabetical arrangement, nothing more than the subjects, the names of authors, and the local connection of the articles as they appear in their titles." A carefully-arranged analytical index to the entire set is what is now much

needed, the second century of the Society's career will be signaled by such a compilation.

The subject, nature, and value of the papers published in these volumes have been noticed at some length in the subsequent parts of this Review. Suffice it now to observe that they have contributed greatly to enhance the reputation of the Society.

Though himself actively engaged in the translation of oriental works into the English language, Sir William Jones seems to have entertained no idea of the Asiatic Society immediately taking up the task of printing oriental texts, or of translating them; and it was not until several years afterwards that the subject was mooted. The first proposition came from the Brethren of the Baptist Mission at Serampore, who offered to undertake, under certain conditions, the ~~publication of a series of Sanskrit works with translations,~~¹

¹ Proceedings, May 15, 1800.

and the Society, on the recommendation of the Committee of Papers, agreed to give the Missionaries the aid required, the patronage being limited at the time to a single work to be selected by a Committee appointed for the purpose.¹ The work approved was the *KAm&yana*, and the Society agreed to pay a monthly contribution of Rs. 150, on the distinct understanding that the work would be completed in three years. On October 7, 1807, a second book was selected—the text of the *S&nkhya*,—and a resolution was come to to extend the monthly grant to a period of eighteen months after the expiration of the first three years. The plan, however, fell through, and the contribution was stopped after the publication of the first three volumes of the *Rámdyana*. While these negotiations were proceeding, Sir James Mackintosh, then President of the 'Literary Society of Bombay,' submitted a scheme for the regular publication of Sanskrit texts; and on July 2, 1806, the Asiatic Society resolved to "publish, from time to time, as their funds will admit of it, in volumes distinct from the Asiatic Researches, translations of short works in the Sanskrit and other Asiatic languages, or extracts and descriptive accounts of books of greater length in those languages, which may be offered to the Society and appear deserving of publication," and "that, as this publication may be expected gradually to extend to all Asiatic books of which copies may be deposited in the Library of the Society, and even to all works extant in the learned languages of Asia, the series of volumes be entitled 'Bibliotheca Asiatica,' or a descriptive catalogue of Asiatic books, with extracts and translations." No action seems to have been taken in accordance with these resolutions, beyond a few casual grants in aid of oriental publications by private individuals.

On the arrival of M. Csoma de Körös at Almoraii, after his long sojourn in Tibet, occasion arose for the Society to obtain from Government a grant for the publication of that distinguished scholar's Tibetan Grammar and Dictionary (1830). The Society at the same time sanctioned an allowance of Us. 50 per mensem to that gentleman, who was then in very straitened circumstances. This allowance was continued to the day of his death in May 1843. Soon after, the Society undertook to print an Aunamatican Dictionary, prepared by the Bishop of Isauropolis. Subsequently, grants were obtained for the publication of a Burmese and a Siamese Dictionary, as also for Mr. Macnaghten's edition of the *Shdhandmeh* and Mr. Brownlow's edition of the Macan manuscript of the *Alif Laild*[^] the printing of which the Society undertook to superintend.

It was not, however, until 1835, that any systematic attempt was made for the publication of oriental works. The battle which had long raged between the Anglicists and the Orientalists, in regard to the language best adapted for the education of the people of this country, came to a close with the overthrow of the latter, and the Government adopted a resolution to put a stop to all oriental works which were then in the press on its account, directing the printed sheets 'to be sold' as^{fc} waste paper.' The Society now intervened, and, after protracted discussions at two sittings, came to a resolution to undertake the completion of the abandoned works, and to arrange for the carrying on of similar works in future.¹ The last part of the resolution was referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Dr. Mill, Mr. Hay Macnaghten, Mr. Turton, Mr. William Grant, Mu J. R. Colvin, and Mr. J. Prinsep, with a view

¹ Proceedings, April and June, 1835.

⁴⁴ to prepare a memorial from the Society to the Court of Directors and the Board of Control, stating that Government here have withdrawn the funds hitherto appropriated to the revival of oriental literature in this country,—and respectfully impressing upon the authorities at home the importance of having some public funds appropriated to this purpose, and requesting them to adopt such means as they think fit for providing a sufficient sum for this important subject."¹ A strong representation was got up, and forwarded under the signature of Sir Edward Ryan, then President of the Society, to the Court of Directors,² and an application submitted to Government for the gift of the printed sheets of the abandoned works.

The works abandoned were :—(1) The *Maliábhadrata*, of which 1,400 pages had been printed, and 2,000 remained unfinished ; (2) the *Rdjatarangini*^ of which about 200, out of 620, pages had been printed ; (3) the *Naishadha*, of which 200, out of 600, had been printed ; (4) the *Sausruta*, of which about one half had been printed ; (5) the *Sariravidyd*) a Sanskrit translation of Hooper's *Fade Mecum*, of which a few pages only had been printed ; (6) the *Fatdwe Alamgiri*, in six volumes royal quarto, of which only two had been printed ; (7) the *Indya*, in four volumes quarto, of which the last two had been printed ; (8) the *Khdzdnat ul Urn*, a quarto volume of 620 pages, of which about one-fifth remained to be printed ; (9) the *Jawdme ul Ilm ul Ridzi*, an Arabic translation of Hutton's ⁴ Mathematics,¹ a quarto volume of 120 pages ; (10) the *Anis ul Musharrahin*, an Arabic translation of Hooper's *Fade Mecum* by Dr. Tytler ; and (11) a Treatise on Algebra in Arabic. The cost of finishing these works was estimated

¹ Journal, Vol. IV, 355.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Vol. IV, 472.

at Rs. 20,000, and in a Prospectus issued at the time, the patronage of the friends of oriental literature and of the public of India was solicited in aid and support of the important undertaking. The co-operation of European literary associations was also invited. The call was cordially responded to. The President of the Société Asiatique, de Paris wrote a sympathizing letter, offering the co-operation of the Society he represented,¹ and the native public most warmly took up the cause. The Pandits and the Maulvies who had been employed by Government to edit the works volunteered their services free of charge, and one gentleman, Naváb Tauhar Jang[^] of Chitpur, undertook to defray the entire cost of printing the *Share ul Islám*.

The works, with two exceptions, were completed in four years. The exceptions were the *Sarlravidyd* and the Treatise on Algebra. The former was, after protracted discussions, abandoned, because it was thought that it would be useless without a profusion of woodcut illustrations, which could not be procured in India at that time; and the latter, because there seemed to be no demand for it.

The petition of the Society to the Court of Directors was at first coldly received ; but through the exertions of Professor H. H. Wilson, then the London Agent of the Society, and of the President and other influential members of the Royal Asiatic Society, a grant of Rs. 500 per mensem was ultimately sanctioned. The correspondence on the subject appears in the Proceedings of June 1838. The following extract from the Court's Despatch will show the terms on which the grant was made. Writing to the Government of India, the Court said:—" Although the works formerly published may not always have been

¹ Proceedings, November 1336.

selected in the most judicious manner, we are still of opinion that the publication of works—and works *on* instruction in the Eastern languages—should not be abandoned; we therefore authorize you to devote a sum, not exceeding five hundred rupees a month, to the preparation and publication of such works, either through the medium of the Asiatic Society, or any equally appropriate channel, and we shall expect an annual return of the works published and ten copies of each book for distribution in this country."

The means thus placed at the disposal of the Society would have enabled Mr. James Prinsep to have done an immense deal of good, but his arduous and unremitting labours of several years in India had undermined his health, and he was obliged, immediately after the receipt of the Despatch, to retire from India for a change. It was hoped that the bracing air of his native land and abstinence from work would soon bring on a restoration; but he sank under his illness early in 1840. The estimate he had formed of the probable cost of completing the works was insufficient, and, at the time of his retirement, there was a heavy debt, for the payment of which his successors, Dr. O'Shaughnessy and Mr. Sutherland thought fit to confine their oriental works to the completion of the *Mahabkdrata*. Mr. Henry Torrens was elected Secretary in May 1840. He was a distinguished scholar, an elegant writer, and a linguist, but he had neither the energy nor the aptitude to control financial details, and was withal unmindful of the restraints of rules, and under his management the grant was frittered away on works which did not come under the terms of the Court's Despatch. The annual account called for by the Court was not rendered during the whole time of his management to the close of 1846. The only new work published during

his secretaryship was an edition of the *Tdrikh-i-Nddiri* in Persian. A contribution of Rs. 500 was also paid to cover the cost of printing a selection of small poems in Sanskrit, under the name *Kdvyā-sangraha*. When the accounts were cast in the last named year, it was found that no less than Rs. 25,000 had been devoted to purposes unconnected with oriental literature.

The immediate question before the Council of 1847 was, how to utilize the grant, and a Committee was appointed to devise means to carry out the Court's wishes regarding the publication of the Vedas. The plan approved by the Society was, as suggested in a judicious minute by Mr. Laidley (dated December 1847) to start a monthly serial under the name of ⁴ *Bibliotheca Indica* and the editorship of a competent scholar, aided by a staff of Pandits. The work was taken in hand at the beginning of 1848. Dr. Roer was appointed the chief editor on a salary of Rs. 100 per mensem, and his principal duty was to supply English translations of the works taken in hand. The first work selected was the Sanhita of the Rig Veda, but before four fasciculi of it could be published, news arrived that the Court of Directors had made arrangements with Dr. Max Miiller for the publication of that work, together with an English translation by Dr. H. H. Wilson, and the Society's project had, therefore, to be abandoned. Dr. Roer then took up the Upanishads and some other works.

At the close of 1850, the Council appointed a Subcommittee to report on the publication, and at their suggestion the post of chief editor was abolished, and rules were framed for the remuneration of editors according to the nature of the work done. The Committee further suggested, " that, whilst it is of the highest importance for

translations to be made here in India with all Hindu assistance, it is not expedient to limit the publication of volumes in the 'Bibliotheca Indici' to works which **the** editors may be prepared at once to translate. It is evident that such a restriction would operate unfavorably, as in many cases, years must be spent before a perfectly satisfactory translation could be finished: At the same time the Committee recommend that no work should be printed without so much critical apparatus as is necessary for giving an account of the manuscripts made use of, their authority and age, &c, and a resumé of the contents of the volume."¹ These suggestions were unanimously approved, and they gave, a new impulse to the publication. Distinguished scholars, such as Dr. Sprenger, Dr. Ballantyne, Pandit Isvarachandra Vidyasagara, tendered their services, and several very valuable works were taken in hand. The publications were carried on with great spirit and energy, soon outstripping the limit imposed by the amount of the grant, and in five years it became necessary to put a stop to the issue of the 'Bibliotheca' in order to pay off arrears.

About this time a letter was received from Professor Wilson, finding **fault** with some of the Arabic works then in course of publication, on the ground of their being unconnected with India, and therefore of little interest to local scholars, and not contemplated by the terms of the grant.² This was followed by a Despatch from the Court of Directors, in which the same arguments were repeated in an official form. Adverting to the excess of expenditure over income, **the** Court remarked :—

"This augmented activity and enhanced expense arise especially from the great impulse given to publications in Mahomraedan litera-

» Journal, VoL XIX G2D.

² Proceedings, May 1856.

ture and the Arabic language. Of the 38 Nos. of the 'Bibliotheca Indica' issued in 1854, twenty-seven are Arabic, only ten are Sanskrit, and one English; the cost of the former is R». 6,752, of the ten latter less than half, *viz.*, 11s. 3,036. This is a disproportion which is inconsistent with the comparative claims of the two departments of literature, whether the ratios of the population or the value of the individual works be considered, for on referring to the Mahommedan works, we observe that they have no relation whatever to India; nor to any popular form even of the literature of the Indian Mahommedans; but they embrace to a very large extent abstruse Mahommedan theology and Sufyism, in works which none but a few of the most learned Moulvies can read, and which still few are works utterly worthless for the illustration of the past or present condition of India, and of little utility to European scholar? When we authorized the appropriation of a special grant to the encouragement of Indian literature, we had in view especially the literature of the Hindus, although, we did not purpose to exclude Mahommedan literature of local origin or interest, such as the historical works epitomized by Sir Henry. Elliott; but we certainly did not "contemplate a voluminous and costly publication of the theology and tradition and spiritual mysticism of the Mussulmans, which is the literature of Arabia and not at all that of India.

"We therefore direct that the encouragement of such works be hereafter withheld. The publications that have been commenced may be completed, but upon their completion we expect that the Asiatics Society, in applying part of the funds placed at its disposal to Arabic or Persiau works, will have due regard to the light which they are calculated to throw, not upon the literature or theology of Arabia, but upon the literature and history of India."¹

The principles here laid down have, since the date, been fully recognized and generally acted upon by the Society, though the varying ascendency of Sanskrit and Semitic

¹ Proceedings, August J 83G.

scholars in the Council of the Society have at times caused a slight preponderance on the one side or the other.

The practice now is to divide the grant into two parts, one of which is devoted to Sanskrit, and the other to works in Arabic, Persian and other languages. This apportionment was first brought to the notice of Government in 1868 by Mr. Whitley Stokes, then Legal Member of the Supreme Council, who, while accepting the propriety of it, remarked, that, in view of the vast extent and paramount importance of Sanskrit literature, and the little that has yet been done towards its preservation, the amount devoted to it was very small, and recommended it to be doubled. The Government approved of his suggestion, and the Society now receives an additional allowance of Rs. 250 per mensem exclusively for Sanskrit works.

The total number of Oriental works published by the Society up to date amounts to 140. Of these, one hundred and eleven have been published, or are in course of publication, in the **Bibliotheca Indica*.' The works may be noticed under two heads : 1st, Semitic ; 2nd, Sanskritic. The Semitic series includes, besides some standard law books in Arabic, all the standard works in Persian, on the general history of India, together with a critical edition and an English translation of the *Ain-i-Akbari*, the well-known Gazetteer of Akbar's extensive empire. An imperfect version of this work was published early in this century by Mr. Francis Gladwin, but it did not include the most important part of the work—its numerous tabular statements. The translation, moreover, had been long since out of print. The late Mr. Blochmann, therefore, undertook a new and faithful translation, and brought out the first volume in 1873, together with the whole of the text. For rigorous exactitude of rendering, for faithful repre-

sentation of. the spirit of the original, and for the richness, variety and profusion of its illustrative and explanatory notes, the book is a model of its kind. No Persian work has as yet had the benefit of so able and so faithful an interpreter. It is deeply to be regretted that the lamented death of its learned and enthusiastic Secretary has deprived the Society not only of his invaluable services, but also of the opportunity of completing the work in the same style.

The Sanskrit series includes the leading works of almost all the departments of Bráhmānic literature. The Vedas are represented by twenty-five different works ; the Purānas, by three ; the philosophical schools, by the text-books of all the six leading systems and several commentaries ; the Yotishah, by three, two with translations. The law-books, the rituals of the Vedas, grammar, rhetoric, and other branches have also been represented by important works. Notices of these in some detail will appear in a subsequent part of this Review. It is doubtful if any Society in Europe has, within fifty years, done for any classic literature as much as the Asiatic Society of Bengal has done for Sanskrit literature since 1847. This work alone has given to it the highest claim to the consideration and respect of the people of this country and of oriental scholars in all parts of the world.

Up to date, the Bibliotheca series has come up to a total of 747 fasciculi ; of these 280 are Semitic, including English translations of four works in 28 fasciculi. The names of the translations are: 1, *Ain-i-Akbari*; 2 *Tabakdt-i-N&siri* ; 3 *History of the Khalifs*; 4 *Shamshieh, or the Logic of the Arabians*. The Sanskrit series takes up 467 fasciculi, including translations of twenty different works in 50 fasciculi. The works in the Semitic series have been edited by Dr. Aloys Sprenger, Captain Nassau

Lees, nekekyan Bey, Mr. Henry Blochmann, Mnjor Raverty, Captain Jarrett, and the Maul vies of the Calcutta Madrissa. The credit of the Sanskrit series is due to several scholars, of whom—

Dr. E. Roer	...	...	... edited 33 fasc.
„ Fitz-Edward Hall	...	...	„ 18 „
„ Ballantyne	...	...	„ 5 „
„ E. B. Cowell#	...	...	„ 17 „
Professor Jayan&r&yana TarkapancMnan	...	...	„ 19 „
„ Bharatachandra Siromani	...	...	„ 16 „
„ Mahesachandra NyAyaratna	...	...	„ 19 „
Pandit Satyavrata Sdmasrami	...	...	„ 44 „
Dr. Rdjendral&la Mitra	...	...	„ 83 „
„ Hoernle	...	...	„ 12 „

Appendix C supplies a detailed list of all the works published.

As a preliminary to the publication of Sanskrit works, Conservation of it was, at the beginning of this century^
Sanskrit Manu-
scripts. deemed expedient to collect information regarding the nature, extent, and character of Sanskrit manuscripts extant in this country. Dr. Farquhar accordingly proposed, on October 5, 1803, that "the Society immediately adopt some effectual steps to procure a catalogue of all the most useful Indian works now in existence, with an abstract of their contents." No action, however, could be taken on it, owing to want of organization for carrying out so vast an undertaking, until July 1, 1807», when a petition was submitted to Government, praying an annual grant of five to six thousand rupees to carry out the object. Mr. Colebrooke, then President of the Society, urged the following arguments in support of this prayer:—
"The utility of such a catalogue is obvious. It would assist the researches of learned men, directing them to the books most

likely to afford the information which they may require; it would promote the studies of oriental scholars, guiding them to the selection of books most deserving of their notice; and, on many points, it would furnish to the literary world as much information as is needed in particular branches of Indian knowledge.

"A catalogue, prepared according to the views of the Asiatic Society, would not only indicate the subject and scope of every valuable book, but would contain extracts of the most curious or important passages in it, besides notices of various topics connected with the work itself, with the history of its author, or that of the sovereign in whose reign he lived, and with the manners and opinions prevalent at the period when he wrote.,

"It can scarcely be hoped that a work of so great extent should be undertaken and executed solely at the charge of individuals. The labor will be cheerfully borne by members of the Society, so far as their part of the task reaches, but much preparatory labor must be performed by learned natives, for whom remuneration will be requisite. Private Libraries will, no doubt, be open; but, however extensive some of those libraries may be, and among others, my own collection of Sanskrit manuscripts, it will be still necessary that considerable expense should be incurred in providing books, which may not there be found. It is desirable, for other reasons also, that reliance should not be exclusively placed on the precarious aid of private collections. A library of oriental manuscripts, accessible to the public under proper regulations, would be otherwise greatly beneficial. Asiatic knowledge would be there preserved. The learned, whether Natives or Europeans, would easily supply themselves with transcripts of scarce books, and whenever occasion arose for consulting numerous authorities, the irksome task of reference would be alleviated.

"On every consideration, the Asiatic Society is desirous of forming a collection, as well as of obtaining detailed catalogue, of manuscripts. But the funds of the Society are too limited for the undertaking: and, without aid, either the design must be relinquished, or, if it be prosecuted, a progress answerable to the public expectations cannot be looked for. On the other hand, if the

Asiatic Society had at its disposal a moderate addition to those funds, in an annual sum of five to six thousand rupees, the execution of the scheme might be immediately commenced; and its accomplishment might be expected at a period not very remote."

The Government received the proposition very favorably, and strongly recommended it to the notice of the Court of Directors ; but the Board of Control declined to make the grant, and the project dropped. Mr. Prinsep, in 1837, revived the idea ; and, in the Sanskrit catalogue of the Society's Library, included, by way of a first instalment, the names of all the works contained in the libraries of the Calcutta and the Benares Sanskrit Colleges. This, however, did not meet the requirements of the case, and, in 1867, Pandit Rádhkissen, of Lahore, urged the adoption of a comprehensive scheme that should bring to light the treasures of Sanskrit lore buried in private libraries in India. The Government of Lord Lawrence took it up warmly, and, acting upon the recommendation of Mr. Whitley Stokes, ordered that each of the several subordinate Governments should organize a scheme not only for the preparation of inventories, on a uniform plan, of all manuscripts that may be met with in private collections, but also for the purchasing or the preparation of transcripts of all valuable or rare manuscripts, promising at the same time special grants for the purchase of rare collections, whenever opportunities would offer for so doing. The Government, at the same time, named Dr. Buhler of Bombay, Dr. Kielhorn of Piind, Mr. Burnell of Madras, and the writer of this Review, as persons who, in its opinion, were fit to be entrusted with the management of the undertaking. The amount sanctioned for Bengal was Rs. 3,000 per annum, and the Asiatic Society was asked to superintend its disbursement.

The form recommended by Government was a tabular one, which did not admit of the contents of the manuscripts being given at length. The writer of this Review, when requested to undertake the work, pointed out this defect,¹ and, taking into consideration the fact that a work of this kind could be done only once for all, suggested certain modifications, especially with reference to abstracts of contents. His suggestions were approved both by the Society and the Government, but unfortunately his minute was not circulated to other Governments, and the opportunity for securing uniformity was lost.

The inventories prepared for the Society have been named "Notices of Sanskrit Manuscripts," and eighteen fasciculi of these have been published during the last twelve years. The descriptions given are full, and the contents of most of the works have been given in such a way as to obviate the necessity of a future more detailed analysis. In this respect it contrasts very favorably with the lists published in Madras, Bombay and the N. W. Provinces. The model selected was the admirable catalogue of the Bodleian collection prepared by Dr. Aufrecht. A catalogue has also been prepared by the writer of the library of His Highness the Maharaja Bikaner. It extends to 745 pages, and supplies more or less detailed notices of 1,794 manuscripts.

Although Sanskrit manuscripts are not marketable articles, and the sanctity attached to them by the people of this country render them extremely difficult of access, nevertheless, purchases have been made to the extent of 2,507 codices. These are now preserved in the library of the Asiatic Society.

¹ Proceedings, May 18C9.

It has been incidentally noticed (*ante*, p. 57), that Miscellaneous the Society obtained from Government works, contributions in support of the publication of certain oriental works ; nor were its efforts in this respect limited to works of that description. Scientific works taken in hand in India always found ready support from the Society, both by subscriptions from its own funds as well as by intercession with the Government for special grants. In certain cases the Society, likewise, undertook the task of superintending the printing of literary and scientific works for others. As instances, it may not be amiss here to cite the names of Colonel Dalton's magnificent work on the Ethnology of Bengal, Colonel Mainwaring's Lepcha Grammar and Dictionary, Mr. Beal's Biographical Dictionary, and Mr. Grierson's Grammar of the Northern Behar dialect. * Circumstances also arose from time to time to print works independently of the Journal of the Society. The most important and recent work of this class is Messrs. Moore and Hewettson's description of Mr. Atkinson's collection of Indian Lepidoptera, a profusely illustrated quarto volume, which was most welcome to students of Entomology. In 1837, the Society came into possession of the original journals, correspondence, and researches of Messrs. Moorcroft and Trebeck's travels beyond the Himalayas, and immediately placed them in the hands of Messrs. Allen & Co., the charge of editing being entrusted to Dr. Wilson, then its London agent. The whole edition of the work, however, sold off in a short time, and the Society incurred no expense on account of it. Mr. Hodgson's Essay on * the Coch, Bodo and Dhimal Tribes," Mr. Laidley's Travels of Fahian, and some other minor works were also published solely, or mainly, at the expense of the Society. A list of these will be found in Appendix C.

