

III. NOTES AND NEWS.

Count A. de Gubernatis has been appointed Professor of Sanskrit at the University of Rome, and has accordingly left the Istituto di Studii Superiore at Florence.

Behramji M. Malabari, the author of "Gujarat and the Gujaratis." A life of this writer and philanthropist, by Dayaram Gidumal, acting district judge at Shikarpur, with an introduction by Florence Nightingale, is announced for publication shortly.

Vyāsakāra Śataka.—A MS. of this Sanskrit poem in Sinhalese characters has just been found in the Royal Asiatic Society's Library. Each of the hundred moral verses of which it consists is followed by a *pada-gata-sannaya*, or word for word commentary, in the Sinhalese language. There is another copy in Europe, at Copenhagen, wrongly described by Westergaard (Cat. p. 21) as *Vyāsa-śataka*. An English translation of forty-four out of the hundred verses is published by Philalethes in his "History of Ceylon," pp. 308 to 314. There is no copy of this work among the sixty-three Sanskrit MSS. in the Kandy Library (none of which are noticed in Aufrecht's *Catalogus Catalogorum*), though a list of them was printed in the Pali Text Society's Journal, 1882, p. 45. It would seem also to be wanting in Colombo (see *ibid.* p. 58). The date and author of the little work are entirely unknown.

The Burmese Government has started a series of open competitive examinations in Pali. Prizes and scholarships are said to be promised to the successful candidates, but the exact details have not reached Europe.

Mr. Edward G. Browne, a member of the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society, is about to publish the "Makāla-i-shaksi sayyāh ki dar kaẓiyya-i-Bāb navishta-ast." This work, composed in Persian by order of Behā Ullāh, the present chief of the Bābi sect, comprises a history of that sect from its origin to the present day, together with a statement of its doctrines and principles. The present edition will contain in Vol. I. the text in facsimile,

and in Vol. II. the translation, illustrated by critical and historical notes. The volumes will be sold separately at the Cambridge University Press.

Tibet.—M. Dutreuil de Rhins, the learned author of "L'Asie Centrale," is said to be at present attempting an exploration of Tibet. When last heard from, in August, 1891, he had reached Khotan, which he places in lat. 37°·7 N. and long. 79°·55 E.

Prof. Brugsch is planning a journey into the Libyan desert, principally with the hope of finding there papyrus rolls.

Adam's Bridge.—In No. 101 of "Petermann's Mittheilungen," Dr. J. Walther discusses the mode of formation of this curious and famous link between South India and Ceylon. He thinks it was built up by ocean currents, and that neither an upheaval of the land nor the labours of coral insects had any share in its history.

A Conch Shell 1200 Years Old.—A pair of conch shells have been discovered in a poor peasant's field near Amreli on Gohelvād Ṭimbo. The larger of them weighs $3\frac{3}{8}$ lbs. It bears on it an inscription in Valabhi Gupta characters, *Sī Bhaṭakadatti* (possibly the name of the owner), and an engraving of a *Venīdāvana*, or raised enclosed bed of the *Tulasi* or Basil plant. The latter sign, and the existence of the *Ṣankha*, may indicate Vishṇu worship in old Amreli, as both the *Ṣankha* and *Tulasi* are now sacred to that deity. An old Phallus of Siva had previously been found near the same spot. An inscription in the temple of Nāga Nātha Mahādeva at Amreli mentions the find of that Phallus. We know of Siva worship there in the Valabhi period from the published Valabhi grants. There are remains near by of what is probably a Buddhist stūpa, and the name Amaravallī (Amreli) would recall Buddhist associations, as its other name Grīvāṇa-vallī would recall Brahminic associations. Popular tradition gives a third name to it, viz. Kanakāvati. Not far from it are the ruins of another old town Tāmṛā-vatī. Old Kshattrapa, Gupta, and Indo-Sassanian coins are found in large numbers about these parts.—H. H. D.

