

his public service—more than fifteen years as Deputy Collector—was spent in the Kirnool District, where his name is cherished to this day with fond affection by the rural population as their good old friend. he was entrusted with the compilation of a Manual of that district—a task which he accomplished with credit so far as the meagre District Records permitted him. He was also a good Telugu scholar, and was the author of a popular tale entitled, “Sriranga Raja Charitra,” illustrative of native manners and customs.

IV. NOTES AND NEWS.

Among the honours conferred on the occasion of the Queen's birthday, two have been bestowed on Members of our Society. Mr. Redhouse, C.M.G., who was Secretary of the Society from 1861 to 1863, and is now an Honorary Member, has become a K.C.M.G., and Mr. Cookson, C.B., of the Consular Service in Egypt, has been made a K.C.B.

There has been published in Colombo a new edition of Guruḷugomi's Amā-watura (The water of Arahatsip), probably the oldest work written in Ceylon in the native Prākṛit, with a complete glossary.

The Chinese Professorship at Cambridge.—Sir Thomas Wade, who has been recently elected to the newly-established Professorship of Chinese at Cambridge, delivered his inaugural lecture on the 13th inst. in the Senate House before a large and appreciative audience. The Vice-Chancellor presided. The Professor commenced by stating that, as he had not originally approached the study of the Chinese language as a trained philosopher or philologist, he deprecated too high an estimate of his qualifications as a lecturer. He assumed that his pupils, should he have any, would be intending missionaries or interpreters, to both of whom the oral language would be indispensable. His advice to applicants in either category would be that they should make their way to China with all speed. As a consulting practitioner, however, he could no doubt give them hints which they would find useful. With the aid of a map, the Professor defined the vast area over which—the languages of the aborigines and other races being excluded—Chinese of one sort or another is spoken, and, referring to the history of the central State, the cradle of Chinese civilization, and its gradual development during thirty centuries into a mighty Empire, he urged that the

multiplicity of its dialects, which he put at some 1400, had in it nothing extraordinary, the magnitude of the Empire and the process of its consolidation considered. He dwelt at some length upon the embarrassment occasioned to the foreigner by the paucity of sounds, those too monosyllabic, allotted to the thousands of words contained in the language, and upon the addition to this consequent upon the law of intonation. But he pointed out that, both as regards the syllabic sound and the tone, by the collocation of words so as to produce a quasi-polysyllabic effect, both difficulties are greatly diminished. Lastly, he explained the origin of the written character in its simpler form as ideographic, and having demonstrated the process of combination by which the more complicated characters have been produced, he brought his lecture to a close. In the next lecture the Professor promised that he would attempt a notice of the literature of China; and meanwhile, without the formal institution of classes, he announced himself ready to give counsel to any student of the written or spoken language who might be disposed to seek it.

Pending a reconstitution of the Laudian chair of Arabic at Oxford, Mr. D. S. Margoliouth has been appointed to give instruction in Arabic during next term. Mr. Margoliouth has been spending some time lately at Cairo.

The honorary degree of M.A. has been conferred at Oxford upon Dr. Hermann Ethé, Professor of Oriental Languages at Aberystwyth, who has long been engaged in cataloguing some of the Oriental collections in the Bodleian, and who is now examining in the Oriental schools.

A report recently issued in India on the progress of education in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh affords evidence of the growing demand for University education, there having been a considerable increase in the number of students attending the Arts course in the College, and an improvement in the percentage of candidates successful at the various examinations of the course. The report states that considerable progress has been made during the year on the lines laid down by the Education Commission, especially in the establishment of revised standards of instruction and a code of rules for village schools.

At a recent meeting of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, M. Émile Senart, the French archæologist, who has recently been travelling in India, delivered a lecture on the various inscriptions which bear the name of Piyadasi, the Asoka of Southern

Buddhists, grandson of Chandragupta. The chief object of M. Senart's visit to India was to supplement by direct inspection the patient study of years which he has devoted to these inscriptions, in his opinion the most ancient dated monuments of India, the most ancient dated witnesses of its religious life and the progress of Buddhism. The result is that he has been able to settle the text of many passages hitherto doubtful. He read an interesting translation of the famous Edict of Toleration, and gave an account of the discovery by Capt. Deane, Assistant Commissioner at Hoti Murdan, of the new inscription at Shahbaz Garhi, which furnishes material for a perfect text of the Edict.—*Athenæum*, 5th May, 1888, p. 569.

The first volume of the Catalogue of Sanskrit MSS. in the India Office, by Professor Eggeling, of Edinburgh, has just been published. It contains the description of all the Vedic works in the collection comprised in 566 MSS. These are derived from various sources, but by far the larger number came from the library of H. T. Colebrooke.

Mr. M. Dhammaratna, the editor of the native paper called "Lak Mini Pahana," has commenced the publication of an edition, in Sinhalese characters, of the Pāli Text of Buddhaghosa's celebrated work the Wisuddhi Magga. It is to appear in weekly parts of two sheets each, and is to contain also the full commentary in Sinhalese of the learned King Parākrama Bāhu the Third (called Paṇḍita Parākrama Bāhu, to distinguish him from the more famous King, the first of that name). To these two works are added a new commentary by the Editor, also in Sinhalese. The first part has already appeared, and the undertaking reflects the greatest credit on the public spirit and scholarship of the Sinhalese journalist.