It has been already stated that, during the first twelve Funds, years of its career, the Society possessed no income of any kind. Such small contingent expenses as were incurred in carrying on its affairs were defrayed by the President, or by the Secretary, or by both. When the rules regarding quarterly subscriptions were adopted in 1796, the great object was to accumulate a sufficient sum for the building of a house, and for sometime afterwards very little was spent for other purposes. It was not until the establishment of its museum and library that the ordinary expenses of the Society became heavy, and the periodical cost of the Researches, which subsequently began to be distributed gratis, swallowed up nearly the whole of its income. Moreover, whatever little savings it had, were lost by the failure of Messrs. Palmer and Co., who were the Society's agents till 1828. Difficulties, therefore, arose in 1829, when frequent grants had to be sanctioned for the researches of the Physical Class and for costly illustrations for the Transactions. The cost of the Museum was also steadily on the increase. A very timely relief was about this time received by a donation from the King of Oudh of Rs. 20,000, supplemented by another of Rs. 5,000 from his Prime Minister. This enabled the Society to pay off its debts, and still leave a considerable sum in the hands of its bankers. Unfortunately, however, the failure, in 1833, of Messrs. Mackintosh and Co., who had charge of the money, deprived it entirely of its cash balance. In 1834, one Mr. Bruce, who had been long a member, of the Society, left a bequest of £2,000, and the amount was invested in Government Securities, from the interest of which it was expected that the cost of the Researches would be easily and regularly defrayed, and that publication would

be independent of the ordinary resources of the Society ; but the monthly contributions for the Journal and heavy expenses on account of the oriental publications began soon to trench upon this vested fund. In 1836, its amount had been reduced to Us. 17,500, and a resolution was adopted to pay out of it Rs. 200 a month for a Curator.¹ This called forth a vigorous protest,² and as it may be of use for reference in future, it may be well to copy it here:—

€ It appears to us that in a Society^ constituted as the Asiatic Society of Bengal is, the existence of a fund vested in Government Securities is absolutely necessary for the permanence of the foundation.

" We consider that such funds are intended to be reserved for cases of extreme emergency, and that the interest only of *such funds* should be carried to the current expenses of the Society.

" We also consider that any infringement of a law upon which the Society's existence may be said to depend, is injurious not only to the Society itself as a body, but to the interests of the members individually ; and may be drawn in as a precedent for further encroachments, leading to the ultimate dissolution of the Society.

" For these reasons, we dissent from the resolution passed at the meeting of the Society of the 4th May, 1836, continuing the services of a Curator at two hundred rupees per mensem, the account current shewing a deficiency of Rs. 571-0-1, and the payment of the Curator's salary being proposed to be made out of the vested funds of Ma. BRUCE. Further, in adverting to the Secretary's remark, ' that M. BOUCHEZ, the assistant and working Curator, would be competent to set up all new specimens and preserve the present collection,' we see no necessity, under the

¹ Proceedings, May 1836.

² *Ibid.*, January 1837.

present difficulties of the Society, of retaining the higher appointment."

Northern Doab, -
14** Dec. 1836; /

P. F. CAUTLEY, *Capt, Arty.*

H. FALCONER, M.D.

W. M. DURAND, *Lieut, Engrs.*

W. E. BAKER, *Lieut, Engrs.*

and, Calcutta, *)
26th Jan. 1837. }

ALEXANDER COLVIN, *Lieut-Col., Engrs.*

JOHN COLVIN."

This led to the stoppage of the Curator's allowance on the following year. But the mischief had already been done, and the lax management of the finances for some years afterwards, and the unnecessarily large establishment entertained, greatly embarrassed the position of the Society, and accumulated a debt, which in 1846 entirely swamped the vested fund. Re trench ments also became urgently necessary. Instead of a European Assistant Secretary on Rs. 200, a Librarian on Rs. 100, an Assistant Librarian on Rs. 40, a Maulvie and a Pandit on Rs. 30 each, and an Accountant on Rs. 60, total Rs. 460, a single native officer as Assistant Secretary and Librarian on Rs. 100 a month was found ample for the requirements of the Society, and the financial affairs of the Society were managed with perfect smoothness for some time after this change. With greatly extended business, it was not possible, however, to establish a vested fund. From 1847 to 1876, the Society lived on its annual income, but saved nothing. In 1858 a resolution was adopted to the effect, that the composition fees received from Life Members should be vested in Government Securities, and only the interest thereof should be devoted to current expenditure. Compositions, however, were few, and the vested fund therefore remained insignificant. The compensation received from Government in 1875 in lieu of the claim the Society had for accommo-

dation in the Indian Museum building, enabled the Society to vest a large sum in Government Securities, and a portion of it is *now* held as a Permanent Reserve Fund under Bule 67, which runs thus : " Of the Funds of the Society now invested in Government Securities, Es. 1,20,000 shall be considered as a *Permanent Reserve Fund* for the benefit of the Society, and it shall not be competent to the Council, or to any of the Society's officers, or to any Committee of the Society, to sell or otherwise alienate the said fund or any portion of it witjDut first recommending the sale or alienation in question to the Society, and taking the votes of the geual body of Members as provided in Rules 64 and 65, and, further, such sale or alienation shall only be lawful if carried by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the members who have voted. And should any portion of the Permanent Fund be sold or alienated by authority of the members of the Society, the remainder shall be preserved under this rule in the same manner as if the sum were intact." It is to be hoped that this rule will be scrupulously and most faithfully observed, and no occasion will arise in future for dissentients to record a protest similar to the one quoted above.

In a brief history like the present it is not possible to
 Beadroll. give personal notices of all those whose
 labors have created and sustained the
 reputation of the Society. Were it otherwise, still sufficient information cannot now be collected regarding the earlier contributors. To make a selection would be an unpleasant and invidious task. Brief notices of most of the authors of papers have, besides, been given in subsequent parts of this Review. It is, nevertheless, desirable to refer here to a few of the most renowned scholars with whom the fame of the Society is intimately associated.

Their names stand on the beadroll of the Society, and as such are deserving of its highest respect.

1. The first and foremost name in this beadroll is that of Sir William Jones, born September 1746, died April 27, 1794. To him the Society owes its foundation and the distinction it attained in the earlier days of its career. No less than 29 papers were contributed by him in the first four volumes of the Asiatic Researches, and his translation of *Manu* has been a standard text-book of reference for lawyers for a hundred* years. He, likewise, translated into English the *Sakuntalá* of Kálidása, and the *Gitagobinda* of Jayadeva. He was a scholar of world-wide renown, and his memory is dearly cherished by all oriental scholars.

2. Sir John Shore, Bart., afterwards Lord Teignmouth, succeeded Sir William Jones on May 26, 1794, and retired to England on May 2, 1797. He contributed only six papers to the Researches, but it was mainly through his exertions that the Society prospered in its infancy. His name is intimately associated with the foundation of the Society, but he is best remembered by the people of this country as the virtual author of the Permanent Settlement of the land-revenue in Bengal.

3. The name of Henry Thomas Colebrooke, born 1765, died March *18, 1837, comes next. He came to India as a writer in the service of the East India Company, and for a long time held the office of a Jiutee in the Sadar Dewáni Addhvt. He was President of the Asiatic Society for ten years, from April 1806 to February 1, 1815, and contributed nineteen papers to the Transactions of the Society. On his retirement from India, he helped the Society as its London agent until the time of his demise. A great mathematician, zealous astronomer, and profound Sanskrit scholar,

he wrote nothing that did not at once command the liMi-est attention from the public, and, notwithstanding the great advance that has been made in oriental researches of late years, his papers are still looked upon as models of their kind. He was the founder of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and contributed several valuable papers to its Transactions.

4 Sir Charles Wilkins, Kt., LL.D., born 1750, died 1833, came out to India as a writer in the East India Company's Civil Service, and devoted himself to the study of the Sanskrit language. He was the first Englishman who acquired a thorough mastery of it, and in 1779 published a grammar of that language. He, likewise, translated the *Bhagavadgita*, which was published in 1785 under the auspices of Mr. Warren Hastings. He was the first also to bring his profound learning to bear upon Sanskrit palaeography, and to decipher several inscriptions, which were unintelligible to the Pandits of his time. He was a scholar of unexampled perseverance, and his unremitting labors in the climate of Bengal forced him to retire from the Service at the close of the last century. In England he published a translation of the *Hitopadesa* and several extracts from the *Maháblidrata*. On the arrival in England of a large collection of oriental manuscripts, soon after the capture of Seringapatara, the Court of Directors appointed him the custodian of those treasures. He was thus the first Librarian of the India House Library. On the establishment of the College at Hailebury, in 1805, he was appointed a visitor of that Institution in the Oriental Department, and at about that time the University of Oxford conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor in Civil Law. At a later period King George IV bestowed on him, in recognition of his lygh literary merits, the honor of

Knighthood, accompanying that act of favor with the badge of the Guelphic Order.

5. Samuel Davis, Esq., F. R. S., came out to India as an officer of Engineers in the Bengal Presidency, and accompanied the Embassy to Tibet in 1783, but was soon after admitted to the Civil Service of the East India Company. He joined the Society two months after its foundation, and contributed three papers to its Transactions. He was a mathematician and astronomer, and to him is due the credit of having first identified, by actual observations in the company of Pandits at Benares, the asterisms and many of the stars noticed in Sanskrit works. While employed as District Judge and Governor-General's Agent at Benares, he was deeply engaged in astronomical researches in an observatory which he had erected on the top of his house. Vizier Ali, the deposed Navdb of Oudh, revolted at this time, and attacked him with a large following of rowdies at the top of the staircase to his observatory. He defended himself for a long time with a pike, which now forms the crest of his family coat-of-arms. He became Chairman of the Court of Directors, and in that capacity wrote the celebrated Fifth Report on the Permanent Settlement. He was subsequently elected a fellow of the Royal Society of London.

6. Colonel Francis Wilford. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Society. He wrote ten elaborate essays on historical subjects, which created quite a sensation in his time. Unfortunately, however, the Pandits on whom he relied for his quotations from Sanskrit works betrayed him, and his speculations, therefore, were subsequently found to be not very valuable.

7. Reuben Burrow, Esq., writer in the service of the East India Company. He was a distinguished mathema-

tician and astronomer, and contributed eleven papers in connexion with the mathematics and astronomy of the Hindus.

8. John Bentley, Esq., a writer in the Civil Service, distinguished himself by his researches into Hindu astronomy, for which he deservedly acquired high distinction in Europe.

9. Dr. H. H. Wilson, born 1784, died May 1860. He arrived at Calcutta in 1808, in the Medical Service of the East India Company, became Deputy Secretary to the Society on April 2, 1811, and his two months was elected full Secretary, which office he held till 1833, with two short breaks in 1815 and 1819. He first attracted public notice by an elegant translation of the *Meghadūta*, which was published in 1813. It was followed in rapid succession by other works, among which his ⁴ 'Theatre of the Hindus' and the Sanskrit-English Dictionary deserve special mention. He contributed also largely to the periodical literature of the day, and to the Asiatic and the Medical and Physical Societies. In 1816, he was appointed Assay Master of the Calcutta Mint, which office he held to the last day of his sojourn in Calcutta. As visitor of the Sanskrit College of Calcutta, he superintended the publication of a large number of Sanskrit books, and, with the assistance of a native staff, had the bulk of the eighteen Puranas translated into English, from out of which he selected the *Vishnu Purana* for publication. The Chair of Boden Professor of Sanskrit at Oxford was created in 1832, and he assumed it in the summer of the following year. His literary labors in England were incessant, and within a week before his death he completed his translation of the fourth volume of the Rig Veda and a critical review of Max Müller's Vedic Literature. His name stands conspicuous on the foil of those whose genius and labors have

contributed to enlighten the literary world on the early history and civilization of the Hindu race. His connexion with the Society extended over a quarter of a century, and during that period the stability and credit of the Society was thoroughly established.

10. James Prinsep, Esq., born' August 20, 1799, died April 22, 1840. ⁱ He was distinguished almost from his infancy for habits of minute attention to whatever fairly attracted his mind, and his ingenuity and skill in design pointed to the profession of an architect as especially appropriate.' But while studying under Pugin, his eyes suffered seriously, and he had to drop his study. This affection lasting long, all opportunity for entering into any learned profession was lost. On his recovery, he entered as an apprentice to Mr. Bingley, Assay Master of the Royal Mint, London, and in due course, receiving a certificate of proficiency, was sent out as assistant to the Assay Master of the Calcutta Mint, in 1819. After a few months' service he went up with Dr. Wilson, then Assay Master of Calcutta, to Benares, the Mint office where required special remodelling. Dr. Wilson returned after the completion of his mission, and Mr. Prinsep was left there as Assay Master for several years. In 1833, he succeeded Dr. Wilson at the Calcutta Mint. During his stay at Benares, he published a large illustrated work on the temples of that holy city. He, likewise, contributed to the pages of the 'Gleanings in Science/' of which he was for a time the editor. The Asiatic Society testified its respects for his services by voting a bust, which now graces its meeting-room ; and the public of Calcutta, in recognition of his services, erected near Fort William a magnificent Ghat to his memory. His services to the Asiatic Society, from 1832 to 1838, have been frequently referred to *In* the preceding

pages, as also in the subsequent parts of this Review. Suffice it to say that his administration was the most brilliant and successful in the annals of the Society.

11. Rev. W.H. Mill, D.D., elected 1833, retired in 1842. He came out in the Ecclesiastical Service of the East India Company, and for a long time held the office of Principal of Bishop's College, Sibpur. His contributions to the Journal were not very numerous, but high encomium is due to his patience, perseverance, and learning in deciphering the inscriptions on the Allahabad column in one of the oldest Indian characters. He was a profound Sanskrit scholar, and universally held in high esteem. To mark their sense of veneration for him, the members of the Society have set up a bust to his honor.

12. Brian Houghton Hodgson, Esq., Bengal Civil Service, born 1799, living. He came out to India in 1819, and spent the greater part of his time in the Himalayas, holding for several years the office of Resident at the Court of Khatmandu, Nepal. He utilized to the utmost the very favourable opportunities he had of carrying on his literary and scientific pursuits in a till then untrodden field, and the service he has done to the cause of science is immense. His contributions to the Society amount to a total of 112 papers, besides large donations in exceedingly valuable manuscripts and specimens of Natural History. On his retirement from the Civil Service in 1843, the Society voted him a bust, and his name is intimately associated with the progress of the Society. Those of his collaborateurs who are still living cherish for him the kindest affection and respect.

The details given above, meagre as they are, show
 Summary. that the Asiatic Society has, during its
 career of a hundred years, fully carried

out the objects of its existence. To bring the record of its services to a focus :

1. It has provided for the use of scholars a commodious house, valued at Rs. 1,50,000.

2. It has got up a library, containing thirty thousand volumes, of which upwards of eight thousand are manuscripts.

3. It has a collection of ancient coins and medals, valued at ten thousand rupees.

A Ti. 1 ^ 11 K. j. 1 1-1-11 J. * M.

and memorial busts.

5. It got up an Archaeological and Ethnological Museum of considerable extent, a Geological Museum rich in meteorites and Indian fossils, and a Zoological Museum, all but complete as regards the Avi-fauna of India.

6. It has published a total of 354 volumes, including 21 volumes of the Asiatic Researches and Index, 84 volumes of the Journal and Index, 19 volumes of Proceedings, 167 volumes of Oriental works of different kinds, 31 volumes of miscellaneous works relating to India, 14 volumes of catalogues of various kinds, and 18 volumes of ⁴ Notices of Sanskrit Manuscripts.'

These are deeds which, for extent, variety, and usefulness, may well claim the consideration of the public. They compare very favorably with the works of other and older Societies in other parts of the earth. To the student of science in India they have proved of incalculable service. And it is in view of these the Society this day celebrates its Centenary Jubilee.

Appendix A.

Statement showing the number of Members on the rolls of the Society from time to time.

At the close of—	Members	At the close of—	Members
1788	aaa ... 89	1853	... ... 145
1790	a* ... 101	1854	... ... 14.3
1792	... ... 110	1855	... ... 1(?)2
1795	...a ... 123	1856	... .. 167
1797	... ... 151	1857	... ... 147
1799	...a ... 174	1858	... ... 13;s
1802	...a ... 197	1859	... ... 180
1805	... .._m 200	1860	... ... 242
1807	... ..* 204	1861	... ... 281
1808	a* ... 215	1862	... .. 311
1810	...a ... 216	1863	... ... 355
1815	... _{Em} ... 263	1864	... ... 380
1820	...a ... 252	1865	... .. 37(i
1825	...I* ... 243	1866	... .. 387
1828	... ... 285	1867	... .. 41(J
1832	... ... 267	1868	... ... 427
1833	a* ... 258	1869	... ... 442
1834	... ... 274	1870	... .. 414
1835	...a ... 306	1871	... .. 44(i
1838	...aa ... 126	1872	... ... 438
1839	...>> ... 125	1873	... ... 358
1843	...>> ... 126	1874	... ... 344
1844	...a ... 125	1875	... ... 345
1845	... .. 119	1876	... ... 347
1846	...a ... 136	1877	... ... 345
1847	...a .. 219	1878	... .. 327
1848	... ... 218	1879	... .. 329
1849	... ... 207	1880	... ... 356
1850	... .. 142	1881	... .. 330
1851	... .. 130	1882	... ... 337
1852	... .. 139	1883	... .. 323

Appendix B.

List of Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Secretaries of the Asiatic Society.

1784-89.	1797.
<i>President</i> — Sir William Jones.	<i>President</i> — As in 1795.
<i>Secretaries</i> — George Hillurow Barlow. John Herbert Harington.	<i>Vice-Presidents</i> — John Fleming, John Herbert Harington.
1790.	<i>Secretary</i> — Codrington Edmund Carrington. Henry Trail, <i>Treasurer</i> . W. C. Blncquiere (for a few months in 1798).
<i>President</i> — As in 1789.	1799.
<i>Secretary</i> — John Herbert Harington.	<i>President</i> — Sir J. Anstruther, Bart.
At end of 1792, and In 1793.	<i>Vice' Presidents</i> — John Fleming. J. H. Harington.
<i>President</i> — Sir William Jones.	<i>Secretary</i> — W. Hunter. Henry Trail, <i>Treasurer</i> .
<i>Secretary</i> — Edmund Morris.	1802.
1794 and 1795.	<i>President</i> — As in 1799.
<i>President</i> — Sir John Shore.	<i>Vice-Presidents</i> — As in 1799.
<i>Secretary</i> — Edmund Morris.	<i>Secretary</i> — R. Home. H. Trail, <i>Treasurer</i> .
1796.	
<i>President</i> — As in 1794.	
<i>Secretary</i> — Captain Sjmes.	

1805.
President—
 As in 1799.
Vice-Presidents—
 J. H. Harrington.
 H. T. Colebrooke.
Secretary—
 W. Hunter.
 B. Trail and Palmer & Co., *Treasrs.*

1807.
President—
 H. T. Colebrooke.
Vice* Presidents—
 J. H. Harrington.
 Dr. J. Fleming.
Secretary—
 W. Hunter.
 H. Trail and Palmer & Co., *Treasrs.*

1810.
President—
 As in 1807.
Vice-presidents—
 As in 1807.
Secretary—
 Dr. W. Hunter.
 Dr. J. Leyden, *Depy. Secy.*
 Palmer & Co., *Treasurers.*

1815.
President—
 Earl of Moira.
Vice-Presidents—
 J. H. Harrington.
 Sir John Royds.
 Right Rev. T. F. Middleton.
Secretary—
 Dr. H. H. Wilson.
 Major J. Weston.
 W. L. Gibbons, *Depy. Secy.*
 Palmer & Co., *Treasurers.*

1820.
President—
 Marquis of Hastings.
Vice* Presidents—
 Right Rev. T. F. Middieton.
 Sir E. Hyde East, Kt.
 Major-Genl. T. Hardwicke.
 W. B. Bayley.
Secretary—
 H. H. Wilson (absent).
 Capt. A. Lockett (offg.)
 Palmer & Co., *Treasurers.*

1822.
President—
 As in 1820.
Vice- Presidents—
 As in 1820.
Secretary—
 H. H. Wilson.
 Palmer & Co., *Treasurers.*

1825.
President—
 Hon. J. H. Harrington.
Vice-Presidents—
 W. B. Bayley.
 Rt. Rev. Reginald Heber.
Secretaries—
 H. H. Wilson.
Dr. C. Abel, *Phys. Com. Secy.*

1828.
President—
 Sir C. E. Grey.
Vice- Presidents—
 Hon. W. B. Bayley.
 Hon. Sir J. Franks.
 Hon. Sir E. Ryan.
 Hon. Sir C. Metcalfe.

Secretaries—

H. H. Wilson.
 Palmer & Co., *Treasurers*.
 Ciipt. F. Jenkins, }
 D. Ross, } *Phy. Com. Secy.*
 1832.

President—

Hon. Sir E. Ryan.

Vice-Presidents—

Hon. Sir J. Franks.
 Hon. Sir C. Metculfe.
 J: Gilder.

Secretaries—

H. H. Wilson.
J, Prinsep, *Phy. Com. Secy.*
 Mackintoab & Co., *Trea&urers*.

1833.

President—

As in 1832.

Vice^ Presidents—

Hon. Sir J. Franks.
 Hon. Sir (J. Metoalfe.
 Rev. W. H. Mill.

Secretaries—

J. Prinsep.
 Bnbu Riincomul Sen, *Nat. Secy.*
J. Prinsep, *Phy. Com. Secy.*
 Bank of Bengal, *Treasurers*.

1834.

President—

As in 1832.

Vice-Presidents—

Hon. Sir J. Franks.
 Hon. Sir C. Metcalfe.
 Rev. W. H. Mill.
 W. McNaghten.

Secretaries—

As in 1833

1835.

President—

As in 1832.

Vice^ Presidents—

lit. Rev. Lord Bishop*
 Rev. Dr. Mill.
 Sir J. P. Grant.
 W. II. McNaghten.

Secretaries—

As in 1834.

1836.

President—

An in 1832.

Vice - Preside n te—•

Rev. Dr. Mill.
 W. II. McNnghten.
 Sir J. P. Grsint.
 Sir B. Malkin.

•Secretaries—

As in 1834.

1837.

President—

As in 1832.

Vice - Presidents—

Rev. Dr. Mill.
 W. H. McNnghten.
 Sir J. P. Grant.
 Sir 13 Malkin.
 II. T. Prinsep.

