

Or should we not rather suppose a special meaning was attached to *deva-dhammiko*, such as "follower of the system of the god" (perhaps Śiva; it surely could not be Indra)?

T. W. RHYS DAVIDS.

4. WATER (WATURA) IN SINHALESE.

Mr. Donald Ferguson, who has printed for private circulation an excellent and much needed "*Contribution towards a Biography of Robert Knox*," has now brought out, in the J.R.A.S. Ceylon Branch, a very useful list of all the words found in the "Historical Relation," as well as those found in a manuscript list, drawn up by Knox, and still in the British Museum (Sloane, 1039). There are nearly 800 of these words, all current among the people in Ceylon about 1650. Among these words Knox gives *diyara* for 'water,' and Mr. Ferguson suspects this to be the real word then used, and since ousted by *watura* (the common word now) through the influence of the Dutch and English *water*. (See his note, p. 9.)

Now *watura* occurs in the title of the well-known book *Amāwatura* ('the water of life,' ambrosia, i.e. Nirvāṇa), a work certainly centuries older than the Dutch.

So far from *watura* being among the youngest words in Sinhalese, it is, I venture to think, one of the oldest, for we have to go back beyond Sanskrit or Pāli to the Greek *ἵδωρ* (*whydor*) for an analogue. Compare *ἕτερος* and our *wet*.

T. W. RHYS DAVIDS.

5. THE KINGDOM OF KARTṚPURA.

SIR,—The Kingdom of Kartṛpura, referred to in Mr. Smith's very interesting article on the Conquests of Samudra Gupta, in the last number of the Society's Journal, was most probably that of the Katur, Katuria, or Katyur, rajas. These chiefs ruled in Kamāon, Garhwāl, and Rohilkand, from very early times. They appear to

have been an offshoot from the tribe, which, under the names of Kata or Taka, Kāthya or Thākya, with other variants, was once very powerful in the north and west of India.

Both Katas and Katurias were of Solar race: they both claimed descent from the Nāga demigod Bāsdeo, Bāska Nāg, or Vāsuki; and both had for their tribal emblem the Nāga or hooded serpent. At Badariwār, in the Panjāb Himālaya, are temples to Bāsdeo, the deified ancestor of the Katas or Takas; and near the holy Badarināth is an ancient temple to Bāsdeo, the ancestor of the Katuria rājas.

One of the Katurias is said to have been a powerful supporter of Sankara Achārya, who, with the aid of this chief, founded the present Badarināth temple, and brought the priests from the Dakhan.

All ancient remains in Kamāon and Garhwāl are ascribed by the people to the Katuria rāj.

Two large villages near Almora are called Katyār and Katārmal.—Yours obediently,

CHAS. F. OLDHAM.

Great Bealings, Woodbridge.

November 23, 1897.

To the Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society.

6. WHO FOUND BUDDHA'S BIRTHPLACE?

Audi alteram partem.

TO PROFESSOR T. W. RHYS DAVIDS, Ph.D., LL.D.,

Secretary, Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, London.

DEAR SIR,—As long as Dr. Waddell ventilated his grievances in the Indian and English newspapers, I did not think it worth while to take any serious notice of them; but since he has chosen your esteemed Journal as a medium, I owe it to the honour of the Department to which I belong to reply to his egoistical statements made in your Number for July, 1897, pages 644–651.