Prāchīna Kāvya Mālā.—H. H. the Gaikvād of Baroda, a member of this Society, has sanctioned Rs. 12,000 for the publication of poems of some of the Gujarati poets that flourished in his domains. Some eighteen numbers of the series are out up to date, containing poems of great merit of Kavi Premānanda, his son Vallabha, Kavi Bhālaṇa, Kavi Dayārām (the Byem of Gujarat), and Ratneṣvara among others. The researches of the zealous editors of the series, among them R. B. Hargovinddas Dvarkadas, Director of Vernacular Instruction, point to the arrangement made by Kavi Premānanda with his son and disciples who formed a large band to enrich the language of Gujarat by dividing the work among them. Some were to write verses on the model of Sanskrit, others on that of the old Prakrits, some on that of Hindustani, and others of the Urdu tales and traditions. This was so in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. H. H. is also said to have sanctioned a large sum, Rs. 50,000, for Marathi and Gujarati popular school series. A large illustrated Gujarati Dictionary is said to be under contemplation. The works of Narsimha Meheta, said to be the Chaucer of Gujarat, are intended to be similarly published by the Junaghad Durbar. A young poet is moving among other Kattyawād States for getting the works of other Kattyawādi poets collected and published. The energetic editor of an Aryo-Gujarati bi-weekly, of Bombay, has issued over four large volumes of old Gujarati Poets, *Brihatkāvya Lokana*.—H. H. D.

Constable's "Oriental Miscellany."—We beg to call the special attention of our readers to this new venture under an old and honoured name, the details of which will be found in our advertisement pages. It is a good sign of the times that publishers, whose estimate of things monetary is not often over-sanguine, should find it pay to publish books on Oriental subjects, and we trust that Mr. Constable will receive sufficient support to encourage him in producing works of real and permanent historical value.

Harvard Oriental Series.—This series is to be devoted to texts, translations, and other works concerning India, its

history, religions, languages, literature, and antiquities. The aim is to supply what has been urgently needed, well-selected, and well-edited texts, easy in style, of interesting contents, and not too long, suitable, in a word, for the acquisition of facility in reading, and which can be sold at a low price. The series is to include not only works of use to advanced scholars, but also books suited to the needs of younger students. Volume I., which is already out, is the text of "The Jātaka-mālā," by Aryaṣūra, edited by Professor Kern (royal 8vo. cloth, pp. xii. and 254, price 6s.). Volume II. will be the text of "Kapila's Aphorisms of the Sāṃkhya Philosophy," with the Commentary of Vijñāna-bhikṣu; edited, in the original Sanskrit, by Richard Garbe, Professor in the University of Königsberg, Prussia. This text and commentary were published about thirty-five years ago by Fitzedward Hall, but are now out of print. The new edition is in handsome English letters. A translation into German by Professor Garbe was published by the German Oriental Society in 1889. Volume III., in preparation, is on "Buddha and Buddhism," as illustrated by English translations from the Buddhist Scriptures in Pāli, by Henry Clarke Warren, Esq., of Cambridge, Mass. This will be a series of selections made in such a way as to give a systematic exposition of the subject according to the views of the native authorities and the canonical books of Buddhism. The whole is, we are glad to see, under the editorship of Prof. Lanman, whose name is a sufficient guarantee for the scholarly character of any work that may be chosen for publication.

Buddha Gaya.—A few days ago there arrived at Colombo a Japanese monk sent from Tokio to Ceylon on a special mission to inquire into the "Buddha-Gaya Mission" founded in Colombo to acquire some lands on the site, at Buddha-Gaya in India, where Gotama Buddha preached his doctrines, and to consecrate them to the service of all Buddhists. Mr. Dharmapala, the Secretary of the Mission, who is away in India now, has already purchased the lands; and he is now making arrangements to build a monastery there. Japanese and Siamese Buddhists have been appealed to for help, and

the arrival of the "Jap" to make inquiries on the subject is the result of the appeal. The Buddha-Gaya mission has succeeded in securing the site of the Bo-tree at Gaya, where Gotama Buddha attained Buddhahood. The Sinhalese monks who have gone there to take charge of the place are making rapid progress in learning the vernaculars of Bengal, and they will shortly commence the work of the propaganda. A deputation of Sinhalese, Japanese, Siamese, and Burmese Buddhists will wait on H. E. the Governor-General on his visit to Gaya about the middle of October.