Secretaries.

As in 1834.

1838.

President—

As in 1832.

Vice - Presidents—

Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop.
 Sir J. P. Grant.
 H. T. Prinsep.
 Col. D. MacLeod.

Secretaries—

J. Prinsep.
 Rev. Mr. Maian. C From
 Dr. W. B. O'Shaughnessy. -j Get.
 Babu Ramcomul Sen. v 1838.

1839.

President—

As in 1832.

Vice-Presidents—

As in 1838.

Secretaries—

Dr. W. B. O'Shaughnessy.
 J. C. O. Sutherland.

1840.

President—

As in 1832.

Vice-Presidents—

Hon. Sir J. P. Grant.
 Col. D. McLeod.
 Hon. H. T. Prinsep.
 Hon. Sir H. Seton.

Secretary—

H. W. Torrens.

1841.

President—

As in 1832.

Vice-Presidents—

Hon. Sir J. P. Grant
 Hon. Sir H. Seton.
 Hon. H. T. Prinsep.
 Hon. W. W. Bird, •

Secretary—

H. W. Torrens.

1842.

President—

Hon. H. T. Prinsep.

Vice-Presidents—

Hon. Sir J. P. Grant.
 Hon. W. W. Bird.
 Hon. Sir H. W. Seton.
 Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop.

Secretary—

As in 1841.

1843.

Presidents—

Hon. H. T. Prinsep.
 Rt. Hon. W. W. Bird (from 30th
 March).

Vice-Presidents—

Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop.
 Sir J. P. Grant.
 Sir H. W. Seton.
 H. W. Torrens.

Secretaries—

H. W. Torrens.
 H. Piddington, *Sub-Secy.*

1844.

Presidents—

W. W. Bird.
 Hon. Sir Henry Hardinge (from
 October).

Vice-Presidents—

As in 1843.

Secretaries—

As in 1843.

1845.

President—

As at close of 1844.

Vice-Presidents—

Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop.
 Sir J. P. Grant.
 Sir H. Seton.
 H. W. Torrens.
 Lt.-Col. W. N. Forbes.

Secretaries—

As in 1844.

1846.
President—
 As in 1844.
Vice-Presidents—
 As in 1845.
Secretaries—
 H. W. Torrens.
 Mr. T. resigned, and Dr. W. B. O'Sliaghnessy appointed in Aug.
 Mr. J. W. Laid lay appointed Co-Secretary in Nov.; Dr. Roer as Co-Secy., Oriental Dept.

1847.
President—
 As in 1844.
Vice-Presidents—
 Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop.
 Hon. Sir J. P. Grant.
 Hon. Sir H. Seton.
 Lt.-Col. Forbes.
Secretaries—
 J. W. Laidlay, *Genl, Nat. Hist g* Min.*
 Dr. W. B. O'Sliaghnessy, *Genl, Meteor, fr Phys.*
 Dr. E. Roer, *Ortl. Dept.*
 S. G. T. Heatley, *Geoly. fr lud. Stat.*

1848.
President—
 Hon. Sir J. W. Colvile, Kt.
Vice-Presidents—
 Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop.
 Hon. Sir J. P. Graut.
 H. M. Elliot.
 J. W. Laidlay.
Secretaries—
 Dr. W. B. O'Shaughnessy.
 J. W. Laidlay.
 Dr. E. Roer, *Orh. Dept.*

1849.
President—
 As in 1848.
Vice-Presidents—
 Rt. Rev. Lord Bisliop.
 Lt.-Col. W.N. Forbes.
 J. W. Laidlay.
 Dr. W. B. O'Shanghnessy.
Secretaries—
 Dr. W. B. O'Slmughnessy, *Genl*
 J. W. Laidlay, *Nat Hist*
 Dr. E. Roer, *Ortl Dept*
 Dr. Walker and Dr. McClelland officiated for some months ns Secretaries owing to the illness of Dr. O'Shaughnessy and absence of Mr. Laidlay.

1850.
President—
 As in 1848.
Vice-Presidents—
 Rt. Rev. Dan. Wilson, Bishop of Calcutta.
 J. W. Laidlay.
 Dr. W. B. O'Shaughnessy.
 Welby Jackson.
Secretaries—
 Dr. W. B. O'Shaughnessy, *Genl.*
 J. W. Laidlay, *Nat Hist*
 Dr. E. Roer, *Ortl. Dept*
 Capt. Hayeo, elected Secy, in place of Dr. O'Sliaghnessy (retired) in May 1850 (from February).

1851.
President—
 As in 1848.
Vice-Presidents—
 Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop.
 W. Jackson.
 J. W. Laidlay.
 Dr. W. B. O'Sliuighnessy.

Secretaries—

Capt. F. C. C. Hayes.

Dr. A. Sprenger, elected in place of
Capt. Hayes (retired) in May.

In consequence of changes made in
the organization of the Council, another
election was held in June with the
following results:—

President—

As in 1848.

Vice- Presidents—

Sir H. M. Elliot.

Dr. W. B. O'Shanglineimy.

Welby Jackson.

Secretary—

Dr. A. Sprenger.

1852.

President—

As in 1848.

Vice' Presidents—

Sir H. M. Klliot.

Dr. \V. B. O'Shaughnessy.

Welby Jackson.

Secretaries—

Dr. A. Sprenger.

A. Grote, elected Jt. Secy, in
April.

H. V. Bayley.

1853.

President—

As in 1848.

Vice- Presidents—

W. B. Jackson.

J. R. Colvin.

Ramgopul Ghose.

Secretaries—

A. Grote, *GenL*

Dr. A. Sprenger, *Phil. Dept.*

1854.

President—

As in 1848.

Vice-Presidents—

Hon. Col. J. Low.

Sir H. M. Elliot.

Ramgopal Ghose.

Secretaries—

As in 1853.

1855.

President—

As in 1848.

Vice- Presidents—

Mujor-Genl. Hon. J. Low.

Lt.-Col. W. E. Baker.

Rumgopal Ghose.

Secretaries—

A. Grote.

H. V. Bayley.

\V. S. Atkinson.

Mr. Grote resigned in July. H.
Y. Bayley and others officiated for
him, and in December Mr. W. S. Atkin-
son was appointed.

1856.

President—

As in 1848.

Vice-Presidents—

Ramgopal Ghose.

Dr. G. G. SpiUbury.

A. Grote.

Secretary—

W.S. Atkinson.

1857.

President—

As in 1848.

Vice-Presidents—

As iu 1856.

Secretaries—

W. S. Atkinson.
R. Mitra.

1858.

President—

As in 1848.

Vice'Presidents—

Ramgopal Ghose.
A. Grote.
Lt.-Col. II. Strachey.

Secretaries—

W. S. Atkinson.
E. B. Cowell.

1859 and 1860.

President—

A. Grote.

Vice - Presidents—

Col. R. Strachey.
Dr. T. Thomson.
Babu Ramaprasad Roy.

Secretaries—

As in 1858.

1861.

President—

As in 1859.

Vice - Presidents—

Dr. T. Thompson.
Major H. L. Thuillier.
Babu Rajendralala Mitra.

Secretaries—

As in 1858.

1862.

President—

As in 1859.

Vice~ Presidents—

Lt.-Col. H. L. Thuillier.
Babu Rajendralahi Mitra.
T. Oldham.

Secretaries—

As in 1858.

1863.

President—'

Lt.-Col. H. L. Thuillier.
Do., resigned in April.
E. C. Bayley elected President in
September.

Vice- Presidents—

A Grote.
Lt.-Col. R. Strachey.
Babu Rajendralala Mitra.
E. C. Bayley, in place of Col.
Strachey in March.

Secretaries—^

W. S. Atkinson (resigned in Aug.)
E. B. Cowell (resigned in July.)
H. F. Blanford elected Secy, in
August.

1864.

President—

E. C. Bayley.

Vice'Presidents—

Capt. W. N. Lees.
Dr. T. Anderson.
Babu Rajendralala Mitra.

Secretaries—

II. F. Blanford.
W. L. Ileeley.

1865.

President—

A. Grote.

Vice- Presidents—

Capt. W. N. Lees.
W. S. Atkinson.
Babu Rnjendraiala Mitrn.
In July, Babu Jadava Krishna Singh,
in place of II. Mitra, resigned.

Secretaries—

H. F. Blanford.

W. L. Heeley.

In July, on resignation of the two Secretaries, R. Mitra and Dr. J. Anderson came in.

Lt.-Col. J. E. Gastrell, *Treasurer*.

1866.

President—

E. C. Bayley.

Vice'Presidents —

Dr. G. B. Partridge.

Jadav'i Krishna Singh.

W. L. Heeley.

*Secretaries—*H. F. Blanford, *Genl. Secy.*R. Mitra, *Phil. Secy.*Dr. J. Anderson, *Nat. Hist. Secy.*Lt.-Col. J. E. Gastrell, *Treasurer*.

1867.

President—

Dr. J. Fayrer.

Vice-Presidents—

Dr. S. H. Partridge.

Hon. G. Campbell.

A. Grote.

*Secretaries—*H. F. Blanford, *Genl. Secy.*R. Mitra, *Phil. Secy.*Dr. J. Anderson, *Nat. Hist. Secy.*Lt.-Col. J. E. Gastrell, *Treasurer*.

In December, Dr. Colles was elected Nat. Hist. Secy, in place of Dr. Anderson, resigned.

1868.

President—

Dr. T. Oldham.

Vice - Presidents —

Hon. J. B. Phear.

A Grote.

Kumar Harendra Krishna Bahadur.

In July, Mr. Grote left for England, and Dr. J. Fayrer was elected Y. P. in his stead.

*Secretaries—*H. F. Blanford, *Gen. Secy.*R. Mitra, *Phil. Secy.*Dr. J. A. P. Colles, *Nat. Hist. Secy.*Col. J. E. Gastrell, *Treasurer*.

In May, Mr. Blanford resigned, and W. H. Blochmann was appointed in July. In May, Dr. F. Stoliczka was elected Nat. Hist. Secy, in place of Dr. Colles, resigned.

1869.

President—

Dr. T. Oldham.

*Vice- Presidents— **

Dr. J. Fayrer, C.S.I.

Hon. J. B. Phear.

Kumar Harendra Krishna Bahadur.

*Secretaries—*H. Blochmann, *Phil. Secy.*Dr. F. Stoliczka, *Nat. Hist. Secy.*Col. J. E. Gastrell, *Treasurer*.

In Sept., Col. Hyde was elected treasurer in place of Col. Gastrell, resigned. General duties of Secy, carried on by both Nat. Hist. and Phil. Secretaries.

1870.

President—

Hon. J. B. Phear.

Vice-Presidents—

Dr. T. Oldham.

Dr. J. Fayrer.

R. Mitra.

Secretaries—

H. ttloclimann, *Phil. Secy.*

Dr. P. Stoliczka, *Nat. His. Secy.*

Lt.-Col. H. Hyde, *Treasurer.*

General duties of Secy, carried on by Phil, and Nat. His. Secretaries.

1871.

President—

As in 1870.

Vice-Presidents—

Dr. T. Oldhflm.

K. Mitra.

Lord Napier of Magdala.

Secretaries—

H. Blochmann, *Phil. Secy.*

Dr. F. Stoliczka, *Nat. His. Secy.*

Lt.-Col. H. Hyde, *Treasurer.*

General duties of Secy, carried on by Phil, and Nat. His. Secretaries.

In Aujr., Col. J. F. Ten nan t succeeded Col. Hyde, resigned.

1872.

President—

Dr. T. Oldham.

Vice-Presidents—

lion. J. B. Pliar.

R. Mitm.

Hon. E. C. Bayley.

Secretaries—

II. Blochmann, *Phil. Secy.*

Dr. F. Stoliczka, *Nat. His. Secy.*

Col. J. F. Tennant, *Treasurer.*

Gen. See's duties carried on by Nat. Hist. & Phil. Secretaries till June, when Capt. Waterhouse was appointed Gen. Secretary.

Col. Gastrell resumed charge of Treasurership in February.

1873.

President—

Dr. T. Oldham.

In April, Col. H. Hyde was elected President in place of Dr. Oldham, resigned.

Vice-Presidents—

As in 1872.

Secretaries—

Capt. J. Waterhouse, *Oenl. Secy.*

Dr. F. Stoliczka, *Nat. His. Secy.*

H. Blochmann, *Phil. Secy.*

Col. J. E. Gastrell, *Treasurer.*

In May, Mr. J. Wood-Mason appointed Nat. His. Secy, in place of Dr. F. Stoliczka.

1874.

President—

Col. H. Hyde.

Vice-Presidents—

As in 1872.

Secretaries—

Capt. J. Waterhouse, *Genl. Secy.*

H. Blochmann, *Phil. Secy.*

J. Wood-Mason, *Nat. His. Secy.*

Col. J. E. Gastrell, *Treasurer.*

1875.

President—

Hon. E. C. Bayley.

In April, Dr. T. Oldham elected President, Hon. E. C. Bayley resigned.

Vice-Presidents—

11. Mitra.

Col. H. Hyde.

Dr. T. Oldham.

Secretaries—

Capt. J. Waterhouse, *Genl. Secy.*

H. Blochinann, *Phil. Secy.*

J. Wood-Mason, *Nat. His. Secy.*

Col. J. E. Gaatrell, *Treasurer.*

Dr. Lewis officiated as Natural History Secretary for a short time.

1876.

President—

Dr. T. Oldham.

Vice Presidents—*

11. Mitra.

Hon. E. G. Bayley.

Col. H. L. Thuillier.

Secretaries—

Capt. J. Waterhouse, *Genl. Secy.*

H. Blochmann, *Phy. Secy.*

J. Wood-Mason, *Nat. His. Secy.*

Col. J. E. Gastrell, *Treasurer.*

Dr. Lewis officiated for a short time.

On Col. Gastrell's resignation, Mr. H. 13. Medlicott succeeded him in June.

1877.

President—

Hon. Sir E. C. Bayley.

Vice' Presidents—

Dr. R. Mitra.

Col. H. L. Thuillier.

W. T. filanford.

Secretaries—

Capt. J. Waterhouse, *Genl. Secy.*

H. Blochmann, *Phil. Secy.*

J. Wood-Mason, *Phy. Secy.*

H. B. Medlicott, *Treasurer.*

Mr. J. Wood-Mason resigned in July, Mr. W. T. Blanford and Capt. Waterhouse edited Part II of Journal.

1878.

President—

W. T. Blanford.

Vice- Presidents—

Dr. R. Mitra.

II. B. Medlicott.

T. S. Isaac.

Secretaries—

Capt. Waterhouse, *Genl. Secy.*

H. Blochmann, *Phil. Secy.*

R. Lydekher, *Nat. His. Secy.*

E. Gay, *Treasurer.*

In July, Mr. Blochmann died, and Mr. C. H. TWney officiated. Dr. A. F. R. Hoernle was appointed in November. In August, Mr. Guy resigned, and Mr. II. Beverley was appointed Treasurer.

Mr. Lydekher resigned in March, and Capt. Waterhouse and Mr. W. T. Blanford again edited Part II of Journal.

1879.

President—

W. T. Blanford.

In Dec, Mr. II. B. Medlicott succeeded Mr. Blanford.

Vice- Presidents—

Dr. R. Mitra.

H. B. Medlicott.

T. S. Isaac.

In Deer., Messrs. C. H. Tawney and J. Westland succeeded Mr. H. B. Medlicott and Mr. T. S. Isaac.

Secretaries—

Capt. J. Waterhouse, *Genl. Secy.*

Dr. A. F. R. Hoernle, *Phil. Secy.*

H. Beverley, *Treasurer.*

Capt. J. Waterhouse edited Part II of Journal till October, when Mr. J. Wood-Mason was appointed Nat. Hist. Secy.

In Deer., Capt. Waterhouse resigned, and Mr. J. Crawford took his place.

1880.

President—

H. B. Medlicott.

Vice - Presidents—

Dr. II. Mitrn.
J. Westland.
C. H. Tawney.

Secretaries—

J. Crawford, *Genl. Secy.*
Dr. A. F. R. Hoernle, *Phil. Secy.*
J. Wood-Mason, *Nat. His. Secy.*
II. Beverley, *Treasurer.*

In April, Mr. A. Pedler succeeded Mr. Crawford, resigned.

In April, Mr. J. C. Douglas succeeded Mr. H. Beverley, resigned.

1881.

President—

Hon. Sir Ashley Eden.

Vice - Presidents—

Dr. R. Mitra.
C. H. Tawney.
Hon. II. J. Reynolds.

Secretaries—

A. Pedler, *Genl. Secy.*
Dr. A. F. R. Hoernle, *Phil. Secy.*
J. Wood-Mason, *Nat. His. Secy.*
V. Ball, *Treasurer.*

In March, Mr. V. Ball succeeded Mr. J. C. Douglas, resigned.

In Sept., Mr. J. Eliot was appointed Treasurer in place of Mr. Ball, resigned.

In April, Mr. Pedler resigned, and Dr. II. W. M'Uanu succeeded him.

1882.

President—

Hon. Sir A. Eden.

In May, Hon. II. J. Reynolds succeeded Sir A. Eden, resigned.

Vice-presidents—

Dr. R. Mitra.
Hon. J. Gibbs.
Hon. H. J. Reynolds.

In May, Mr. H. F. Blanford succeeded Mr. II. J. Reynolds.

Secretaries—

Dr. H. W. M'Cann, *Genl. Secy.*
Dr. A. F. R. Hoernle, *Phil. Secy.*
J. Wood-Mason, *Nat. His. Secy.*
J. Eliot, *Treasurer.*

In Sept, Mr. Wood-Mason resigned, and Dr. J. Scully appointed in his place.

1883.

President—

Hon. H. J. Reynolds.

Vice - Presidents—

Dr. R. Mitra.
Hon. J. Gibbs.
II. F. Blanford.

Secretaries—

Dr. II. W. M'Capn, *Genl. Secy.*
Dr. A. F. R. Iloenile, *Phil. Secy.*
Dr. J. Scully, *Nat. His. Secy.*
J. Eliot, *Treasurer.*

Dr. J. Scully resigned in March, and Babu P. N. Bose was appointed in June.

Mr. J. Eliot resigned, and Mr. F. W. Peterson succeeded him in August.

Appendix C.

List of Books published, directly or indirectly, by the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

TRANSACTIONS.		No. of VOHS,
Asiatic Researches, Vols. I—XX, 1788—1839 (Vols. XVII—XX being in two parts). 4to.	20	
Index to Vols. I—XVIII of the Asiatic Researches. 4to.	1	
Journal, Vols. I—LIE, 1832-83 (31 volumes being in two parts). 8vo. ..	83	
Index to Vols. XIX—XX of the Asiatic Researches and Vols. I - XXIII of the Journal. 8vo.	1	
Proceedings, published separately from the year 1865 to 1883. 8vo. *«	19	
CATALOGUES,		
Catalogue of the Books and Maps in the Library. Edition of 1833.		
Edited by Dr. Burlini. 8*».	1	
Ditto ditto. Edited by Dr. Roer. 1843. 8vo.	1	
Ditto ditto. Edited by Dr. R. Mitrn. 1856. 8vo.	1	
Catalogue of the Sanskrit Books and Manuscripts of the Asiatic Society.		
8vo. 1838 1848 	1	
A Descriptive Catalogue of Sanskrit Manuscripts in the Library of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. Part I. Grammar. Edited by Dr. R. Mitra. 8vo.		
8vo. 1849 	1	
Catalogue of Persian, Arabic, and Urdu Manuscripts and Books. 8vo. ...		
Ditto of Nepalese Sanskrit Manuscripts, or the Buddhist Sanskrit Literature of Nepal. By Dr. R. Mitra. 8vo. 1882	1	
Ditto of the Fossil Remains of Vertebrata from the Sewalik Hills, the Nerbuddii, Perim Island, &c, in the Museum of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. By H. Falconer. 8vo. 1859	1	
Ditto of the Recent Shells in the Museum of the Asiatic Society. By W. Theobald. 8vo. 1860	1	
Ditto of the Reptiles in the Asiatic Society's Museum. By W. Theobald. (Extra No., J. A. S. B., 1875;	1	
Ditto of Curiosities in the Museum of the Asiatic Society. By Dr. R. Mitra. 8vo. 1849	1	
Ditto of the Birds in the Museum of the Asiatic Society. By Ed. Blyth. 8vo. 1849	1	
Ditto of the Mammalia in the Museum of the Asiatic Society. By Ed. Blyth. 8vo. 1863	1	
Ditto of Mammals and Birds of Burmah. By Ed. Blyth. (Extra No., J. A. & B., 1875)	1	

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS.

	No. of vols.
General Cunningham's Archaeological Survey Report for 1863-64. (Extra No., J. A. S. B., 1864)	i
Sketch of the Turki Language as spoken in Eastern Turkestan. Part II—Vocabulary. By R. B. Shaw. (Extra No., J. A. S. B., 1878) ...	1
A Grammar and Vocabulary of the Northern Balochi Language. By M. L. Dames. (Extra No., J. A. S. B., 1880)	1
Introduction to the Maithili Language of North Bihar. By G. A. Grierson. Part—I Grammar. (Extra No., J. A. S. B., 1880.) Part II—Chriestoinathy and Vocabulary. (Extra No., J. A. S. B., 1882) ...	2
Ved&ntasára. Translated by Dr. E. Roer. 8vo.	1
Moore and Hewetsou's Descriptions of New Indian Lepidoptera. Parts 1 ami II. 4to.	2
Lassen's Bactrian Coins. Translated by Dr. E. Roer. 8vo. ...	1
On the Aborigines of India. Essay First, on the Coch, Bodo and Dhimal Tribes. By B. H. Hodgson. 8vo.	1

ORIENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

SANSKRIT.

Sausruta, a System of Medicine taught by Dhanvantari, and compiled by his pupil, Susruta. 8vo.	2
Naishadha Charita, an Epic Poem by Sri Harsha. Part I. Edited by Premachánd Tarkavágisa. 8vo. 1835 ... ..	] 1
Harivansa, or the History of the Yađava Race. A Poem. 4to. ...	1
Rájatarangini, or History of Kashmir. 4to.	1
Mahábháráta, or a History of the Eurú and the Pándus. By Vyása. Vols. I—IV. 4to.	## 4
Ditto Index. 4to.	M. ... 1

ARABIC.

Fatawe ' Alamgiri, on Muhammad an Law. 4to. ,, vM	g
Istilahát-i-Siifiyá, OP Technical Terms of the Súfis. Edited by Dr. A. Sprenger. 8vo.	# # j
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Inayab, a Commentary on the Hid'ay a, a work on Muhammad an Law. 4to. 4	

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CENTENARY REVIEW
OF THE
ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL
From 1/84—1883.

PART II.
ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY, LITERATURE, &c.

BY
DR. A. F. RUDOLF HOERNLE.

Published by the Society.

PREFACE.



THE subjects which were set apart for the investigation of the Literary Section of the Society are " Literature, Philology, History, Antiquities, Religion, Manners and Customs, and whatever is comprehended under the general term of Literature." Among these, History and Antiquities are very closely connected with one another, the latter being subservient to a correct knowledge of the former. Hence the two first chapters of this Review are devoted to a survey of the results of antiquarian and archaeological enquiry which are set out under the two heads of Antiquities, including ancient monuments, inscriptions, etc., and Coins. Next follows a chapter, giving a historical sketch of the two greatest discoveries to which the Society can lay claim, and which are directly based on its archaeological researches, those of the decipherment of the Indian Páli and the Arian Pdli alphabets. The next in order is a chapter containing a statement of the discoveries in Indian History, which were the natural result of the successful reading of the ancient inscriptions on stones, copper-plates and coins. The last chapter gives the results of the investigations into the Language and Literature of India and its multifarious races.

In compiling the several chapters, the writer has attempted to take as his model one of the best specimens of a review of this kind which forms the Introduction to the well-known *Ariana Antlqua* of Professor H> H. Wilson,

than whom the Society perhaps possessed no better writer. One portion, indeed, of that Introduction, reviewing the history of coin-discovery during the earlier half of the century, up to the year 1840, has been, as far as possible, adopted into the chapter on coins, the fresh portion of which mainly consists in continuing Professor Wilson's review through the remaining half of the century.

The system of transliteration is very imperfect. This is to be regretted ; for various reasons—one of them being the want of the necessary type—it was found to be impossible to carry through a more perfect one,

R. II.



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Centenary Review

OF THE

ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL

From 1784 to 1883.

13art \$#.

AKCH^ALOGY, HISTOEY, LITERATURE, Etc.

CHAPTER L

ANTIQUITIES.

[Ancient Monuments: topes, temples, monoliths, etc.—Caves — Sculptures — Inscriptions on rocks, pillars, stone-slabs, cojiperplutw, etc.—Votive **objects**—**Pottery**, etc. —I'ru-liistoric remains, etc.]

THE Antiquities of India were certain to become one of the first objects of attention to the members of the Asiatic Society. They possess the twofold advantage of appealing to the natural curiosity of man and furnishing an incentive to the speculation of the learned. Their importance with regard to the elucidation of History was well described by Mr. H. T. Colebrooke in an early volume of the Asiatic Researches : " In the scarcity of authentic materials," he writes, " for the ancient, and even for the modern, history of the Hindu race, importance is justly attached to all genuine monuments, and especially inscriptions on stone and metal, which a^c occasionally discovered through vari-

ous accidents. If these be carefully preserved and diligently examined, and the facts ascertained from them be judiciously employed towards elucidating the scattered information, which can be yet collected from the remains of Indian literature, a satisfactory progress may be finally made in investigating the history of the Hindus."¹

This remark is illustrated by the very first two ancient monuments, the discovery of which is recorded in any of the publications of the Society, and which, as it happened, have proved of very great consequence. For they led, as will be shown in a later place, one to the decipherment of the so-called Kutila, the other to the discovery of the so-called Gupta, characters. The former monument "was the well-known monolith pillar of Buddal, the other were the celebrated Nágárjuni caves near Buddha Gaya, both described in 1785 in the first volume of the Asiatic Researches by Mr. Charles Wilkins and Mr. John Herbert Harrington respectively.² Curiously enough it was nearly a century afterwards, in 1874, that a transcript of the text of the Buddal Pillar inscription was for the first time published in the Journal by Babu Pratapa Chandra Ghosh.³

In the first volume of the Researches there is also a brief account by Mr. William Chambers of some sculptures and ruins at Mavalipuram (Mahábalipuram) on the Coromandel Coast in South India,⁴ the ancient inscriptions on which were a few years afterwards brought to notice by Mr. J. Goldingham,⁵ and which, much later, in 1853, were re-described by Mr. C. Gubbins in the Journal.⁶ The former also

¹ As. Res., Vol. IX, p. 398. ² As. Res., Vol. I, pp. 131, 27G ; Vol. II, p. 1C7 ; republished in J.A.S.B., Vol. XVI, p. 591. ³ J.A.S.B., Vol. XLIII, p. 356. ⁴ As. RGS., Vol. I, p. 146. ⁵ *Ibid.*: Vol. V, p. C9. ⁶ J. A. S. B., Vol. XXII, p. G56.

communicated some account of the well-known caves in Elephanta and the sculptures contained in them.¹

About the same time, in-1795, the Society's attention was first directed to the famed monuments of Antiquity on the site of old Dehli, the best known of which, the Qutab Minar.² His sketch of the Minar made in 1794 has a peculiar interest, as it shows that tower still crowned by the Sultan Finiz Sháh's old cupola of red granite, which was thrown down in 1803 by an earthquake. Copies of the Persian inscriptions on the Minar were afterwards, in 1822, supplied by Mr. Walter Ewer.³ A general description of old Dehli as it appeared in 1793 was contributed by Lieutenant William Franklin.⁴ On the opposite side of India, the ancient city of Pegu and its chief temple were briefly noticed in 1798 by Captain Michael Symes,⁵ and the ancient pagoda of Perwattum with its sculptures in South India, by Major Kirkpatrick, from the journals of Captain Colin Mackenzie.⁶

But the most interesting communication of this period is Mr. Jonathan Duncan's account of the discovery of two urns in a so-called tope or stupa at Sárnáth, about four miles from Benares.⁷ This is the first mention of a monument of that class, which thenceforth was destined to prove one of the most important factors in opening up the ancient history of India through the coins, inscriptions, and other objects found in them. "In 1794, a native, digging for stones from extensive ruins at this spot, discovered, twenty-seven feet below the surface, a stone urn, of the size and shape of the Barberini vase enclosing one also

¹ As. Res., Vol. IV, p. 409. ² *Ibid.*, p. 313. * *Ibid.*, Vol. XIV, p. 480.
* *Ibid.*, Vol. IV, p. 419. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Vol. V, p. 111. * *Ibid.*, p. 503. * *Ibid.*, p. 131.

of stone, within which were human bones, pearls, gold-leaves, and jewels of no value. A statue of Buddha was also found, bearing an inscription, which stated that a monastery *and lofty shrine had been built or rather repaired here in Sam vat 1083- (A.D. 1026). The inscription terminated with a stanza, which is now well-known as the "Buddhist creed," and which was also found, when the building was opened in 1835 by Lieutenant (now Major-General) A. Cunningham, upon a stone slab in the interior of the edifice."¹ "A few years afterwards, the visits of Colonel Mackenzie and Mr. Harrington to Ceylon added to the knowledge of the peculiar form of these Buddhist stūpas or topes. At Devendar, or Dondera, the former noticed a low temple, of a circular shape, of about one hundred and sixty feet in circumference, erected on a platform. The structure, it was said, was solid and had one of the teeth of the sacred elephant enshrined in it, Mr. Harrington described a daghopa at Kalanī as a solid mass of earth and brickwork sixty feet high, and shaped somewhat like a dome with a cupola above. This monumental temple was said to contain twenty images of Buddha buried underneath it. These accounts were published in 1799."² In the same year, 1799, was published the first detailed account, with measurements and drawings, of the celebrated caves, and the sculptures they contain, near Ellora, from the pen of Mr. C. W. Malet.³

About this time the materials commenced being collected, which a generation afterwards led to the great discovery of Mr. J. Prinsep ; for in 1801, Mr. J. H. Harrington published a "Book of Drawings and Inscriptions " prepared under the

¹ See *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 29. *As. Res.*, Vol. IX, p. 203 ; Vol. X, p. 130. J. A. S. B., Vol. IV, pp. 132, 211, 712. ² *As. Res.*, Vol. VI, pp. 425, 438, 448. See *Ariana Antiqua*, pp. 29, 30. ³ *As. Res.*, pp. 382, 389.

direction of Captain James Hoare, and presented by him to the Society, among which the most important were copies of the inscriptions on the celebrated pillars of Dehli and Allaha-bad.¹ Both were about thirty years afterwards, in 1834 and 1837, republished in a more complete form by Mr. J. Prinsep, in the third and sixth volumes of the Journal, from drawings and copies prepared by Lieutenant T. S. Burt.² In 1807, Mr. H. T. Colebrooke published a series of inscriptions on stone and copper of subordinate value. They had been presented to the Society from time to time, and came from Tripura, Gorakhpur, Chitradurg, Kuru-gode, Kurrali, Dindjpur, Nidigal, Goujda, and Benares.³ In the same year also were published for the first time by Major C. Mackenzie figures, with inscriptions, of some celebrated Jain statues, especially of the gigantic image of Gomatesvara Svámi near Belligola.⁴ A Sanskrit stone inscription of the Ohandel Rdjas was communicated in 1813 by Lieutenant W. Price, who had found it at the foot of a rocky hill in the vicinity of the town of Mow, about ten miles from Chatterpur.⁵ It was the first authentic notice of that line of mediaeval princes of Buudel-khand, on whose history subsequent discoveries of inscriptions have thrown so much light⁶

In 1816, Mr. John Crawford presented to the Society an account of the Buddhist temple ruins situated about Prambann in Java,⁷ and Captain G. Sydenham, of the stately Muhammadan architecture in Bijapur, called " the Palmyra of the Dekkau " by Sir James Mackintosh.⁸ In

¹ As. Res., Vol. VII, p. 175. ² J. A. S. B., Vol. III, pp. 105, 114, 118, see also p. 257 ; and Vol VI, p. 500, also p. 963. ³ As. Res., Vol. IX, pp. 398, 401, 406, 412, 421, 422, 432, 434, 438, 441. « *Ibid.*, pp. 256, 264, 272. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, p. 358. ⁵ J. A. S. B., Vol. VIII, p. 159 ; Vol. XXXII, p. 273 ; Vol. XLVII, pp. 73, 80. ⁶ As. Res., Vol. XIII, p. 337. • *Ibid.*, p. 431;

1825, Professor H. H. Wilson published some Sanskrit inscriptions, translated by Captain E. Fell, from Garha Mandela, Hansi, and Benares, which gave a "tolerably satisfactory idea of the series of princes who reigned at Kanauj and Dehli" 'about the time of the Muhammadan conquest.'¹ In the same year, Mr. R. Jenkins presented an account of the ancient Hindu remains in Chattisgarh, together with some copperplate inscriptions, written in the square box-headed characters; a variety of monumental writing first made public on that occasion.² Mr. A. Stirling also drew attention to the ancient temples and other antiquities of Orissa. Among the latter is specially noteworthy his copy of a portion of the famous Khandagiri rock inscription in the Asoka characters, then first made known.³ It was republished in the *Journal*, in 1837, in a more complete form, by Mr. J. Prinsep, from copies prepared by Lieutenant Kittoe.⁴ In the following volume of the *Asiatic Researches*, in 1828, the Rev. G. H. Hough made known an inscription engraved on the Great Bell of Rangoon.⁵ In the same volume Professor H. H. Wilson again published a large series of forty-three Sanskrit inscriptions found on Mount Abú, many of which are of much interest, because "they throw considerable light upon the religious and political history of a place which is of high consideration in the west of India, and elucidate the early career of different Rájput dynasties," such as the Chalukyás, Pramaras, Guhilas, Chauháns, etc.⁶ The Jain temples on Mount Abú, in which some of these inscriptions occur, were described in the *Journal* of 1833 by Lieutenant Burnes.⁷

¹ *As. Res.*, Vol. XV, pp. 436, 437, 443, 446, 460. * *Ihhl.*, pp. 499, 506.

⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 163, 306, 313, 329, 330, 337. « *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. VI, p. 1080.

* *As. Res.*, Vol. XVI, p. 270. ⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 284, 317. » *J. A. S.* 13, Vol. II, p. 161.

The most important event of this time was the opening of the great tope at Manikyála, which had been already observed and described by Elphiustone in 1808.¹ It was effected by General Ventura in 1830. An account of it in French was forwarded by the General to Calcutta and published by Professor H. H. Wilson in the Asiatic Researches in 1832,² and republished later, in 1834, in an English version, by Mr. J. Prinsep, in the Journal.³ Lieutenant Alexander Burnes, who afterward visited the opened tope, made known in 1833 some further particulars concerning it,⁴ and so did Major J. Abbot on a much later visit in 1853.⁵ A good deal more information on this tope, as well as on some others in the Panjab and in Afghanistan which were opened by General Court and Messrs. Honigberger and Masson respectively, was made public in the Journal for 1834 by Dr. Gerard and Mr. J. Prinsep, derived from the letters and journals of the original discoverers.⁶

The Journal of the year 1834 is particularly rich in the record of discoveries. Thus Captain P. T. Cautly announced the important discovery by him of the remains of an ancient town at Behat, near Saharanpur, seventeen feet below the present surface of the country and upwards of twenty-five below that of the modern town of Behat. Various relics were found, and one hundred and seventy coins, all of very ancient date (Indo-Scythian and early Buddhist), fixing the age of the town in the earliest centuries of our era.⁷ Mr. B. H. Hodgson communicated the discovery of three *láths* or monumental pillars, with inscriptions in the Asoka characters on them.

^x See *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 31. ² *As. Res.*, Vol. XVII, pp. 463, 600. • J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 315. * *ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 308. * *i&W.*, Vol. XXII, p. 670.
⁶ *Ibid.*, Vol. III, pp. 321, 329, 550. * *Ibid.*, pp. 43, 221, 227

Among them were the now well-known Radhiah and Mathiah Pillars. Two of the pillars, those at Bakhrah in Tirhut and Radhiah in Sárún, had been already noticed in 1784 by Mr. Law, and later by Mr. Stirling; and of the Mathiah Pillar Mr. Hodgson himself had sent a notice already ten years previously; but at that time these notices appear to have attracted no attention. Their importance, however, was now recognized by Mr. J. Prinsep, who, seeing at once that the inscriptions they bore were identical with those on the pillars of Allahabad and Dehli, published them in full.¹ At the same time, his attention having been recalled by Mr. Hodgson to the famous Sanchi Tope and its inscriptions near Bhilsa, he reprinted a description of them from the *Calcutta Journal* of the 11 th July, 1819, where it had been published by Captain E. Fell, the original discoverer of the Tope.² Several of the inscriptions taken by Captains Smith and Burt, *find drawings of the monuments and its sculptures prepared by Captain Murray, were published by Mr. J. Prinsep later on, in the sixth and seventh volumes of the *Journal*, in 1837 and 1838.³ They led to important results, enabling Mr. Prinsep, as will be related in another place, to extend his discoveries and to complete the deciphering of the ancient alphabet and inscriptions on the staff of Firoz Shah, on the Buddhist coins of Behat, and on the rocks in Orissa and Guzerat.⁴ An important link, however, in the chain of events, which led to these discoveries, was the publication by Mr. W. H. Wathen, in 1835, of two Vallabhi copperplate grants found in the

¹ J. A. R. B., Vol. III, pp. 481, 483; and Vol. IV, p. 124. ² *Ibid.*, Vol. III, pp. 488, 490. ³ *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, pp. 401ff.; Vol. VII, pp. 562ff. * See *Ariana Antiqua*, pp. 33, 34.

western part of Guzerat, and written in an alphabet intermediate between that of Asoka and the Guptas.¹

In the Journal of the same year, 1835, various ancient ruins were described ; those of Simraun, once the capital of the Mithila Province, by Mr. B. H. Hodgson *f* those of an ancient city near Bakhra, north of Patna, by Mr. J. Stephenson ;³ those at Chárdw&r in Assam, by Captain G. E. Westmacott ;⁴ and those of the Baijnáth Temple at Harsha in Shekáwati, by Sergeant E. Dean.⁵ A long inscription of the tenth century was found in the latter place and published by Dr. W. H. Mill.⁶ In the following year, 1836. Mr. C. Masson contributed some notes on the antiquities of Bámidn, espécially of its caves and colossal idols, which had already been noticed in 1833 by Lieutenant Alexander Bunies.⁷ Mr, L. Wilkinson made known a copperplate grant found at Piplínnagar in the Shujalpur Perganah, which turned out to be of some importance as it supplemented the list of Rájás of Malva by four hitherto unknown names.⁸ Colonel H. Buruey reported the discovery of some Buddhist images at Tagoung, the ancient capital of Burma, which were inscribed with the well-known Buddhist creed in Gupta characters and in the Pali language.⁸

By this time copies of such a large number of inscriptions of diverse kinds, which had been discovered from time to time, had been accumulating in the hands of the Society, that it was feared that they might be mislaid or lost sight of, before any one was found with sufficient leisure to decipher them completely, unless they were at once com-

¹ J. A.'S. B., Vol. IV, p. 477. * *Ibid.*, p. 121. ³ *Ibid.*, p. 128. * *Ibid.*, p. 185. ⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 3C1. • *Ibid.*, p. 3G7. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Vol. V, p. 707 ; see also Vol. II, p. 661. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Vol. V, p. 378 ; see also Vol. VII, p. 736, for another grant. ⁹ *Ibid.*, Vol. V, p. 157.

mitted to print. 'Accordingly, Mr. J. Prinsep published in 1836,' in the fifth volume of the *Journal*, a long series of facsimiles of ancient inscriptions, including those from Wara in South Konkan, from the Dnmatha Cavern near Maulmain, from the fort of Chunár near Benares, from Barahat in Garhwál, from Iskardo in Little Tibet,¹ from the caves of Ajunta,⁸ from Asirgarh, from Peshawar (on a bronze image), from Kumaon (on bronze tridents at Barahat and Gopesvara),³ from Trincomalee and other places in Ceylon,⁴ from Buddha Gaya,⁵ from Seoni (five copperplates)) and a few from unknown places.⁶ This series of facsimiles was continued in the volumes for 1837 and 1838, which contain the following inscriptions: from the Amrávati Tope (from Colonel Colin Mackenzie's manuscripts),⁷ from Kalanjar in Bundelkhand, from Guinsar (three copperplates), from the Nág&rjuní Caves near Gaya, from a rock at Singapur,⁸ from Illahabas in the Bareilly District (found by Mr. H. S. Bouldeson in 1826 or 1827), from Mullaye (three copperplates), from Hund near Attock, from Jayanagar in Bundelkhand,⁹ from Gorakhpur (on the Kuhaon pillar), from Bakerganj in Eastern Bengal (copperplate), from Ajmir (on a Jain image),¹⁰ from Cuttack (Brahmesvara temple),¹¹ from Warangal, from Kaira in Guzerat (copperplates),¹² from Bageswar near Almora in Kumaon,¹³ and again a few from unknown places.¹⁴

Early in 1837, the Rev. Dr. W. H. Mill made known a new Gupta inscription, copied by Lieutenant (now Major General) A. Cunningham from the newly-discovered Bhitari

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. V, pp. 340, 341, 347, 348. * *Ibid.*, pp. 348, 556. • *Ibid.*, pp. 482, 484, 485 ; see also Vol. VII, p. 39. * *Ibid.*, Vol. V, pp. 454, 456. ⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 657. • *Ibid.*, p. 724. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, p. 218. « *Ibid.*, pp. 665, 667, 671, 680; see also Vol. XVII, Part I, p. 154 ; Part II, p. 66. • *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, pp. 869, 876, 887. » *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, pp. 33, 40, 51. « *Ibid.*, p. 557. " •• *Ibid.*, pp. 901, 908, 966. » *Ibid.*, p. 1036. " *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, pp. 278, 663.

Lath (or Pillar) in the Ghazipur District,¹ while a little later, Mr. J. Prinsep republished the Gupta inscription on the Allahabad Pillar from impressions taken *hy* Captain Edward Smith.² He also published two collections of smaller inscriptions in the most ancient characters, which had been newly made, one by Major Kittoe from the caves at Udayagiri and Khandagiri in Cuttack³ (Eastern India), the other by Colonel W. H. Sykes from the caves (Karle, Sainhadri) of Western India.⁴ In the following year, 1838, he crowned his labours in this* direction by the publication of ^copies of the celebrated great rock inscriptions at Dhauli and Girnar (of Asoka and Chandragupta), together with detailed descriptions of their localities, the materials for which had been supplied to him by Major Kittoe, Captain Lang, Lieutenant Postans, and the Rev. Dr. J. Wilson.⁵ To these he added the smaller, though no less important, Gupta inscriptions at Dehli and Eran, taken in ectype by Capt. T. S. Burt.⁶ Of the latter, those at Eran were later on, in the year 1861, re-deciphered and re-translated by FitzEdward Hall.⁷

As already mentioned, for much of his information Mr. Prinsep was indebted to Major Kittoe, who had been deputed by the Coal and Mineral Committee to explore the supposed coal-fields of Orissa. He left " with a determination to make the most of his time and journey, also of the small pecuniary allowance made for the purpose, in antiquarian and other research beyond the mere exploring of the coal localities." The results of these antiquarian researches were communicated, in 1838, in the seventh volume of the *Journal*, including descriptions and drawings of caves

» J. A. S. B., Vol. VI, p. 1. « *Ibid.*, p. 969. • *Ibid.*, p. 1072. * *Ibid.*, p. 1038. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Vol VII, pp. 219, 334, 434, 865. ⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 629. » *Ibid.*, Vol. ~~Tnnf.~~, p. 14 ; see also Vol. XXXIV, p. 38.

(Udayagiri), temples (Gramesvara, and others), pillars (at Jájipur), inscriptions, etc.¹ In the same volume is published an inscription in Burmese and Talain " with an admixture of Pali at the commencement and termination," engraved on a large Arracan Bell, which was taken by Captain Wroughton. This bell was then at Nadrohighat, in the Aligarh District, but had originally belonged to the Gaudama Mani temple in Arracan. The somewhat romantic story of how it was carried off from there by a native non-commissioned officer after the war in 1825 is related in the sixth volume of the Journal.² The inscription happens to contain " a scrap of history of no small interest in its way."³

With the year 1838 the era of great discoveries may be said to have closed. Not much was done in 1839, but the joint editors of the Journal published a new Chandel inscription discovered and copied by Captain T. S. Burt from a slab in the temple of Lálaji at Khajráo in Bundelkhand,⁴ a Chera copperplate grant dug up at Baroda in Guzerat,⁵ a Kula-chiiri copperplate grant dug up ad Kumbhi in the Sagar territory,⁶ and a Tomára inscription on a slab originally at the fort of Rohtas in Behar.⁷ The latter had been brought to their notice by Mr. E. L. Ravenshaw, who also contributed some account of various other antiquities (Persian and Sanskrit inscriptions) in Behar.⁸

The following year, 1840, was again signalled by a small, though most important, discovery. It was that of a new specimen of an Asoka edict, which was found by Captain Burt engraved on a rock near fiairat or Bliabra.⁰ Another small contribution was made by Captain Burt, in

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. VII, pp. 53, 660, 679, 828 ; see also Vol. XXV. p. 222.