Since the above was written we learn from the "Calcutta Englishman" that there has been a meeting of the Committees arranging this matter at Buddha Gayā itself. There were present the following delegates:—Japan, Ato Tokuzawa; Ceylon, Dharmapala; the Secretary of the Budgya Society, Gunaratana Bhikshu; China, Tochiya Lama; Chittagong, Girish Chandra Dewan and Krishna Chandra Chowdri. Letters promising support were received from Prince Chandradat on behalf of the Siamese Buddhists, and Moungh Shoung on behalf of the Burmese Buddhists. Letters were also read from Sir Edwin Arnold, Baron Harden Hickey, and the Australian Buddhists. Resolutions were passed calling for subscriptions from Buddhist countries for erecting a monastery and founding a Buddhist college. The meeting closed by thanking the Government of India for repairing the temple and the Indian press for the sympathy shown.

Dr. Bezold.—The Trustees of the British Museum will shortly issue the second instalment of Dr. Bezold's "Catalogue of the Cuneiform Tablets in the Kouyunjik Collection." This volume will contain the descriptions of nearly six thousand tablets and fragments which formed part of the famous clay library preserved by the Kings of Assyria at Nineveh. This library was founded by Assurbanipal B.C. 668–626, and contained official documents which had been sent to Sargon and Sennacherib by the generals of the army and others; as well as a series of works relating to every branch of science known to the Assyrians, and copies of

ancient classical books and legends from Babylonia. In this volume will be found a classification of omen and astrological texts, a work which has never before been attempted; and a considerable number of important extracts are printed in the Cuneiform characters.—*Athenæum*, 30th Nov. 1891.

Etruscan.—Prof. Krall, of Vienna, in examining the bands of a mummy, probably of the age of the Ptolemies, which for the last forty years has been preserved in a museum, has found a strip of linen with several hundred lines of Etruscan writing. In this text, which is the longest we possess in that language, some words occur that are to be found in Etruscan inscriptions known to us, but the whole cannot in the actual state of Etruscan studies be deciphered. The cloth was, no doubt, written on for some purpose before being carried by ship to Egypt and there used for the wrappings of a mummy. The publication of the text by the learned discoverer is awaited with the keenest interest.

Egyptian Antiquities.—Messrs. Newberry and Fraser have already left England for their second season in Egypt, and will be followed somewhat later by Mr. Blackden. Their work for this winter will be to survey, copy, and photograph the remaining historic antiquities from Beni-Hasan tombs, the tombs of el-Bersheh (XIIth Dynasty), the Speos Artemidos, and the tombs at Isbēdeh. It should be added that this archæological survey is supported by special subscription.

The Egyptian Government has asked the Caisse de la Dette for £50,000 from the general reserve fund on behalf of the Antiquities' Department, but, before granting so large a sum, the Caisse will probably require the appointment of a commission to study the purposes of its employment. It is hoped that this opportunity will be availed of to make a searching investigation into the management of the department generally, which has for a long time excited dissatisfaction amongst all nationalities, and is discreditable to the country. The Ghizeh Museum especially is without a catalogue, its exhibits are unlabelled, and its immense

quantities of valuable objects are stored away from public view to the utter disappointment of visitors who desire to do more than merely pass an idle hour in the building. The monuments scattered throughout the country are inefficiently protected, and much irreparable mischief has been and still is caused by theft and wantonness.—*Academy*, 5 Dec., 1891.

Prof. Maurice Bloomfield, of Johns Hopkins, has published in the fifteenth volume of the "Journal of the American Oriental Society" a third series of "Contributions to the Interpretation of the Veda," continuing his former method of interpreting the early mantras by help of the later literature—Brāhmanas, Sūtras, commentaries, and classical legends. He first deals at considerable length with the story of Indra and Namuci, which he makes intelligible by piecing together many scattered allusions. Perhaps the most novel feature in this re-constructed story is the scene where Namuci (the āsura) makes Indra (the deva) drunk with surā (brandy) instead of his own favourite soma. Secondly, he takes up the two dogs of Yama, and shows how identification with the sun and the moon in the Brāhmanas explains many of the conflicting attributes assigned to them in the Vedic mantras. Lastly, he discusses the much-disputed passage (Rig-veda, x. 17, 1, 2), which describes the conjugal exploits of Saranyu, his explanation being that it is a Brahmādyā (riddle or charade), not, as has hitherto been held, either a fragment or a story in a form so condensed as to be foreign to Indian habits of narration. As the basis of the riddle he finds a cosmogonic conception with which a number of mythological inventions have been combined to make up a story of a composite character.