² *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, p. 1004. ³ *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, p. 287. « *Ibid.*, Vol. VIII, p. 159.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 292. ⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 487. ⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 693. ⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 347. • *Ibid.*,

Vol. IX, p. 616. .

an inscription from Udayapur near Sagar, which deserves particular mention, because the date is given in three eras of Vikramáditya, Saliváhann, and Udayáditya,¹ the last of which was new. Of some importance is also a very ancient inscription from the fort of Behar, communicated by Mr. Ravenshaw, written in badly - formed characters of the Gupta style.² Major Jenkins made known an ancient Assamese land grant on three copperplates, dug up near Tez-pore in the Durrang Division.³ Another copper land grant, of the Rathor Prince Jaya Chandra of Kanauj, found near Fyzabad in Oudh, was made known in the following year 1841.⁴ But a far more interesting publication of that year was the account of the opening of the ancient topes at Kanheri near Bombay, and at Damuta in Afghanistan, by Dr. James Bird and Lieutenant Pigon respectively. The usual relics, consisting of inscriptions, coins, jewels, etc., were found in them.⁵ Lieutenant Alexander Cunningham published a sketch of the second silverplate found by Dr. Lord in Badakshan, a drawing of the first patera having been already given in 1838 in the seventh volume of the Journal.⁶ Two inscriptions from the neighbourhood of Mount Abú (Vasantagarh), dated in Samvat 1099 and 1053, both discovered and taken by Captain T. S. Burt, were also made known by the editors of the Journal.⁷

The period including the years 1842 to 1846 is one of the most barren of discoveries, so far as recorded in the pages of the Society's Journal. But the only two communications,—one, in 1842, of an ancient Himaritic stone inscription found near Aden,⁸ the other, in 1844, of a

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. IX, p. 646; see also Vol. VII, p. 1056. ² *Ibid.*, Vol. IX, p. 65; see also Vol. VIII, p. 347. » *Ibid.*, Vol. IX, p. 760. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Vol. X, p. 98.
⁵ *i&uZ.*, pp. 94, 381. ⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 670; and Vol. VII, p. 1047. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Vol. X, pp. 664, 819, 821. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Vol. XI, p. 958.

Chinese inscription on a wooden tablet in a Buddhist monastery at Ningpo,¹—have at least the interest of illustrating the wide sphere embraced by the researches of the Society.

With the year 1847 a new period of archaeological activity commenced, worthily introduced by Captain M. Kittoe, who supplied much fresh information on the numerous antiquities in Behar,² especially on the caves and their inscriptions at Barábar,³ the sculptures at Buddha Gaya, etc.,⁴ and the temples and inscriptions at Oomga.⁵ Mr. D. Money contributed an account of the ruined old temple of Tribeni near Hughli;⁶ Captain J. D. Cunningham, of the antiquities in the districts within the Bhopal Agency, including the well-known topes near Bhilsa;⁷ and Mr. Henry Cope, of the ruins of Kanode in the Chandorí District of Scindiah's dominions.⁸ Captain James Abbott reported the discovery of some sculptures in the Punjab, showing traces of Greek influence.⁹ A higher interest possess the contributions of Mr. William Knighton, who described the dagobahs (or topes) and viháras of Anuradhapura, the former capital of Ceylon, and the rock temples at Dambool, also in Ceylon.¹⁰

The volume of the following year, 1848, is again replete with descriptions of antiquities; thus, those of Sarguja and its neighbourhood, by Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Ousley;¹¹ those at Kalinjar in Bundelkhand, by Lieutenant F. Maisey;¹² those in the vicinity of Suddyah in Upper Assam, by Major S. F. Hannay;¹³ those at Pukari, near Udayapur, by Captain J. D. Cunningham.¹⁴ A few inscriptions were also pub-

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. XIII, p. 113. * *Ibid.*, Vol. XVI, p. 272. ⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 401.
 * *Ibid.*, p. 334. ⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 656, 1220. ^a *Ibid.*, p. 393. * *Ibid.*, p. 739.
⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 1079. • *Ibid.*, p. 664. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 213, 340. " *Ibid.*, Vol. XVII,
 Part I, p. 65. » *Ibid.*, p. 171. ¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 459. " *Ibid.*, p. 305.

lished, one from the Vijaj'a Māndir in Uda³apur, another of a copperplate grant,¹ and a third, a Buddhist one, of rather more interest, from the village of Pesserawa in Bihar.² Of still greater interest, however, were a few small inscriptions in the ancient Gupta characters, found on a granite rock at a place called Tokoon, almost directly east of Penang town in the peninsula of Malacca, and forwarded by Lieutenant-Colonel James Low.³ In the following year, 1849, another similar inscription was sent by him from Keddah, near Buket Murriam.⁴ In the same year, Captain James Abbott reported the discovery by him of remains of Greek sculptures in Potawar or the tableland between the Indus and Jelum in the Panjab;⁵ and Dr. Jmpey announced the discovery of the famous colossal Jain figure on a spur of the Satpura Range in the district of Burwāni on the Nerbada. It is a colossal rock image cut in relief, nearly 80 feet high, and second only in magnitude to the celebrated so-called Bhiits at Bamiyan,⁶ and about twice as large as the colossal figures at Kassia in the Gorakhpur District⁷ and at Belligola in Mysore.⁸ Two years later another colossal figure, of A head only, near Bhagalpur, was made known by Captain W. S. Sherwell. It had been, however, already noticed by Dr. Buchanan in 1810.⁹ The preceding year, 1850, had brought only two small inscriptions, one on a brick found in a field in the Jaunpur District by Captain M. Kittoe,¹⁰ and another, a Malva I And grant, on two copperplates dug out by Mr. R. N. C. Hamilton near Oujein and published by Babu Rajendralala Mitra.¹¹

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. XVII, Part I, pp. 68,71. ² *Ibid.*, p. 492. ³ *Ibid.*, Part II, pp. 62, 71. * *Ibid.*, Vol. XVIII, p. 247. ⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 131. ° *Ibid.*, p. 918.
⁵ *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, p. 477. ⁶ As. Res., Vol. IX, p. 264. ⁷ J. A. S. B., Vol. XX, p. 272. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Vol. XIX, p. 454. » *Ibid.*, p. 475.

The following ten years were not much more fruitful, though each year brought some more or less important discovery. Thus in 1851 we have a very short notice of certain hitherto unvisited rockcut caves near the village of Marah in Singbhiim, which had been seen by the Rev. Mather in January, 1850; * and of a fine ancient stone bridge (Sil Hako) near Gowhatty in the Kamrup District.² In 1852, we have detailed descriptions by Mr. W. Jackson and Mr. (now Sir) E. C. Bayley of sculptures found in the Peshawur District and exhibiting traces of Greek influence.³ In 1853 there is a notice of an inscription from Pehewa in the Thanessar District found by Mr. Bowering and published by Babu Kájendralála Mitra.⁴ The year 1854 brings us the two now well-known rock inscriptions found by Mr. E. C. Bayley on two large granite boulders about thirty yards apart, near the village of Khunnidra in the Kángra District. Though exceedingly small, consisting of only two or three words, they are of extreme interest, seeing that they are duplicates in the ancient Arinn Páli and Indian Páli characters respectively.⁵ In the same year Mr. E. Thomas also published the result of the final excavations, so far as made by Captain M. Kittoe and himself, on the site of the well-known old tope and monastery at Sárnáth near Benares.⁶ This report was continued, in the twenty-fifth volume of the Journal in 1856, from official papers communicated by the Government of the N. W. Provinces. In 1855 there is an important contribution by Captain E. Taite Dalou, giving a full description of the antiquities of Assam, especially its temples and sculptures (in Gow-

¹ J.A.S. B., Vol. XX, p. 283. * *Ibid.*, p. 291. » *Ibid.*, Vol. XXI, pp. 511, 606.
 * *Ibid.*, Vol. XXII, p. 673; see also Vol. XXXII, p. 97; Vol. XXXIII, p. 223.
⁶ *Ibid.*, Vol. XXIII, p. 57. ^a *Ibid.*, p. 469. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Vol. XXV, p. 395-

hatty, Tejpore, Seesee, and other places).¹ There is also a very meagre notice of the ruins of the deserted city of Dhiilme in Manbhiim by Mr. Henry Fiddington.¹

With 1857 begins a series of valuable contributions on the antiquities of Burma. It was commenced by Captain Henry Yule, on the ancient Buddhist remains, chiefly temples at Pugán on the Ir&wadi,³ and continued by Colonel (now Sir) A. P. Phayre, who, in 1860 added an account of an ancient Buddhist monastery, in 1863 of an old Burmese inscription, and in 1864 of some ancient tiles at the same place.⁴ In 1858, Mr. FitzEdward Hall published two copper land grants of the Rathore Princes, Madanapála and Govinda Chandra of Kanauj, neither of very great importance;⁵ and in the following year, 1859, he added a Sanskiit stone inscription, from Harsauda in the Hoshangabad District, of an unknown prince Devapála, recording the construction of a temple and a tank.⁶ In the previous year, Mr. Henry Cope also made known a series of six Persian inscriptions, mostly of the earliest Moghul Emperors, all of which exist on certain public buildings in Labor.⁷

With the year 1861 contributions describing archaeological discoveries again began to become*more numerous. Thus several very important land grants were made known in that j⁷ear, among them especially two grants, on two and three copperplates respectively, of king Hastin, which, being dated in terms both of the Gupta era and the Jovian Cycle, are of extreme value for the determination of the initial year of that ancient era. They are said to have

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. XXIV, p. 1. » *ibid.*, p. 207. ^f *Ibid.*, Vol. XXVI, p. i
 • *Ibid.*, Vol. XXIX, p. 346 ; Vol. XXXII, p. 2<7 ; Vol. XXXIII, p. 57. *'j^d'
 Vol XXVII, pp. 217, 241. • *Ibid.*, Vol. XXVIII, p. 1. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Vol. XXVII,
 p. 308.

been procured from Nagode in Bundelkhand, and are now deposited in the Benares College.¹ A third is a large stone inscription from Belhari, which throws much light on the old kingdom of Chedi and its Kulachiiri princes.³ A fourth is a Malava land grant on two copper-plates of the tenth century, found not far from Indore.³ These four inscriptions were all made public by Mr. FitzEdward Hall. In the same year, it may be mentioned, Babu Rájendralála Mitra republished from Mr. E. Thomas's edition of J. Prinsep's Indian Antiquities⁴ the important Arian Páli inscription, which had been discovered by Mr. Masson on a brass vase in one of the Wardak topes in Afghanistan.⁵ The same made known in the following year, 1862, a number of relics and a small Arian Páli inscription found by Captain Stubbs not far from Ráwal Piudi in the Punjab, where they had been exhumed from the centre of some ruins.⁶ Mr. FitzEdward Hall again published three more copper land grants of the Kulachiiri princes of Chedi, one of which, however, had already appeared previously in the Journal of 1839.⁷ The most valuable contribution, however, was one by Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Yule on the ancient Indian remains, both Búddhistic and Brahmanical, in the Island of Java, the existence of some of which was known from the earlier accounts of Messrs. Raffles and Crawford. The temples now described were those of Mundot, Boro Bodor, and Brambauau.⁸ In 1863, there are an account by the Kev. J. Loe wen thai of some antiquities in the Peshawar

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. XXX, p. 1; see also Genl. A. Cunningham's Arch. Report, Vol. X, Appendix. ² J. A. S. B., Vol. XXX, p. 317. ³ *Ibid.*, p. 195. ⁴ See Ind. Ant., Vol. I, p. 163. ⁵ J. A. S. B., Vol. XXX, p. 337. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXI, p. 175; see also *ibid.*, p. 184. ⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 111; see also Vol. VIII, p. 431. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXI, pp. 16, 20, 24.

District,¹ and some remarks on the Taxila and other Arian Páli inscriptions by Major-General A. Cunningham and Babu Rájendralála Mitra.² The latter also published two stone inscriptions, one a Chandel one from Kajráha in Bundelkhand, the other a Chedi one from Ratanpur in the province of Nágpur.³ It may be mentioned here, that, in the volume of the Journal for the year 1863, General A. Cunningham's Archaeological Survey Report was published for the first time as a *supplementary number,' communicated by the Government of India. This practice was only continued, however, for three years, the Archaeological Reports published in the three Journals being for the years 1861—1864.⁴

General Cunningham's operation undoubtedly gave a new stimulus to archaeological researches; for, during the next following years, contributions on this subject to the Journal grew more and more numerous, so much so that some of the volumes are almost entirely taken up by them. For the most part, however, these contributions refer to remains, not of the highest antiquity, but of the middle ages, immediately before and after the Miihammadan conquest of India. Thus, in 1864, the Rev. J. Loewenthal sent some Persian inscriptions recorded in the tombs and mosques of Srinagar in Kashmir.⁵ Captain C. Glasfurd reported on the Hindu antiquities (temples, ruins, sculptures, and inscriptions) of Bustar, about eight hundred years old.⁶ From Captain H. Mackenzie there is a short note on the antiquities of Guzerat, including some inscriptions from Hailan.⁷ Babu Rájendralála Mitra published

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. XXXII, p. 1. « *Jbid.*, pp. 139, 151; see also Vol. XXXIII, p. 35. ² *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXII, pp. 273, 277. • *Ibid.*, p. i (for 1861-1862); Vol. XXXIII, p. i (for 1863-1864); Vol. XXXIV, p. 295 (for 1862-1863). * *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIII, p. 278. • *Ibid.*, p. 44. • * *Ibid.*, pp. 402, 549. '

a copper land grant of Mahendrapála Deva of Kanauj, found at Digheva Dúbanesar in the Sárún District.¹ He also described some ancient Buddhist remains of a monastery excavated by Mr. Harris in connection with the East Indian Railway at Sultanganj. In it, among other relics, a colossal copper figure of Buddha was discovered.²

It had all along been well known that Benares was in a sense the "birthplace of Buddhism;" yet, strange to say, hitherto few or no Buddhist remains in the city proper had been discovered, but the reason of this was that they had never been sought after. It is true, extensive ruins had been found at Sárnáth, but they were three miles distant from the present city. Accordingly a search was made in the course of the year 1863 by the Rev. M. A. Sherring and Mr. C. Home, jointly, with much success, and an account of the remains discovered at Bakaiiyakund, Rájghát and other places, was communicated by them in 1865 and 1866.³ They also reported on some ancient remains at Said púr and Bhitari, which hitherto had escaped notice.⁴ Mr. C. Home himself added a note on the already much discussed ruins of Buddha Gaya, on which subject there is also a note by Mr. W. Peppe in 1866, and by Babu Rájendralála Mitra in 1864.⁵ The latter also published an important inscription of the Seua Rájas of Bengal, found by Mr. C. T. Metcalfe near Deoparah in Rájsháhi, which gave fresh information on the earlier members of that royal house.⁶ In 1866, the Rev. W. G. Cowie described some of the temples of Kashmir, which had been left unnoticed by General A. Cunningham in

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. XXXIII, p. 321. * *Ibid.*, p. 360. • *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIV, p. 1; Vol. XXXV, p. 61; see also Vol. XLII, p. 160. « *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIV, p. 80. * *Ibid.*, p. 278; Vol. XXXV, p. 49; Vol. XXXIII, p. 173. • *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIV, p. 12S.

his Essay published in the Journal for 1848 ;^x and three years later, in 1869, Lieutenant-Colonel D. F. Newall again added the description of a few more, those of Razdan in the Lar Pergunnah.⁹ Captain W. R. Melville reported the discovery of some " totally new Buddhist ruins " of a temple, containing some sculptures and an inscription, situated at D&1> Ktind in Eastern Rajputdna.³ Mr. W. J. Herschel described a very curious old fort and temple of Cliandrarekhagarh, which he found in the jungle near Sash-tani in the Midnapur District,⁴ and Lieutenant-Colonel E. T. Dalton, some antiquities in Manbhúm, some of which had been already previously noticed.⁶ Babu Rájendralála Mitra made known a copper land, grant from Sambalpur,⁶ and the important well-known inscriptions of the later Guptas from Apsar and Bihar, one of which had been already before published in 1840.⁷ In the Journal for 1867, Mr. C. Home continued his antiquarian papers, one on the Jumma Masjid of Etawah, originally a Hindu temple, another on the Buddhist remains in the Mainpuri District, and a third on the carvings on the Buddhist rail-posts at Buddha Gaya.⁸ A similar instance of a Hindu temple converted into a mosque was noted by Mr. W. Herschel in the following year, 1868, at Gaganesvar in the Midnapur District.⁹ Babu Gaur Dass Bysack described the antiquities of Bagerhat, fifty miles south of Jessore, consisting of Muhammadan tombs and mosques, not more than four hundred years old ;¹⁰ and Lieutenant Ayrton Pullan, some ancient Hindu temple

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. XXXV, p. 91 ; see also Vol. XVII, p. 241. » *Ibid.*,
 Vol. XXXVIII, p. 177. " *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXV, p. 168. ⁴ *Ibid.*,? 181. • *Ibid.*,
 p. 186. " *Ibid.*, p. 195. ⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 268 ; see also Vol. IX, p. 66. • *Ibid.*,
 Vol. XXXVI, pp. 74, 105, 107, 157. • *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXVII, p. 73. > *Ibid.*,
 Vol. XXXVI, p. 126.

inadan rulers. The inscriptions, together with notes on the buildings in which they occurred, which were made public by Mr. Blochmann in the year 1870, were from Tribeni, Mulla Simla, S&tg&nw, Panduah, and Din&n&th in the Hughli District.¹ In 1871 followed inscriptions from Burdwan and Gaur, together with a few others not belonging to Bengal;⁸ and in 1872, some from Dinájpiir, Dháká, Dhámrái, Badaon, and 'Alápúr.³ Finally, from 1873 to 1875, came his well-known contributions to the geography and history of Bengal during the Muhammadan period, based partly on the inscriptions already published, partly on others which were now first made known.⁴

To return again to the year 1870, Mr. J. D. Tremlett described some of the ancient Hindu and Patlian buildings of historical or architectural interest situated in or around the site of old Dehli, which had been left unnoticed in the Archaeological Reports of General Cunningham.⁵ There are also some notes of lesser interest on the antiquities of the Haiti, the Assia and the Mahávinayaka Hills of Cuttack by Babu Chandrasekhara Banurji,⁶ supplemented afterwards, in 1875, by Mr. J. Beames, on the Alti Hills ;⁷ also some notice of the archaeological remains at Shah-ki-Dlieri and the site of Taxila in the Punjab by Mr. J. G. Delmerick,⁸ and of three sets of copper land grants discovered in the Vizagapatam District, by the Rev. T. Foulkes.⁹ In 1871, there was an important report by Captain W. L. Samuells on the discovery of ruins of rock-cut temples of the

» J. A. S. B., Vol. XXXIX, pp. 280, 283, 291, 292, 300, 302.² *Ibid.*, Vol. XL, pp. 251, 256, 258. ^a *Ibid.*, Vol. XLI, pp. 102, 107, 109, 110, 112. « *Ibid.*, Vol. XLII, p. 209; Vol. XLIII, p. 280 ; Vol. XLIV, p. 275. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIX, p. 70. • *Ibid.*, p. 158. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Vol. XLIV, p. 19. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIX, p. 89, ⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 153.

ninth or tenth century at Harchoka on the Rewa and Chutiya-N&gpiir frontier.¹ There were also some less important notes on the antiquities of Jájpur in Orissa by Babu Chandrasekhara Banurji ;² and on three rather modern inscriptions, one of them in Hindi verse, found in Chutiya-Ndgpur, by Babu Rakhal Das Hndar.* Mr. J. Beanies also contributed notices of Buddhist ruins at Kopari in the Balasore District,⁴ and in the following year, 1872, some more on the remains at Chhativa near Katak.⁵ In the same year the antiquities of the much-discussed and much-described home of Buddhism, Bihar, was once more treated very fully by Mr. A. AL Broadley.⁶

Hitherto the historic remains of ancient and mediaeval India had almost entirely monopolised the attention of the Society, but now the so-called prehistoric remains also began to be drawn within the sphere of their research. One of the first moves in this direction had already been made in 1870 by Colonel Sir A. Phayre, who reported the discovery of a circle of tall, upright stones near Sung Butte in the district of Yusufzai in Afghanistan.⁷ Col. E. T. Dalton now contributed, in 1873, a description of rude sepulchral stone monuments in Chutiya-N&gpiir and other places.⁸ The subject was continued some years later, in a series of papers, by Mr. H. Rivett-Carnac, who described in 1877 the ancient sculpturings (cup-marks, circles, &c.) to be seen on rocks in Kumaon, similar to those found on monoliths and rocks in Europe ;⁹ in 1879, the prehistoric remains in Central India (Ndgpiir, etc.);¹⁰ and in 1883, stone implements from the N.-W. Provinces of India.¹¹

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. XL, p. 177. ² *Ibid.*, p. 151. • *ibid.*, p. 108. ⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 247. * *Ibid.*, Vol. XLI, p. 7. ⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 209. » *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIX, p. 58. • *Ibid.*, Vol. XLII, p. 112. • *Ibid.*, Vol. XLVI, p. 1. » *ibid.*, Vol. XLVIII, p. 1. ¹¹ *Ibid.*, Vol. LII, p. 221.

Mr. W. King, also, noticed in 1877 a prehistoric burial-place with cruciform monoliths, near Mungapet in the Nizam's dominions.¹

In the volume of 1873, Babu Rdjendral&la Mitra published copper land grants of the Rathore prince Govinda Chandra of Eanauj of the twelfth century A.D.;² and in the following year, 1874, two more inscriptions, one on stone, from the P&lam Bdoli in the Dehli District,³ of the thirteenth century, and another far more important one, on a copperplate, of the time of Chandragupta in the fourth century, discovered by^T General Cunningham at Indor near Anupshahar on the Ganges.⁴ Another copper land grant found near Chittagong, of the thirteenth century, was made known by Babu Pranndth Pandit.⁵ Dr. Wise noticed some Muhammadau antiquities about Sanargaon in Eastern Bengal;⁶ and Colonel E. T. Dalton, a large Muhammadau picture, representing the conquest of Palaman in 1660 by Daud Khán, Aurangzib's General.⁷

The temple ruins of Assam, a subject which, though well worthy of research, had been neglected since 1855, was now taken up again by Major H. H. Godwin-Austen, who described the ruins at Dimápur,⁸ and Mr J. M. Foster, who described those at Jayaságar.⁹ In 1875, Mr. E. Vesey Westmacott noticed an inscribed pillar and other traces of Buddhism in Dinájpur and Bagura.¹⁰ He also published a copper land grant of Lakhsman Sen found in a small tank at the former place.¹¹ Mr. F. S. Growse published some Bacchanalian sculptures which had been found in Mathurá in 1836, hitherto considered to be Grecian, but which he thought might be Buddhist or Brahmanic.¹³ He

i J. A. S. B., Vol. XLVI, p. 179. * *Ibid.*, Vol. XLII, p. 314. ¹ *Ibid.*, Vol. XLIII, p. 104. ⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 363. * *Ibid.*, p. 318. ^a *Ibid.*, p. 82. ¹ *Ibid.*, p. 240. ⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 1. ⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 311. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Vol. XLIV, p. 187. ¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 1. ⁿ *Ibid.*, Vol. XLV, p. 212.

afterwards, in 1878, 1879 and 1883, followed up his researches by exhaustive notes on the antiquities of Matliurd and Bulandshahar.¹ In the volume for 1877, Babu Chandrasekhara Banurji also noticed some of the antiquities met with in the Kaimur Range ;² and Babu Eangalála Banerji made known an important copper land grant, found in the Record Office of Katak, of the Kalinga prince Yayáti during the reign of Siya Gupta,³ while Babu Pratapa Chandra Ghosha published another copper land grant (on three plates) of the same early period, dug out in the Tributary State of Patna in the Sambalpur District.⁴ In 1878, three copper land grants of the Chandel Rájas were brought to notice by Dr. Rdjendralda Mitra and Mr. V. A. Smith.⁵ The latter followed this up in 1879, in conjunction with Mr. F. C. Black, by descriptions of some Chandel antiquities at Khajrdho and Mahoba, which had not been fully noticed by General Cunningham in his Archaeological Survey Reports.⁶ In 1880, Major Jarrett noticed a small Persian inscription found upon a stone lying near the ruins of a mosque on Lanka Island in the Walar Lake in Kashmir, of the time of Sultan Zayn-iil-A'ábidin;⁷ and Mr. H. Bivett - Carnac contributed some account of so - called "spindle whorls" and votive seals found at Sankisa, Behar, and other Buddhist ruins in the North-Western Provinces of India.⁸

In the following year, 1881, General A. Cunningham commenced a valuable series of descriptions of ancient Persian relics in gold, silver, and copper, mostly belonging to a large treasure found in 1877, on the north bank of the

» J. A. S. B., Vol. XLVII, p. 97 ; Vol. XLVIII, p. 270; and Vol. LII, p. 275.
⁸ *Ibid.*, Vol. XLVI, p. 16. ^a JM*. P- H9. « *Ibid.*, p. 173. ⁶ *Ibid.*,
Vol. XLVII, pp. 73, 80. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Vol. XLVIII, p. 285. * *Ibid.*, Vol. XLIX, p. 16.
• *Ibid.*, p. 127.

Oxus, near the town of Tahht-i-Kuwat.¹ He continued it in two memoirs in the volume for 1883.² In 1882, Mr. P. N. Bose reported the discovery by him of some earthen pots found in an ancient well at Mahesvara, similar to those found in the ancient town of Behat.³ Dr. R. Jendral & la Mitra followed, in 1883, with a notice of a Stone inscription of the fifteenth century found in the old Fort of Deogarh in the Lalitpur District,⁴ and with an exhaustive description of the tempfes of Deogarh in the Santhal Pergunnahs.⁵ The last year of the Society's century closes with the account, by Mr. R. Roskell Bayne, of the discovery of the very modern, though in some respects not the least interesting, remains of portions of the Old Fort William in Calcutta, as it existed towards the end of the last century.⁶

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. L, p. 151. ^a *Ibid.*, Vol. LII, pp. 64, and 258. • *Ibid.*, Vol. LI, p. 226. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Vol. LII, p. 67. * *Ibid.*, p. 164. ^a *Ibid.*, p. 105.

CHAPTER II.

COINS.

[Roman and Greek — Bactrian — Indo-Scythian — Sassanian — Buddhist — Surashtrian — Arakanese — Ghaznavite — Gupta — Buddhist Satraps — Punch-coins — Nāga, Mitra, Kunnda, &c. — Muhanimadan, of Bengal, Dehli, Jaunpur, &c. — South Indian — Homerite and Sabæan — Persian and Greek.]

THE first notice on the subject of Numismatic research occurs as early as the year 1790 in the second volume of the Asiatic Researches. It refers to the discovery, near Nelor in Southern India, of a number of "Roman Coins and Medals of the second century," reported in a letter of Mr. Alexander Davidson.¹ After this "there is nothing of numismatic interest in the volumes of the Asiatic Researches, until some time subsequent to Colonel Tod's publication in the Transactions of the Royal Asiatic Society of a memoir upon Greek, Parthian, and Indian medals, illustrated by engravings. It must not be inferred, however, that the subject was one of easy prosecution, or that it had been entirely neglected. There were not many private individuals in India who had the means or opportunities of forming collections of coins, and it was long after the institution of the Asiatic Society, in 1814, that any attempt was made to form a museum in connection with it of any description."² Gradually, however, a small collection was formed, partly from coins given by various members from time to time, but princi-

¹ As. Res., Vol. II, p. 332. ^f J. A. S. B., Vol. I, p. 392 ; As. Res., Vol. XII, App., p. v.; Pref. Wilson's *Ariana Antiqua*, pp. 4, ti.

pally from duplicates presented by the Government of Bengal, from the late Colonel Mackenzie's collection. From these, aided by a few others, Professor H. H. Wilson prepared an account of select Hindu coins in the Society's Cabinet in 1831.¹ The author was assisted in this undertaking by Mr. J. Prinsep, and the zealous interest which the latter thus learned to take in the subject of Indian numismatics did not cease with the occasion, and the continuance of his labours not only, but the stimulation of a similar interest in other parts of India, may be considered as the most important consequence of the publication of the paper in question.² The first fruits of Mr. J. Prinsep's new interest in coins was a description, in 1832, of the "Ancient Roman Coins in the Cabinet of the Asiatic Society,"³ and in 1833, of the Greek coins in the same Cabinet.⁴

Not long before, in 1830, General Ventura had excavated the celebrated Manikyála Tope, in which he had found a number of unknown curious coins, now known as Indo-Scythian. In the beginning of 1832, Lieutenant Barnes, on his way to Bokhara, visited Manikyála and inspected General Ventura's operations. The Bactrian and Indo-Scythian coins which he found on that occasion were described by Mr. J. Prinsep in 1833, together with some others with which he had been supplied ;⁶ and it may be noted that on one of the former the now well-known name of Kanerkes was for the first time distinctly legible. To his description Mr. J. Prinsep added some remarks on the historical bearings of the coins, and some speculations as to the appropriations of such as were least known.

¹ As. Res., Vol. XVII, p. 560. « See *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 8. • J. A. S. B., Vol. I, p. 392. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 27. • *Ibid.*, Vol. III, p.*310.

He little anticipated at that time the extent to which materials were about to pour in upon him, or the important conclusions which he was consequently enabled to establish or suggest. Only two months later, in the same year, he was enabled to publish a description and engravings of eighteen coins, Bactrian and Hindu, chiefly from the collection of Dr. Swiney, amongst which were now made known, for the first time, some of the drachmae, no doubt spoken of by Arrian, those of Menander and Apollodotus. Some other coins, since known to belong to Indo-Scythic and Hindu princes, were also now, for the first time, delineated and described.¹

An accession of unexpected extent was soon after, in 1834, made through Mr. Masson's explorations of the ancient topes in Afghanistan, especially at a place named Beghram, of which an account was communicated to the public through the *Journal*.² Mr. Masson continued his researches about Beghram during the four succeeding years, and collected in this interval above thirty thousand coins. A further account of these operations is given in the *Journal* for 1836.³ Among the coins discovered by him are not only new ones of Greek princes already known, but also those of several whose names are not mentioned in history, as Antialkides, Lysias, Agathocles, Archebias, Pantaleon, and Hermaeus. He also found the coins of the king whose titles only are specified as the Great King of Kings, the Preserver, and of others whose names, although assuming a Greek form, indisputably denote barbaric or Indo-Scythic princes—Undopherres, Azes, Azilises, Kadphises, and Kanerkes. The first great step in the series of

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. II, pp. 87, 405. See *Ariana Antiqua*, pp. 9, 10. ² J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 153. See *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 10. ³ J. A. S. B., Vol. V, p. 1. See *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 11.

Bactrian numismatic discovery was thus accomplished, and the great object of later investigations became only, to complete and extend the structure, of which such broad foundations had been laid.¹

In consequence of a remark made by Mr. J. Prinsep in the previous volume of the Journal,² intimating the hope that a more precise account of General Ventura's discoveries might be published in its pages, which remark was communicated to that officer, he immediately, with the most disinterested liberality, placed his collection at the disposal of Mr. Prinsep. The latter, in the Journal for 1834, devoted two memoirs to the description of the General's collection.³ The coins were Sassanian and Indo-Scythic, The former added to their usual characteristic types and legends the peculiarity of a Nágari inscription, which, though then unintelligible, was afterwards, in 1838, deciphered by Mr. Prinsep in its entirety as referring to Persian princes, though of unknown and uncertain appellations.⁴ The Indo-Scythic coins were of the Kanerkes type, and, by comparison with some of the same kind sent by others, the legends on them, written in a barbarised form of Greek, were completely read by Mr. Prinsep.⁵ In the same Journal the latter also described some coins found by Captain (afterwards General) Court in another tope at Manikyála, which he had opened himself;⁶ a description which, in one point, was corrected by Lieutenant (now Major-General) A. Cunningham.⁷

¹ See *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 12. ² *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. II, p. 308. • *Jbid.*, Vol. III, pp. 313, 436. See *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 13. * *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. V. p. 418. » S[^] *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 14. • *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. III, p. 662. See also Captain Conrflr̄ Memoir, *ibid.*, p. 566. ' *Ibid.*, p. 635. See, however, *Journal des Savants*, February, 1836, p. 71; and *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 15.

The interest excited by the coins and relics of the Pan jab and the districts beyond the Indus, stimulated persons less favourably circumstanced than the officers of Ranjit Singh to look around them for such remains of past times as India Proper might afford ; and the search was not in vain. A curious discovery was made in 1833, by Captain Cautley, of the site of an ancient town near Behat in the Doab, which was seventeen feet below the surface of the soil.¹ It was laid bare in clearing out the bed of a canal, and, amongst other relics, a number of coins were found.² These were engraved and described by Mr. Prinsep in the Journal for 1834; some were rude specimens of Indo-Scythic coins, but others formed a new series distinguished by peculiar types and ancient Sanskrit characters.³ Their publication soon produced others of a similar description. Two procured at Chitore were sent by Major Stacy ; others were obtained by Lieutenant Conolly at Kanauj, and several were comprised in the Cabinet of Dr. Swiney. These were also described and delineated by Mr. Prinsep, who pointed out that the inscriptions on them were in the ancient Indian Pali alphabet.⁴ Three years later, in 1837, after having discovered the key to that alphabet, he deciphered the inscriptions, which were sufficiently distinct. From other specimens, since found in better preservation, it is now known that they belonged to ancient Hindu princes (Mitras, Dattas, Devas, Kunindas, Yaudheyas), who, as shown by the symbols on the coins, professed the Buddhist faith, and who must have belonged to a period when Buddhism prevailed in Upper Hindustan.⁵

J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 43. See *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 16. ^a J. A. S. B., p. 221.
¹ *Ibid.*, p. 227. * *Ibid.*, pp. 431, 433. See *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 16. * See
J. A. S. B., Vol. VI, v. 463 ; Vol. VII, pp. 1047, 1052.

At the same time another family of Indian coins was brought to notice — the coins of Kanauj. Some specimens had already appeared in 1832, in the seventeenth volume of the *Researches*,¹ but little was known of their appropriation. The legends on them were in the same characters as the second inscription on the celebrated **Allahabad** Pillar, and the decipherment of the latter by Dr. Mill, in 1834,³ determined them as belonging to a dynasty of princes bearing the family designation of Gupta. Some of the Gupta coins found at Kanauj by Lieutenant Conolly were described and figured by Mr. Prinsep in the *Journal*,³ and others were reported by Mr. Tregear as having been obtained at Jauupur.⁴

Thus, by the end of 1834, or in less than two years from the first attempt made in Calcutta to describe and delineate the ancient coins of India, vast numbers of the Greek coins of Bactria had been obtained, many bearing the names of kings never heard of before ; and equal numbers of the coins of the Indo-Scythic kings who succeeded the Greeks, and of the two families of the coins of Beliat and Kanauj—acquisitions which would have lingered on unnoticed and unprofitable for an indefinite period, had not Mr. Prinsep, then the editor of the Society's *Journal*, been ever *lit* hand to aid and encourage and make known the successful exertions of all who preceded or accompanied him in numismatic-research.⁵

The next contribution to the subject by Mr. Prinsep constitutes an important epoch in its history. It had been all along observed that all the later Bactrian and earlier Indo-Scythian coins, while they presented Greek inscriptions on

¹ *As. Res.*, Vol. XVII, p. 568, fig. 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19. * *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. III, p. 257. • *Ibid.*, p. 229. * *Ibid.*, p. 617. * See *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 18.

one face, offered on the reverse a legend in unknown characters. Having bestowed on these coins a deliberate investigation, Mr. Prinsep published another memoir, more fully descriptive of all which had been sent to him, or of which he had any knowledge up to the middle of the year 1835. The result of his investigation he stated to be, that it brought to light the names of several princes unknown to history ; that it furnished him with a clue to the alphabet which is found on the reverse of many of these coins ; and lastly, that it laid open a perfect link and connection between what had hitherto been called the Indo-Scythic coins with corrupted Greek inscriptions and the Hindu coins attributed, with reasonable certainty, to the Kanauj dynasties.¹ Of these three results the most important was the ascertainment of the unknown alphabet, the history of which will be detailed in another portion of this Review.² The other great object of Mr. Prinsep's conclusions was the connection that existed between the Indo-Scythic, the early Hindu, the Buddhist, the Surashtrian, the Gupta, the Rajput, and the early Muhammadan coins. He traced the connection through four memoirs, published in 1835, 1836 and 1837, illustrated with engravings, and in the course of them determined several curious and novel facts.³ The Buddhist coins of the Behat group are supposed to have originated with the so-called punch coins, rude pieces of silver, with various symbols punched on them, which may be considered the earliest attempts of the Hindus to fabricate a national currency, and which have been found in all parts of India in considerable numbers.⁴ At a later date they were more regularly formed, and when

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. IV, p. 327 ; also Vol. VII, p. 63 & See *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 18.

² See *infra*, p. 60. ³ J. A. S. B., Vol. IV, pp. 621, 668 ; Vol. V, p. 639 ; Vol. VI, p. 288. See *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 20. ⁴ *As. Res.*, Vol. XVII, p. 696. fig. 101-108.

assuming Buddhist symbols, they were probably struck in the monasteries of the period. Those which offer imitations of the Indo-Scythic coins, of course followed the establishment of the princes of that nation. In a better style the type of the coins of these princes was also repeated on those of the Gupta princes of Kanauj ; and the latter again became the prototypes of the later coins of the various Rajput dynasties down to the time of the Muhammadau conquest.¹

While prosecuting his comparative researches in Indian numismatics, Mr. Prinsep did not neglect his examination of the Bactrian coins with which he had been so abundantly supplied by Mr. Masson and others. In 1836 he published two memoirs on new varieties of these coins which he had discovered, and from which he brought to light the names of several new princes, among them Archebias, Amyntas, and the Queen Agathokleia.² Another and no less curious series of coins, however, which were being found in Surásh-
tm, and of which a few detached specimens only had been before published, also attracted Mr. Prinsep's attention at this time (1834). He noticed that they were imitations of Bactrian coins,³ but the legends on them, which were to **him*** at first unintelligible, he only succeeded in deciphering two years later, in 1836, as written in an ancient form of Ndgari and referring to a dynasty of rulers which, as shown afterwards, bore the title of Kshatrapa (Satrap), and of which eleven descents could be made out from the coins. At the same time the first discovery was made, which was amply confirmed afterwards, that these coins were dated in an ancient form of the Nágari numerals.⁴

¹ See *Ariana Antiqua*, pp. 20, 21. * *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. V, pp. 348, 720. • *IhUl*, Vol. IV, p. 6S4. ⁴ *Jbid.*, Vol. VI. p. 377 ; Vol. VII, pp. 347, 348.^r

On the departure of Mr. Prinsep from India in November 1838, his researches into the Bactrian and Indo-Scythian coins were zealously continued by Captain (now Major-General) Alexander Cunningham, who all along had been the trusty coadjutor of Mr. Prinsep in his investigations.¹ His results Captain Cunningham communicated to the Society in 1840, 1842 and 1845, in three notices of some new Bactrian coins. In these he had the satisfaction of being able to add no less than nine new names to the already long list of Bactrian sovereigns; of which seven were pure Greek, and the other two genuine Parthian.² In a fourth notice on the same subject, in 1840, he described a number of Bactrian and Sassanian coins found by Captain Hay at Bamiran.³ The extensive demand for Bactrian coins, engendered by the eager interest widely taken in them consequent upon the researches of the Numismatists, led to the natural, though undesirable, result of attempts, made chiefly by native workmen, to supply it by means of forgeries. The experienced eye of Captain A. Cunningham, however, at once discovered them; and in two notices on counterfeit Bactrian and Indo-Scythian coins, he supplied the unwary collector with the much needed information.⁴

These two classes of coins, together with the Surashtrian and Sassanian, had hitherto concentrated on themselves the almost undivided attention of those engaged in Indian numismatic research. This was natural; for being the most ancient as well as the most obscure, they naturally offered the widest and most promising field for discoveries. But the harvest now began to grow exhausted, and the eyes

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. V, p. 652. ² *Ibid.*, Vol. IX, Pt. I, pp. 867, 1008; and Vol. XI, Pt. I, p. 130; Vol. XIV, Pt. I, p. 430. ³ *Ibid.*, Vol. IX, Pt. I, pp. 68, 70, 531.
⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 393; Pt. II, p. 1217.

of the inquisitive began to turn in other directions. Still there were gleanings to be made, as fresh coins of those classes were constantly being found in various places. Thus Mr. Laidlay noticed, in 1848, eight Indo-Scythian gold coins found at Kussaraya in the Mungir District,¹ and Captain (now General) James Abbott, in 1853, a few Bactrian and Indo-Scythian coins, got from their old well-known find-place, the neighbourhood of Manikyald;² while Mr. E. Thomas, in 1851, contributed a description of a curious new coin of the Sassanian type.³ The most important later finds, however, were a silver coin of a new Bactrian king, Plato the Illustrious, reported by Mr. J. Delmerick in 1872,⁴ and a deposit of twenty Indo-Scythian and Koman gold coins, excavated by Mr. W. Simpson from the Ahin Posh Tope at Jalálabád and described by the writer of this Review in the ⁴ 'Proceedings' for 1879.⁵ A small hoard of ten Surashtrian coins, found near Chhindwára in 1882 by Mr. J. W. Tawney, may also be noticed⁶

About this time an altogether different field, that of the Muhammadau coins of India, comes, for the first time, prominently into view. Some indications of this field had already been given by Mr. Prinsep⁷ and the Hon'ble H. T. Colebrooke, the latter of whom described, in 1841, "a quantity of coins of the Musalman kings of Bengal found at Howrah," and presented to the Society by Mr. H. R. Torrens.⁸ The latter species of coins, though now not uncommon, were in those days of such rarity that it was far easier to procure the coins of Alexander or his

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. XVII. Part I, p. 454. * *Ibid.*, Vol. XXII, p. 573. See also *Hid.*, Vol. XX, p. 137. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Vol. XX. p. 525. * Proceedings for 1872, pp. 34, 174. ⁶ *Ibid.*, for 1879, pp. 77, 122, 210. • *Ibid.*, for 1882, p. 114 ; see also p. 41.

^f J. A. S. B., Vol. IV, pp. 679, «80. « *Ibid.* Vol. X, Part I, p. 108/

successors in Bactrin, than those of the Sultans of Bengal.¹ The Bengal coins of the Society's Cabinet, together with others which were in his own possession, received a careful examination at the hands of Mr. Laidlav, the result of which he communicated in the *Journal* for 1846, and by which he succeeded in throwing considerable light on the history of the independent kings of Bengal, until then very little known. The series of these kings he succeeded in tracing by the help of the coins, with tolerable continuity, from the first independent Sultan, Ilyds Shdh, down to the last Mali múd Sháh, with whom the independence of the kingdom of Bengal was extinguished.² After Mr. Laidlay's first attempt, the subject of the Bengal coins remained entirely unnoticed till, upwards of twenty years afterwards, in 1867, when, as will be shown below, it was taken up in right earnest by Mr. E. Thomas and Mr. H. Blochmann, owing to the happy discovery of an extraordinary large hoard of Bengal coins.

In the meanwhile, investigations of no less interest and with equally important results were carried on in other, as yet almost, if not quite, untrodden fields of numismatic research. Thus, in 1846, the first information and delineation of the comparatively modern coins of Arakan of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was supplied by Captain (now General Sir) A. P. Phayre;³ and at the same time if was supplemented by Lieutenant Thomas Latter by a description and delineation of another species of Arakan coins, bearing ancient Nágari characters which he did not recognize,⁴ but which were afterwards, in 1872, shown by Captain (now Colonel) G. E. Fryer to be coins of an ancient

¹ J. A. S! B., Vol. XV, p. 324. ⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 323. » *Ibid.*, p. 232. « *Ibid.*, p. 238.

Arakanese dynasty of the eighth and ninth centuries, A. D. ;* a conclusion which, in 1878 and 1880, was confirmed by Dr. Rájendralála Mitra from a new find of similar coins.²

In 1852, Mr. E. Thomas, who had already successfully investigated the coins of the kings of Ghazni from the specimens in Mr. Masson's large collection,³ contributed another no less valuable memoir on that subject in the pages of the Society's Journal, based on the Ghazni coins in Colonel Stacy's Cabinet. It described coins belonging to six sovereigns, including Subaktigin, Ismael, Mahmiid, Mas'aiid, Madiid, and Ibráhim; it incidentally also noticed a curious coin of the Rájput Bull and Horseman type inscribed with⁴ 'Mas'aiid,' the name of one of these sovereigns.⁴ In connection with this subject it may be mentioned that, in the year before, 1851, Mr. E. Thomns had published descriptions and delineations of eight specimens of Central Asiatic Kufic coinages of various dates and kingdoms.⁵ A few years later, in 1855, he contributed a valuable memoir on a very different, as well as much more ancient, and for Indian history much more important, class of coins, those known by the name of the Gupta dynasty, of which two principal species had been met with, one in gold, the other in silver. These coins had already been noticed by Mr. J. Prinsep and correctly appropriated by him, though he was unable to read the legends on the second species of them.⁶ Since his time coins of this class were repeatedly found in various places, and occasionally noticed in the Journal. Thus, in 1852, Major M.

» J. A. S. B., Vol. XLI, Part I, p. 201. ² Proceedings for 1878, pp. 102, 103 ; and for 1880, pp. 53, 54. ³ See Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society for 1848. ⁴ J. A. S. B., Vol. XXI, p. 115. See also a later notice by Mr. C. J. Rodgers, in Proceedings for 1879, p. 78 ; and for 1881, p. 4. * J. A. S. B., Vol. XX, p. 537. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 230; and Vol. IV, p. 687.