Dr. de Cara has published a paper under the title "Della Identita degli Hethai e dei Pelasgi dimostrata per la Ceramica pre-fenica e pre-ellenica" (Rome: Befani). The work shows an acquaintance with the most recent results of Oriental and archæological research, and the views expressed in it are novel and suggestive. The author seeks

to show that the Pelasgians of Greek tradition represent the Hittites of Asia Minor and Syria, and that the culture of Mykanæ had its ultimate origin in the Hittite empire.

The Oriental School at Berlin.—The official catalogue (Verzeichniss) of the teachers and students of the Berlin Seminar für Orientalische Sprachen, for the term October 15th, 1891, to March 15th, 1892, has appeared. The teaching body seems to have undergone some changes. In the first place, the Lector in South Chinese is An Fung Tschü, whose name does not occur in the Verzeichniss for 1890. Next, Dr. Moritz is entered, not only as librarian, but as teacher of Arabic, while the dialect of Morocco is taught by Muhammad Bin Selham, a name also new. Another new teacher is the Lector in Suaheli, Amir bin Nasir Lomeri. The number of hearers is 118, against 132 in the early part of the year. The non-official courses are attended by 33 hearers.

The Bābis.—A Russian artillery lieutenant, Alexander Toumansky, having gone to Ashkabad with the object of visiting the Bābi colony there, has returned to St. Petersburg with many notes, photographs, and manuscripts. Several of the latter are described in the last issue of the 'Collections scientifiques de l'institut des langues orientales' at St. Petersburg (Part 2 for 1891). The same volume contains the complete text of some other Bābi works which form part of a volume of Bābi tracts lately presented to the library of the Institute. The description of these new treasures commences with a warm eulogium of Mr. Browne's articles in our 'Journal' for 1890.

The Rig-Veda.—The first volume of Prof. Max Müller's translation of the Rig-Veda, which has been so long looked forward to by scholars, has at last appeared just as we are going to press. It contains the translation into English, with a very elaborate commentary, of the forty-nine hymns to the Maruts, including nine not addressed specially to them, but dealing with allied subjects.

Lahore Museum.—The new buildings for this important local museum are nearly completed, and will be shortly

opened, to the great benefit of those who visit the collections there arranged under the able superintendence of Mr. Kipling, senior.

IV. NOTICES OF BOOKS.

THE DĪNKARD, Vol VI. By PESHOTAN DASTUR BEHRAMJEE SANJANA. (Published under the patronage of the Sir Jamshedji Jeejeebhai Translation Fund, Bombay, 1891.)

With this sixth volume of the Text and Translations of the Dīnkard the learned high-priest of the Bombay Parsis completes seven-tenths of the third book, or nearly one-third of the whole work so far as it is still extant. The first two books appear to have become separated from the other seven more than 870 years ago, when the latter were copied from a manuscript found in Baghdād; and no trace of the former two books has yet been discovered.

The Dīnkard is an extensive summary of information regarding the Mazda-worshipping religion, its legendary history, and its sacred books, compiled chiefly from writings no longer extant, and written in the Pahlavi language. This compilation was commenced by Ātūr-farnbag, son of Farukhzād, who was supreme high-priest in Irān early in the ninth century; and it was revised and completed, more than half a century later, by Ātūrpād, son of Hēmēd, one of his successors. Nearly the whole of its third book is quoted from the Nikēzō-ī Vēh-dīnō, or Exposition of the Good Religion, which was probably the name of some important treatise on religious matters; but it also contains some answers to sceptical inquiries, and several series of admonitions issued by celebrated religious men and their opponents, which may be derived from other sources.

In preparing his edition of this Pahlavi work Dastūr Dr. Peshotan has had to provide not only for European scholars, but also for his own countrymen. He publishes the original Pahlavi text required by both parties, with an English