Kittoe brought to notice a large hoard found at Benares, of which some were described and figured by Mr. (now Sir) E. C. Bayley;¹ and in the same year, Dr. Rájendralála Mitra described and delineated three curious coins found at Muhammdpur in the Jessore District, among which, however, only one is probably to be classed as a Gupta coin, while another is now known to belong to the Susanka series, and the third is a South Indian coin.² In the memoir of 1855, already alluded to, Mr. E. Thomas, who had the advantage of examining all these coins together with others in Colonel Stacy's and his own possession, successfully brought together and systematised all that had hitherto been ascertained regarding the gold and silver currency of the Guptas, adding at the same time much new information, especially with regard to their silver coinage.³ Another class of coins, more ancient and hardly less important than those of the Guptas, but having their affinities rather with the Indo-Scythian coins, was brought to notice about the same time, in the Journal of 1854, by Major A. Cunningham. These are the so-called coins of the Indian Buddhist Satraps, of Mahigala, Jivauisa, and Kájabala, the peculiarity of which is that they exhibit for the first time pure Hindu names written in Greek characters. They are of the highest interest and value for the elucidation of Indian history just before the Christian era, as they afford a sure guide to the religious and political state of India at that particular period.⁴

Atthirttime a long pause occurred; during the next ten years, from 1855 to 1864, the Journal contains not

¹J. A. S. B., Vol. XXI, pp. 390, 392. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Vol. XXI, p. 401. • *'ibid.*, Vol. XXIV, p. 483. For some later notices of finds of Gupta coins of well-known types, see Proceedings for 1878, p. 191; for 1879, p. 174; for 1881, p. 39; for 1882, p. 112. « J. A. S. B., Vol. XXIII, p. 679.

a single numismatic contribution. But though there was no outward manifestation, the work of enquiring into the coinages of India was carried on with undiminished zeal, in the study and in the field. The first fruit of this laborious though quiet research was the publication by Mr. E. Thomas, in the Journal for 1864 and 1865, of three learned memoirs on "ancient Indian weights."¹ The substance of these memoirs had been originally prepared by him for insertion in the Numismatic Chronicle, but as a large proportion of their contents proved, in the progress of the enquiry, to relate to questions beyond the legitimate scope of that Journal, they were, in a revised and amplified form, published in **the** Society's Transactions. The attention of archaeologists had, just then, been attracted to the weights and measures of ancient nations, by the elaborate work of M. Queipo, and the less voluminous but more directly interesting article of Mr. R. S. Poole (in Smith's Dictionary of the Bible) on the Babylonian and other early metrologies. Mr. E. Thomas's memoirs on the system of the ancient Indian weights is not the least valuable contribution to this enquiry. For "that system, in its local development, though necessarily possessing a minor claim upon the consideration of the European world, may well maintain a leading position in the general investigation, on the ground of its primitive and independent organization, and **the** very ancient date at which its terms were embodied and defined in writing; while to numismatists it offers the exceptional interest of possessing extant equivalents of the specified weights given in the archaic documentary record which Saksrit literature has preserved in the text of the original Code of the Hindus."

» J. A. S. B., Vol. XXXIII, p. 251; Vol. XXXIV, pp 14, 51.

In the course of his memoirs, the author proves the very early date of the employment of coined money in India, the earliest representatives of which were the so-called "punch-coins," already referred to in connection with the Behat discovery. These were "flat pieces of metal, some round, some square or oblong, adjusted with considerable accuracy to a fixed weight and usually of an uniform purity, seemingly verified and stamped anew with distinctive symbols by succeeding generations, which clearly represented an effective currency long before the ultimate date of the engrossment of the Laws of Manu."¹ These pieces may still be found all over Northern India in unusual numbers, though mostly in silver, while their more perishable and less esteemed copper equivalents are of very rare occurrence. Their appearance may be judged from the delineations on the two plates which accompany Mr. Thomas's memoirs.² At a later date the ancient Indian coinage shows distinct traces of Greek influence; notably in the case of the Surashtrian and Gupta coins.

Another class of coins of this type, though preserving more of a distinctively Indian character, was brought to notice by Major-General A. Cunningham, at the same time that Mr. Thomas's memoir on the earliest currency appeared. In the Journal for 1865, he described and delineated coins, mostly of great rarity, of three different dynasties which anciently held sway in Narwar and Gwalior, and the earliest of which, that of the so-called "nine Nágas," was contemporary with the Guptas, in the second century of the Christian era.³ To the same type belong the coins of the *Sunga or Mitra dynasty, which reigned in north Panchala, the modern Rohilkhand, and, like the Nágas,

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. XXXIV, p. 15. ² *Ibid.*, Plates ix and xi. ³ *Ibid.*, p. 115.

was contemporary with the great Guptas. Colonel Stacy's specimens of their coins, as well as of those of the Nágas, had been already noticed by Mr. J. Prinsep,¹ as long ago as 1837, since when little or nothing had been added to their knowledge. But, in 1879, Mr. H. Rivett-Carnac was so fortunate as to procure a considerable number and variety of them from the ruined site of the ancient town of Ahichhatra. They were placed by him in the hands of Mr. A. C. Carlley, who published a careful description and delineation of them in the *Journal* for 1880.² Later, in the same volume, Mr. Rivett-Carnac **himself** gave a large number of additional delineations of Mitra coins and others similar to them.³ A few years previously, in 1873, the Hon'ble E. C. Bayley had published two other coins of the same class, found on the site of the ancient city of Kausambhi,⁴ and in 1875 Dr. Rájendraálá Mitra contributed some further elucidation of another well-known and often described kind of coin of the same type, that of Kuuanda, of which a new specimen had been found at Kama!⁵ Two curious gold coins, of unknown attribution, but probably belonging to the same class, were described and delineated by the writer of this Review in 1881 and 1882.⁶

These were but gleanings on the field of the earlier Hindu coinages of India — a field which now, after the long continued and searching labours of General Cunningham and his co-workers, appears rapidly to become exhausted. But there was still a field on which,

>See J. A. S. B., Vol. VI, pp. 297, 298. ² *Ibid.*, Vol. XLIX, p. 21. * *Ibid.*, Vol. XLIX, pp. 87, 138. See also, for a later find, *Proceedings* for 1881, p. 64. < J. A. S. B., Vol. XLII, pp. 109, 191. * *Ibid.*, Vol. XLIV, p. 82. See also Mr. Thomas's *Description and Delineation* in Vol. XXXIV, p. 65. ^a *Proceedings* for 1881, pp. 39, 138, and for 1882, pp. 91, 194.

though much had been already done, there remained yet very much more to be done by those of a later day, who took an interest in the numismatics of India. This field comprised the varied and, some of them, extensive hoards of Muhammadan coins—the imperial coinage of Delhi as well as the provincial ones of Bengal, Gujrat, Malwa, and others. It included also the later Hindu coins of Kashmir, Kangra, &c, contemporary with, and subsequent to, the Muhammadan conquest. Here again, after a preliminary publication, in 1864, of a catalogue and delineations of Muhammadan coins current in the bazars of the Gujrat District in 1859, the experienced numismatist, Mr. E. Thomas, some of whose valuable contributions on a similar subject have been already noticed, took the lead. It was a remarkable discovery which afforded the occasion. In 1863, an extraordinarily large hoard of coins, numbering in all not less than 13,500 pieces of silver, was found in Cooch Bihar, in Northern Bengal. The autumnal foil of a river bank, not far removed from the traditional capital of Kanteswar Rája, a king of mark in provincial annals, disclosed to modern eyes the hidden treasure of some credulous mortal who, in olden time, entrusted his wealth to the keeping of an alluvial soil, carefully stored and secured in brass vessels specially constructed for the purpose, but destined to contribute undesignedly to an alien inheritance, and a disinterment at a period much posterior to that contemplated by its depositor. This accumulation, so singular in its numerical amount, is not less remarkable on account of its component elements, all the coins being, with a very few exceptions of imperial coins of Delhi, the unmixed produce of the provincial mints of Bengal, and embracing the records of no more than ten kings, ten mint cities, and one hundred and seven years up to the end of the fourteenth

century. From this great store careful selections were made by Dr. Rájendralála Mitra for the Calcutta Mint, the Asiatic Society and Colonel C. S. Gutlirie,¹ and these selections afforded to Mr. Thomas the leading materials for his invaluable monograph on "The Initial Coinage of Bengal," which was first published in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland,³ and afterwards in 1867 reprinted in the pages of the Journal of this Society.³ After an introductory exposition of the Muhammadan system of coinage, the monograph proceeds to describe and delineate the coins of ten Bengal sovereigns, beginning with Ruknuddīn Kai Kaus, and ending with Gliiyásuddin, 'Azam Sháh, noticing at the same time the imperial coins of Násiruddīn Mahmúd Shdh and of Jalálatuddin Riziyh.

A careful examination of these coins enabled the author to throw considerable light on the hitherto little or obscurely known history of the early Muhanimadau occupation of Bengal, extending over a century and a half. There still, however, remained much to be cleared up, especially regarding the course of events during those frequent rebellions to which the Governors of Bengal were tempted by the remoteness of their province from the centre of the empire. One of these residual obscurities, relating to the rebellion of the Bengal Governor, Gliiyásuddin 'Iwaz, Mr. Thomas himself was able to clear up some years later, owing to the discovery, near the fort of Bihar, of thirty-seven coins, among which were some of Ghiyásuddin, and others of the contemporary Delili Emperor, Altamsh. Regarding these Mr. Thomas contributed to the Journal of 1873 a supplementary memoir

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. XXXIII, p. 480. ^a See Journal, R. A. S., Vol. II, p. I, (N. S.) * J. A. S. B., Vol. XXXVI, p. 1.

of the Initial Coinage of Bengal.¹ Still later in 1881, another of the residual obscurities, relating to the history of the rebellion of the Governor Mughisuddin Yuzbaq, was elucidated by a third discovery of a hoard of thirty-eight coins near Gauhati in Assam, which were described and delineated in the Journal of that year by the writer of the present Review.

In the meanwhile a large and varied number of Bengal coins of a somewhat later period had been accumulating in the Society's Cabinet. These, with some others in the possession of private individuals, were subjected to a careful examination by Mr. H. Blochmann, the late Philological Secretary of the Society, who brought to bear on them his extensive linguistic and historic experience. The result were three very valuable memoirs on "The Geography and History of Bengal," published in the Journals for 1873, 1874, 1875, in the course of which he described and delineated a large number of coins of eleven of the independent Sultans of Bengal, and by their aid settled many hitherto disputed or obscure points in their history.² Some additional information on the same subject was afforded by the Hon'ble E. C. Bayley, who, in 1873, contributed a notice and delineation of a rare coin of the independent Sultan of Bengal, Muzaffar Shah;³ and a little later by Mr. J. G. Delmerick, who, in 1876, noticed and delineated two new coins of Bahádur Shah and Husain Shah.⁴ In the very last year of the century, 1883, a new find of coins of Mahmúd Sháh 1. and Bárbak Sháh, which were described and delineated by the writer of the present Review, removed some further obscurities in the

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. XLII, p. 343. ² *Ibid.*, p. 209 ; Vol. XLIII. p. 280; Vol. XLIV, p. 275. * *Ibid.*, Vol. XLII, p. 311. « *Ibid.*, Vol. XLV, p. 245.

history of those two Sultans.¹ Thus, within the short space of seventeen years, the coins of Bengal, which formerly were hardly known at all, became one the richest and best ascertained of the Indian coinages.

While this active research in the coins of Bengal was going on, those of the great Delhi empire were not neglected. Already in 1847, Mr. E. Thomas, who had made the Muhammadan coins of India his particular study, had published a separate memoir on the "Coins of the Pathan Sultans of Hindustan;" to which he added a "Supplement" in 1851. But the rapidly increasing accumulation of new and very ample materials induced him to undertake a thorough revision of the whole subject, the result of which appeared in a masterly form in 1871, as "The Chronicles of the Pathan Kings of Dehli."² The work, at the time of its appearance, could rightly claim to be almost exhaustive. But the subject of the Pathan coins is so extensive, that it cannot be wondered that further research brought to light so many new coins as to render the want of a supplement much felt. This want Mr. C. J. Rodgers, whom zealous numismatic enquiries had fitted for the task, undertook to supply; and in the Journals for 1880 and 1883 he contributed three supplementary memoirs, in which he described and delineated a large number of hitherto unnoticed or newly found coins of the Pathan Empire.³ A few isolated additions to Mr. Thomas's great work had been already previously made from time to time. Thus, in the Journal for 1871, Mr. E. C. Bayley described and delineated a rare coin of Sultau

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. LII, p. 211. ² See Preface to the *Chronicles of the Pathan Kings of Delhi*. ³ J. A. S. B., Vol. XLIX, pp. 81, 207; Vol. LII, p. 65.

Finiz Sháh Zsifar;¹ in 1873, he made known a unique gold coin of the usurper, Násiruddín Khusrau;² in 1876, the Rev. Mr. Crleton published an unique gold coin of Ndsiriuldám Mahmiid Shah ;³ in 1878, Mr. H. Blochman, an unique gold coin of Jalal-uddin Finiz Shah II ;⁴ in 1881, Mr. J. G. Delmerick, an unique silver coin of Shainsiulcliu Kainmrs ;⁶ and in 1880, Dr. C. R. Stulpnagel added a few new coins struck in the joint names of Ghij'ásuddiu and Muizzuddin bin Sám.⁶ Mr. J. G. Delmerick, the same whose contribution of two supplementary Bengal coins has already been noted, also contributed descriptions and delineations of some new and rare Pathans in the Journals for 1874, 1875 and 1876/ In his second and third papers also occur the first more detailed notices, ever published in the Journal, of some of the Muhammadan provincial coinages, those of Jaunpur,⁸ Malwa, Kulbsirga, and Kashmir, as well as of coins of the Mogul Empire.⁰ The researches into some of these provincial coins were pursued more especially by Mr. C. J. Rodgers, who has been just mentioned in connection with the Pathan coins. The Journals for 1879, 1880, 1881 and 1883 contain several valuable memoirs from him, on the coins of Akbar,¹⁰ those of the Sultans and Mahárdjas of Kashmir¹¹ and Kdngra,¹² and those of the Sikhs.^{1b} The subject of the provincial coins of South India was, about the same time, taken up by Dr. G. Bidie, who contributed to

i j. A. S. B., Vol. XL, p. 160. * *Ibid.*, Vol. XLII, p. 311. « Proceedings for 1875, p. 91. ⁴ *IM-*, for 1878, p. 64. * *Ibid.*, for 1881, p. 167. • J. A. S. B., Vol. XLIX, p. 29. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Vol. XLIII, p. 97 ; Vol. XLIV, p. 12G; Vol. XLV, p. 291. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Vol. XLIV, p. 126. See also Proceedings for 1881, pp. 40, 41. • J. A. S. B., Vol. XLV, p. 292. See also Proceedings for 1869, p. 266. " J. A. S. B., Vol. XLIX, p. 213; Vol. LII, p. 97. » *Ibid.*, Vol. XLVIII, pp. 277, 282. " *Ibid.*, Vol. XLIX, p. 10. " /<<*, Vol. L, p. 71.

the Journal for 1883 a short monograph on the so-called Pagoda or Varáha coins.¹

The last two contributions in the pages of the Society's Journal refer to countries beyond the confines of India proper. These are a memoir by Major W. F. Prideaux on the "Coins of Charibael, King of the Homerites and Sabaenns,"⁸ and two others by Major-General A. Cunningham on "Relics of Ancient Persia in Gold, Silver, and Copper," in which, among other relics, he describes and delineates a large number of coins of Persian kings and satraps and of Greek kings and cities, discovered in 1877 on the north bank of the Oxus. Thus, with the close of the century, the researches in Indian numismatics, as represented in the Society's Journal, after having gradually brought the whole extent of India proper within their purview, returned once more to the earliest field of their enquiry beyond the Western frontiers of modern India.

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. LII, p. 33. ² *Ibid.*, Vol. L, pp. 95,151 ; and Vol. LII, p. 64.

CHAPTER III.

ANCIENT INDIAN ALPHABETS.

[Indian Pali characters: the Kutila, the Gupta, the Asoka—Arian Pali characters.]

THE most interesting and important period of the Society's activity with regard to the reading and translation of Ancient-Inscriptions lies between the years 1834 and 1839, and is mainly connected with the name of Mr. James Prinsep, the Society's secretary at that time. Within the short space of those few years, and through the labours, in the main, of *one* man, those great discoveries were made which form the foundation of our knowledge of the ancient art of writing, language, and history of India.

The modern Devan&gari characters are now known to have past, roughly speaking, through three previous stages of development,—the Kutila, the Gupta, and the Asoka. The last two are named, respectively, after the Gupta kings (between the 2nd and 4th centuries, A.D.), and king Asoka (in the 3rd century, B.C.); the first name is descriptive (⁴ curved '), and was first noticed by Mr. J. Prinsep in an inscription from the Bareilly District¹ The characters named Kutila very closely resemble the modern Devandgari, and inscriptions written in them offered no very great

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. VI, p. 779 (verse 36).

difficulty to the early decipherers. As early as 1785, diaries Wilkins published a transcript and translation of the Kutila inscription on the well-known Pillar at Buddal. In a letter dated 14th July, 1785, he thus refers to it: "I have lately been so fortunate as to decipher the character; and I have the honour to laj^r before the Society a transcript of the original in the modern writing, and a translation, and at the same time to exhibit the two impressions I took from the stone itself."¹ About the same time Pandit Radha Kanta Sarma communicated a translation of the Eutila inscription of Visala Deva on the famous Iron Pillar in Dehli,² which, about 1801, was retranslated and revised by Mr. Henry Colebrooke.³

The Gupta characters, the general appearance of which differs not inconsiderably both from the Kutila and the modern Nágari, offered a much more serious difficulty. Yet about the same time the ingenuity of Mr. Charles Wilkins succeeded also in overcoming the difficulties of these peculiar characters. In the years 1785-1789, he deciphered and published readings and translations of three of the now well-known short inscriptions of the Varma^r Kings in the Nágárjuni caves near Buddha-Gaya. In a letter to the secretary, dated 17th March 1785, he says: "Having been so fortunate as to make out the whole of the very, curious inscription you were so obliging as to lend me, I herewith return it, accompanied by an exact copy, in a reduced size, interlined with each corresponding letter in the modern Devanágari character; and also a copy of my translation, which is as literal as the idioms would admit of to be. The character is, undoubtedly, the most ancient of any that have hitherto come under my inspection. It is

¹ As. Res., Vol. I, p. 131. * *Ibid.*, p. 370. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Vol.-VII, p. 173.

not only dissimilar to that which is now in use, but even very materially different from that we find in inscriptions of eighteen hundred years ago. But though the writing be not modern, the language is pure Sanskrit."¹

Notwithstanding the success, however, of Mr. Wilkins, it was a considerable interval of years before any practical application was made of his discovery to attempt a decipherment of the numerous inscriptions in the same character which came to be made known from time to time. Of the important Chandra Gupta inscription on the Sanchi Tope, Mr. James Prinsep still writes in 1834: "None of our Orientalists have yet been able to make anything of the Bhilsa or Sanchi inscription, although they are far from abandoning their attempts to decipher it;"² and it was only in 1837 that he himself published the first translation of it.³ For some thirty years, the main interest of the Society in Indian researches had been turned into other channels; and when the study of ancient inscriptions was again taken up, there were difficulties that retarded progress. In the first place, it was only after repeated attempts at taking eye-copies or facsimiles that sufficiently serviceable copies of the most important inscriptions were obtained. What difficulties were encountered in this respect may be judged, for example, from what Mr. J. Prinsep says in 1838 with regard to the Dehli Pillar inscription: "I allude to the short inscription on the celebrated Iron Pillar at Dehli, of which I published, in 1834, an attempted copy taken by the late. Lieutenant William Elliot, at the express request of the Revd. Dr. Mill; but it was so ingeni-

¹ As. Res., Vol. I, p. 279 ; and Vol. II, p. 167, reprinted in J. A. S. B., Vol. XVI, p. 594. See also J. A. S. B., Vol. IV, p. 691; and Genl. Cunningham's *Archaeological Reports*, Vol. I, pp. 47-49. ² J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 488. ³ *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, p. 455.

ously mismanaged, that not a single word could be made out."¹ Next, though Mr. Wilkins's successful decipherment had furnished a key to the reading of the Gupta characters, it required yet much careful handling of it before it would unlock all the mysteries of that system of writing. Referring to the Gupta inscription on the Pillar of Allahabad, of which he had taken a copy for the Society, Lieutenant T. S. Burt writes in 1834: "On examining all the eighteen volumes of the Asiatic Researches, I am happy to say I have found, or at least partly found, a key to the character No. 2² in the transcript and interpretation of an ancient inscription at Gaya, by Dr. Wilkins."³ This will evidently serve as a guide by which nearly half of the letters can be made out."⁴ What was still wanting, however, was now soon supplied by the joint labours of Captain A. Troyer, Dr. W. H. Mill, and Mr. James Prinsep, who successively and successfully examined and translated some of the most celebrated Gupta inscriptions. Thus, in 1834, Captain Troyer gave a partial translation of the Gupta inscription on the Allahabad Pillar.⁵ Dr. Mill in the same year completed it; and, in 1837, added to it a translation of its companion inscription on the Bhitari Pillar.⁶ Mr. James Prinsep, in 1837 and 1838, further added a translation of the inscriptions on the pillars at Dehli,⁷ Kuhaun,⁸ (Gorakhpur District), Eran (in Bhopal),⁹ on the topes of Sanchi¹⁰ and Amravati,¹¹ and on the rock of Junngarh.¹² To the names of these three pioneers should be added

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. VII, p. 629. * This is the term used at that time to designate what are now commonly called the Gupta characters. ² As. Res., Vol. I, p. 279. ³ J. A. S. B.; Vol. III, p. 111. * *Ibid.*, p. 118. ⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 257ff; and Vol. VI. pp. 1ff. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Vol. VII. pp. 629ff. ⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 36ff. ⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 633ff. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, pp. 435ff. ⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 218ff. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, pp. 3:7ff.

that of Mr. W. H. Wathen, who, in 1835, contributed to the general result by his successful reading of some Gujar&ti copper-plates written in a later variety of the Gupta characters.¹ There is no need to trace the history of the decipherment of the Gupta characters any further.

At first the age of this system of writing was greatly over-estimated. The general impression was that it belonged to the early centuries before the Christian era. This opinion seems to have originated from a casual remark of Dr. Charles Wilkins in the passage above quoted, as would appear from Mr. J. Prinsep's observation referring to it in 1831, that Dr. Wilkins had imagined the Gaya characters to be as ancient as the Christian era,² and from a similar remark of Lieutenant T. S. Burt, that the Allahabad pillar inscriptions, "from what the Doctor (Wilkins) says as applied to the Gaya inscription, will probably prove to be composed of pure Sanskrit and to be more than 1800 years old."³ On what grounds Dr. Wilkins had formed his conjecture does not appear, for Le can hardly have been aware of the principal argument which afterwards seemed to make in support of his view. This was the ascertainment of the name of Chandra Gupta in the Allahabad and its companion inscriptions, which there was a natural tendency at first to identify with the celebrated Maurva King Chandra Gupta or Sandracottus, whose date towards the end of the fourth century B. C. was well ascertained from being mentioned by Strabo and Arrian.⁴ This identification was thought by many to be strongly confirmed by the information on the history of Sandracottus, derived by Mr. Tumour from the Mahavamso.⁶ But Mr. J.

> J. A. S. B., Vol. IV, p. 476. * *Ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 115. ⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 111.
 • *Ibid.*, pp 266, 267. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, p. 15.

Prinsep, who in 1834 first suggested the identification, himself pointed out two of the difficulties of it, which lay in the two facts that the names of the Gupta dynasty in the inscription did not accord with those of the Maurya dynasty, and that the capitals of the two dynasties were different, *viz.*, Kanauj and Patna respectively.¹ Dr. Mill strongly supported these objections, adding to them two more, based on the difference of race and religious profession of the two dynasties, the Mauryas being of the Solar race, while the Guptas were of the Lunar race, and some of them held the late Sakti form of the Sivaite faith.² He himself proposed another date, which however erred as much in the opposite direction. Rightly identifying the Gupta dynasty with that mentioned in the *purānas*, but miscalculating their age from the untrustworthy dates furnished by those pseudo-historical works, he suggested in 1837 the "age of Charlemagne in Europe," in the ninth century A. D., as the probable date of the Guptas and their inscriptions.³ A similarly erroneous suggestion had been, already in 1834, made by Mr. J. Prinsep, who thought the similarity of the Gupta character with those of Tibet, known to have been brought there from India in the seventh century A.D., might be considered to favour the latter date.⁴ In the meanwhile, however, the dated copper-plates from Gujrat were read by Mr. W. H. Wathen in 1835. Their dates and the striking similarity of their characters with those of the Gupta inscription finally led Mr. J. Prinsep to the discovery of the true date, the third century A. D., which he announced in 1838, and illustrated by a comparative table of the successive Indian alphabets.⁵

J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 115. * *Ibid.*, p. 267 ; and Vol. VI, p. 9. » *JbUL*.
 Vol. VI, p. 12. * *Ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 115. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, TP- 273, 629.

The most important achievement of Mr. James Frinsep, however, consists in his great discovery of the value of "the alphabet and the language of those ancient pillars and rock inscriptions which have been," as he says, "the wonder of the learned since the days of Sir William Jones."¹ The characters of these inscriptions are again as widely different from the Gupta characters, as the latter are from the modern Ndgaii.² They appear to have been first made known to the Society about 1795 through some short inscriptions from the Ellora caves, forwarded to Sir W. Jones by Sir Charles Ware Mallet. They were submitted to Lieutenant Wilford, whose ingenuity did not fail him in providing a translation. "I have the honour to return," he writes to Sir W. Jones, "the facsimile of the several inscriptions with an explanation of them. I despaired at first of ever being able to decipher them ; for as there are no ancient inscriptions in that part of India (Benares), we never had, of course, any opportunity to try our skill and improve our talents in the art of deciphering. However, after many fruitless attempts on our part, we were so fortunate as to find at List an ancient sage, who gave us the key, and produced a book in Sanskrit containing a great many ancient alphabets, formerly in use in different parts of India ; this was really a fortunate discovery, which hereafter may be of great service to us."³ Lieutenant Wilford's 'discovery' appears to have passed unquestioned for many years, for Mr. A. Sterling, writing about 1820 on the Khadagiri rock inscription, which is in the same character, says:—"A portion of the Ellora and Salsette inscriptions, written in the above character, has been deciphered by the learning and ingenuity of Major Wilford, aided by the discovery of

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. VI, p. 452. ² *Ibid.*, p. 566. • As. Res., Vol. V, p. 135.

a key to the unravelling of ancient inscriptions in the possession of a learned Brahmin; and it is to be regretted that the same has not been further applied to deciphering the Dehli and other characters."¹ Indeed a similar regretful reference to Lieutenant Wilford's discovery of the key was made by Mr. Prinsep himself in 1833, only about a year or two before he discovered the true key.² This regret is natural enough, but it can hardly surprise that no further practical application was made of the "learned Brahmin's" key, for it is much to be feared that, as in his other antiquarian researches, in this instance too, Lieutenant Wilford fell a victim to the astuteness of a designing pandit, who traded on his credulity. However that may be, it is certain that his so-called 'discovery' was a thorough delusion, for his texts are entirely imaginary readings of the original, while his translations are entirely imaginary interpretations of the imaginary texts—an unintelligible jargon which is supposed to relate the wanderings of Yudhishthira and the Pandavas through forests and uninhabited places. "They were precluded"—so Lieutenant Wilford conjectures—"by agreement from conversing with mankind. But their friends and relations, Vidura and Vyasa, contrived to convey to them such intelligence and information as they deemed necessary for their safety. This they did by writing short and obscure sentences on rocks or stones in the wilderness, and in characters previously agreed upon betwixt them."³

Subsequently some more and larger inscriptions in the same character were communicated to the Society, among

» As. Res., Vol. XV, p. 314. ² J. A. S. B., Vol. II, p. 317. • As. Res., Vol. V, p. 13G. The ascription to the Pandavas seems to have been a common Hindu conceit, for the Dehli Pillar, which exhibits the same character, is by them supposed to have been Bhim Sen's staff with which he used to grind his *bhang*: see J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 106.

them the celebrated Asoka inscriptions on the pillars of Dehli and Allahabad from Captain J. Hoare, and that on the Khandagiri Rock from Mr. A. Sterling.¹ But, after Lieutenant Wilford's failure, no further attempt was made to read them, and they remained to the European enquirers as great a mystery as they had been for ages to the natives of India, till Mr. J. Prinsep's efforts again brought them into prominent notice, and his genius succeeded in discovering the true key to their decipherment. In 1834, he prevailed on Lieutenant T. S. Burt to procure a good and complete facsimile of the inscription on the Allahabad pillar ; and in the same year he received a copy of the inscription on the pillar of Mathiah, and in the following year (1835) one of that on the pillar of Uadhiah, both through the assistance of Mr. B. H. Hodgson.³ On comparing these three inscriptions with that on the Dehli pillar, which had been previously in the Society's possession, with a view to find any other words which might be common either to two or to all of them, Mr. Prinsep was led, as he tells us, " to the most important discovery that all four inscriptions were identically the same."³ This was, indeed, an important discovery, as it afforded to him a fuller and more trustworthy means of comparing and classifying the symbols of the mysterious alphabet—a task which he had commenced not long before. Mr. A. Stirling, when communicating to the Society his copy of the Khandagiri rock inscription, had thought he could notice "a close resemblance of some of the letters to those of the Greek alphabet," instancing particularly " the Greek *ou*, *sigma*, *lambda*, *chi*, *delta*, *epsilon*, and a something closely resembling the figure of the *digamma*."⁴ In doing so, however,

¹ As. Res., Vol. VII, pp. 175,176 ; and Vol. XV, p. 312. « J. A. S. B., Vol. III. p. 483 ; and Vol. IV, p. 125. ¹ *Ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 484 ; *Ibid.*, Vol. IV, p. 12G.

* As. Res., Vol. XV, pp. 313-314.

he merely repented an observation which had occurred to others long before him, as noted by Father Tieffenthaler,¹ who says that those who held the Grecian theory believed that the Dehli pillar had been erected by Alexander the Great; and he adds that "this was an error." But Tieffenthaler's own explanation, that they were partly numerical figures, partly figurations of weapons of war, (the record, in fact, being merely a numerical list of arms,) was no better than Lieutenant Wilford's so-called discovery.

Curiously enough, the Greek theory received in 1834 what almost seemed to amount to proof from Major (afterwards Colonel) D. L. Stacy, who actually read the Greek word *soter* on two coins bearing an inscription in those unknown characters. Mr. J. Prinsep, however, at once suspected the fallaciousness of this reading, for he remarked that "the apparently Greek letters, when inverted, resembled closely the Dehli character; it would be wrong, therefore, to assume positively that they were Greek."² He felt convinced that the resemblance to Greek letters was "entirely accidental, and that the alphabet was really "of the Sanskrit family." It was for the purpose of determining this point that he undertook the trouble of minutely analysing and classifying all the symbols occurring in the Allahabad pillar inscription. Proceeding in this manner, he soon perceived that each radical letter was subject to five principal inflections, the same in all, corresponding in their nature and application with the five vowel marks of the ancient Sanskrit of the Gupta inscriptions which way already

¹ Description de l'Inde, Part I, p. 129 (French Edition). Mr. J. Prinsep, in J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 117, seems to have thought it an original observation of Mr. Stirling's; but the latter himself refers to Tieffenthaler. * J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 433.

well-known at that time. His result he exhibited in a well-arranged table showing the letters and their inflections, and thus clearly established his first point, that the letters were Sanskrit and not Greek.¹

The next point to discover was the power, or signification of these unknown letters, that is, to determine to which of the Sanskrit characters of the well-known NásKiri system each of the unknown ancient Sanskrit symbols corresponded. The first mode which occurred to him was to count how often each radical symbol of the unknown system and of the modern Nágari respectively occurred in a page of the ancient inscription and in a page of a modern copy of some well-known Sanskrit work (he took the *Bhatti Kavya*) and then to compare the numbers thus obtained. The idea, of course, was that those symbols which were found to coincide in frequency in the two lists would prove to possess the same power of signification. Though Mr. Prinsep himself appears to have expected much from this process,² it led to no result, and with our present knowledge, it is easy to see that it could not possibly yield any result; the very preliminary conditions of a successful comparison were absent; for, as we now know, the subject-matter of the two writings compared is widely different, and what is more, the language of the inscription is not Sanskrit, but an ancient kind of Prákrit (Páli). The next method which Mr. Prinsep tried for the purpose of determining the value of the unknown letters was a much sounder one, and one which did actually lead a long way in the solution of the riddle. He set himself to compare carefully the forms of the unknown letters with those of the Gupta alphabet, the oldest till then known. In this manner he soon discovered

¹ J. A. S. B., VoV III, p. 117, plate v ; also *ibid.*, p. 487. • *Ibid.*, p. 484.

that certain letters of the two alphabets resembled one another, from which he further concluded that in all probability they were identical. And though no doubt some of his identifications ultimately turned out to be erroneous; he was correct in many others; for example, in those referred to by him in the following passage, written in October 1834:—"From the resemblance (of a certain subjoined letter) to the corresponding letter of the Gaya alphabet, I think a strong probability is established that this letter is equivalent to *y* of the Devanāgarī alphabet. The other subjoined letter has a great analogy to the Sanskrit *v*. The letter with which those two are most frequently united—may, with equal probability, be set down as equivalent to the Devandgari *s*."¹ About the same time, encouraged by the earlier efforts of Mr. Prinsep, the Rev. J. Stevenson was induced to take up the same line of enquiry, and succeeded in adding a few more to the list of identified symbols, among them those for *k*, *j*, *th*, *l*, and *b*.²

With the help of these identifications attempts were at once made to translate the inscriptions, but with no satisfactory result; partly because the translators were still under the erroneous impression that their language was Sanskrit,³ partly because of the most important letters some had been wrongly identified (*e.g.*, *n* as *r*), while others had not been identified at all (*e.g.*, *d*). One very striking and most interesting application, however, was made at this stage by Professor Lassen, of Bonn, who, in 1835 or 1836, successfully read the name of Agathocles on a Bactrian coin, inscribed with those ancient symbols.⁴

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 485.

² *ibid.*, p. 493.

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 487, 495.

⁴ *ibid.*, Vol. V, p. 723 ; and Vol. VI., 4G5.

But it was not till early in 1837 that Mr. Prinsep discovered by what cannot be described otherwise than a happy inspiration, that which proved to be the key to the whole mystery, the little word *ddnarn* meaning 'a gift/ This discovery will be best narrated in Mr. Prinsep's own words: "In laying open a discovery of this nature, some little explanation is generally expected of the means by which it has been attained. Like most other inventions, when once found, it appears extremely simple; and, as in most others, accident rather than study has had the merit of solving the enigma which has so long baffled the learned. While arranging and lithographing the numerous scraps of facsimiles for Plate XXVII, I was struck at their all terminating with the same two letters. Coupling this circumstance with their extreme brevity and insulated position, which proved that they could not be fragments of a continuous text, it immediately occurred that they must record either obituary notices, or more probably the offerings and presents of votaries, as is known to be the present custom in the Buddhist temples at Ava, where numerous *dwajas* or flagstaff's, images and small *chaityas*, are crowded within the enclosure, surrounding the chief cupola, each bearing the name of the donor. The next point noted was the frequent occurrence of the letter, already set down incontestably as s, before the final word of each record. Now this I had learnt from the Saurashtmi coins, deciphered only a day or two before,¹ to be one sign of the genitive case singular, being the *ssa* of the Pāli, or *sya* of the Sanskrit. 'Of so and so the gift' must then be the form of each brief sentence; and the vowel *a* and *anuswara* led to the speedy recognition of the word *ddnam* (gift),

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. VI, pp. 378ff.

teaching me the very two letters, *d* and *w*, most different from known forms, and which had failed me most in my former attempts. Since 1834 also my acquaintance with ancient alphabets had become so familiar that most of the remaining letters in the present examples could be named at once on re-inspection. In the course of a few minutes I thus became possessed of the whole alphabet, which I tested by applying it to* the inscription on the Dehli column."¹

Mr. Prinsep speedily applied his discovery not only to the * decipherment of the Dehli pillar and Saucii Tope inscriptions,² but, in rapid and regular succession, to every one of the groups of inscriptions, which till then had been made known,—those on the pillars of Allahabad, Dehli, Radhia, Mathiah,³ on the rocks of Girnár and Dhauli,⁴ in the caves of Barabar, Junir and Khandagiri,⁵ and on the Buddhist coins.⁶ His readings and interpretations, though by no means perfect,—indeed even after the revised readings of Messrs. Wilson, Burnduf, Kern, Senart, and others an entirely satisfactory translation is still a desideratum—at all events sufficed to demonstrate the genuineness of his discovery.

The discovery of the key to these ancient characters proved to be only the commencement of a series of discoveries, in some respects even more important, relating to the language and chronology of ancient India. Most of these, too, it was the good fortune of Mr. James Prinsep to make.

From the beginning it was suspected that the characters were of a very great age, and* Mr. Prinsep in 1834 at

« J. A. S. B., Vol. VI, pp. 460, 461. * *Ibid.*, pp. 461ff, 467ff ; and Vol. VII, pp. 662ff. ^a *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, pp. 666ff, and 963ff. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, pp. 156ff; 219ff, 434ff. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, pp. 76ff, 102ff, 1072ff. ⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 463ff.

once declared his belief that they were more ancient than the Gupta characters, which at the time were believed to be coeval with the commencement of the Christian era. He thought that this might be proved—"First, by the position the inscription occupied on the Allahabad columns as well as on that of Dehli; in both it was the principal, and, as it were, the original inscription, the others being subsequently added, perhaps on some occasion of triumph or-visit to the spot. Secondly, the simplicity of the character and the limited number of radicals denoted its priority to the more complicated and refined system afterwards adopted; while, thirdly, the very great rarity of its occurrence on ancient monuments, and the perfect ignorance which prevailed regarding its origin in the earliest Persian historians who mentioned the lath of Feroz Shah, confirmed its belonging to an epoch beyond the reach of native research."¹ With the exception of the reference to the very great rarity of such inscriptions—for they really occur more frequently than it was known at that time—Mr. Prinsep's reasons still hold good. But the question was finally set at rest, and the truth of his surmise proved by the discovery, made mainly by Mr. Prinsep himself, of the mention in the inscription of the names of certain persons whose place in history was perfectly well ascertained. On applying his key to the pillar inscriptions, he soon discovered in 1837 that they contained edicts promulgated by a certain king called "Piyadasii, the beloved of the gods;"² and his discovery was carried a step further by the Hon'ble G. Tumour, who, a little later in the same year, succeeded, from information afforded by the historical works of the Buddhists in Ceylon, in identifying

¹ J. A. S. B.. Vol. HI, p. H6.

* *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, pp. 47Off.

the Piyadasi of the inscriptions with the Indian king Asoka, a grandson of the well-known Chandra Gupta, of the Maurya dynasty.¹ In the following year, 1838, Mr. Prinsep crowned this series of discoveries by discovering that king Piyadasi in his edicts mentioned by name several Greek kings. Among them were an Antiochus and a Ptolemy. It is true that Turnour, whose view was adopted by Mr. Prinsep, misled by the inaccurate chronological system of the Ceylonese Buddhist works, fell into an error in calculating Asoka's date, making his long reign of forty-one years to fall at first into the last quarter of the fourth century B.C., and afterwards into the second half of the third century B.C.,² and accordingly identifying the Antiochus of the inscriptions with Antiochus III (the Great of Syria, 225-176 B.C.).³ Later investigations have shown that the two names of Antiochus and Ptolemy mentioned in the inscriptions really referred to Antiochus II (Theos of Syria, 263-247 B.C.), and Ptolemy III (Philadelphus of Egypt, 281-247 B.C.), and that the correct date of Asoka's reign most probably is about 264-223 B.C.⁴ But, though important as regards strict historical accuracy, after all the correction is too insignificant to detract anything from the honour due to Messrs. Prinsep and Turnour for the success of their original discovery.

The opinions of the early enquirers with regard to the language in which these ancient inscriptions were composed went through some curious alternations. The earliest view was that they were expressed in an ancient species of the vernacular of India, or, as we should now say, in a species of ancient Pr&krit (or P&li). This was the

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. VI, pp. 1054ff. * *ibid*, p. 1057. ^a *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, p. 162.
⁴ See Geul. Cunningham's *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum*, preface, pp. iii, vii.

opinion of Lieutenant Wilford, who, writing about the year 1795 on the Ellora inscriptions, which he thought he had deciphered, says:—"They are written in an ancient vernacular dialect, and the characters, though very different from those now in use, are nevertheless derived from the original or primeval Sanskrit, for the elements are the same."¹ Lieutenant Wilford's opinion appears to have been generally acquiesced in, for Mr. A. Stirling, referring to the Khanuagiri rock inscription, in 1823, writes:—^{4%} The natives of the district can give no explanation whatever on the subject. The Brahmins refer the inscription with shuddering and disgust to the *budh ha amel*, or time when the Buddhist doctrines prevailed. I have in vain also applied to the Jains of the district for an explanation. I cannot, however, divest myself of the notion that the character has some connection with the ancient Prákrit; and considering that it occurs in a spot for many ages consecrated to the worship of Parasnáth, which the Brahmins are pleased to confound with the Buddhist religion, and that the figure or characteristic mark which appears in company with it (the *swastika*) does, in some sort, seem to identify it with the former worship, I am persuaded that a full explanation is to be looked for only from some of the learned of the Jain sect."²

Mr. Stirling's opinion, though based more on conjecture than sound evidence, came really much nearer the truth than he at that time could know; but the discovery of it was not made by a "learned of the Jain sect," but by one of his own nation. Previously, however, the current of the general opinion regarding the language of the inscription underwent, for a time, an entire

¹ AB. Res.jVol. V, p. 136.

² *Ibid.*, Vol. XV, pp. 314, 315.

change. Tīna may be inferred from a remark of Mr. James Prinsep in 1834:—" It is not yet ascertained whether the language this character expresses is Sanskrit."¹ The remark, it is true, occurs in an argument directed, not against the Prákrit, but the Greek theory of the inscription, and may therefore be thought not necessarily to exclude the former theory. But in the same year the Sanskrit theory was distinctly put forward by Mr. B. H. Hodgson in a letter addressed to Mr. J. Prinsep:—" When we consider the wide diffusion over all parts of India of these alphabetical signs, we can scarcely doubt their derivation from Devandgari, and the inference is equally worthy of attention that the language is Sanskrit."² And in commenting on this communication, Mr. J. Prinsep expressed his acquiescence in Mr. Hodgson's suggestion :—" The new facts now brought to light will, I hope, tend to facilitate this object (the discovery of the language), and leave little doubt that the alphabet is a modification of Devanāgari and the language Sanskrit, as suggested by Mr. Hodgson."³ Neither were Messrs. Hodgson and Prinsep singular in accepting this view; for it was also held by the Rev. J. Stevenson, on the Bombay side, as is evident from a remark he made in transmitting (in 1834) to Mr. Prinsep the result of his researches into the pillar inscriptions:—" I think the first thirteen letters on the Allahabad stone may, without much difficulty, be read as containing an address, probably to the sun, in pure Sanskrit."⁴

Of course, this view was at once abandoned, the moment that Mr. Prinsep made his great discovery of the key to the true reading of the ancient character which left no further doubt that the language was really an old vernacular, a kind

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. VI, p. 1J6. * *IbUL*, Vol. III, pp. 481, 482. • *Ibid.*, p. 487.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 485.

of ancient Pr&krit. Communicating the first direct transcription of the opening sentence of the pillar inscription, after his discovery, Mr. Prinsep says:—"Here we perceive at once that the language is the same as was observed on the Bhilsa fragments"—which had just before furnished him with the 'key,'—"not Sanskrit but the vernacular modification of it, which has been so fortunately preserved for us in the P&li scriptures of Ceylon and Ava."¹ The last statement is not strictly correct. It is now known that the language of the Asoka inscriptions is not identical with the P&li of the Southern Buddhists, though it is very closely allied to that language. It cannot be expected, however, that such an intricate point of difference should be recognized at once; and as to the main issue, undoubtedly Mr. Prinsep's discovery was perfectly genuine.

Looking back on the series of discoveries, for which we are thus indebted to his genius, it is impossible not to sympathise heartily with the gratified tone of Mr. Prinsep's words, in which he, in 1837, shortly before he left the shores of India, summed up the results of his original researches. It was a particularly gratifying circumstance which afforded him the occasion of doing so. Some years previously, Colonel W. H. Sykes had forwarded to the Royal Asiatic Society of England a series of copies of inscriptions met with in Western India ; but on learning, as he says, " the admirable and efficient use Mr. Prinsep had made in his able journal, of the ancient inscriptions and ancient coins found in various parts of India, he was induced to apply to withdraw all his copies from the hands of the Royal Asiatic Society with a view to offer them to Mr. Prinsep to make such use of as he might think proper."* As it happened,

¹ J. A. S. B., Vol. VI, p. 469.

* *Ibid.*, p. 1038.