Anurādhapura, Ceylon.—There seems to be very great want of tact in the way in which the excavations at the ancient and sacred seven Dāgabas at this place are being carried out.

The following correspondence is taken from the Sinhalese newspaper *Sarasavisānderasa* of the 1st instant:

"Colonial Secretary's Office, 23rd May.—Rev. Sir,—I am directed to send you the accompanying Memorial addressed to the Officer Administering the Government by certain Buddhists, and I am to invite you to offer any observations that you may desire to make thereon. 2. I am to remind you that, at your interview with His Honour the Officer Administering the Government, you asked only for the suspension during the pilgrimage of the excavation work,

and that no reference was made by you to any discovery or removal of 'hidden treasures,' of which His Honour has not himself heard.—I am, &c., H. W. GREEN, for Colonial Secretary.—H. Sumangala Terunanse.”

“Widyodaya College, Colombo, May 31st.—Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, enclosing a petition from a so-called Abhayagiri Defence Committee, and asking me to offer any observations upon it that I may wish. In reply I have to say: 1. That although I have no connection with the above-mentioned Committee, and cannot accept any responsibility for its actions or statements, I am distinctly of opinion that the excavation of the Sacred Dagabas, on any pretence whatever, is an act of desecration, and cannot but be extremely painful to the feelings of all true Buddhists. 2. That as to the statement made in the petition that the Government Agent has despoiled the Dagaba of its hidden treasures, I have no reliable evidence before me of the discovery of any valuables whatever, and for that reason I made no reference to the general rumour of such discovery during my interview with His Honour the Officer Administering the Government; but I am decidedly of opinion that, *if* any such treasures *have been removed*, they should at once be replaced. 3. That at my recent interview with His Honour the Officer Administering the Government, what I asked for was *not*, as represented, the mere suspension of the work of excavation *during* the time of the pilgrimage, but the *stoppage* of such work altogether and the filling up of all excavations before the pilgrimage.—I am, sir, &c., H. SUMANGALA, High Priest of Adam's Peak, and Principal of Widyodaya College.—The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Colombo.”

A general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Japan was held on March 14; Prof. J. Milne in the chair. Mr. C. S. Meik read an interesting paper, “Around the Hokkaido.” The tour round Yesso was made in company of Mr. Fukushi, of the Survey Department of the Hokkaido Government.—*London and China Telegraph*, May 7, 1888, p. 418.

Count Auret-Elmpt, a Russian, is at present on a voyage up the Meikong, in company with M. Dupuis. His object is to study the Muongs, Mois, and other tribes in an earnest manner, and trace their origin. He is likewise particularly interested in the Laotians, whom he believes to be descendants of the ancient Khmers.—*Ibid.*, p. 427.

A French mission, composed of several members, and at the head

of which is M. Fonnereau, is now exploring Cambodia and visiting Angkor. An artist accompanies the expedition.—*Ibid.*, p. 427.

Mr. A. Dalgleish, the well-known Central Asian traveller, has been shot by a Pathan near the Karakoram Pass, while on his way to Yarkand. His body was to be taken to Let for burial.—*Home-ward Mail*, May 7, 1888, p. 578.

African Philology.—"A Language-study based on Bantu," by the Rev. F. W. Kolbe, formerly of the Rhenish Mission in Hereroland, South Africa (Trübner, 1888). The author, following Dr. Bleek, considers that a study of the Bantu Languages of South Africa is most important to every Comparative Philologist. For instance, the origin of the grammatical form of gender and number, the etymology of pronoun, and many other deep grammatical questions will find their solution in the study of the languages of this family. To this subject he has dedicated a treatise of 98 pages.

The "Book of Common Prayer" in the Chuána Language of South Africa, belonging to the Bantu Family, has been published by the S.P.C.K.

An educational book in the form of exercises to facilitate the study of Ũmbundu, the language of Benguella in West Africa, has been published by the Mission Press at Benguella. This also is a Bantu language, the very existence of which is only known to us from the works of the American Missionaries.

Note on the Riff Language of the Berber Branch of the Hamitic Family spoken in the Northern portion of Morocco by a large population, who are quite distinct from the Arabic invaders, and only Mahometans on the surface. A Gospel has been translated into this language, with the help of Natives, and I witnessed the process during my visit to Morocco last October. It is an entire addition to our existing knowledge.—R.N.C.

The Berber language of North Africa embraces several branches, the chief of which are the Sŭs, or *Shluh*, spoken in the country of Sidi Hashim, south of Morocco proper, the RIFF, in the mountains of North Morocco, and the KABAIL, of Algeria. Between these widely separated countries there are all along the intervening Atlas mountains, and also in some parts of the Sahâra, more or less varying shades of the same tongue. In short, these sub-dialects, with a few exceptions, may be said to cover the whole Atlas range from Tunis to Agadêr, and are more or less intelligible to the people speaking one or other of the three above-mentioned languages.

The branches mentioned of the Berber language, although analogous, are yet quite distinct; somewhat resembling, in their relation to each other, a group of Keltic languages, such as Gaelic, Irish and Welsh, or perhaps more nearly, Neo-Latin group, say Italian, French, and Spanish. The term *SHLŪH* is given in Morocco by people of Arab extraction to the Berber people, and their language is also called *SHILĤA*. And doubtless *Shilĥa* was the prevailing language of the whole of Mauretania before the indigenous inhabitants of the plains and the coast were driven into the mountains at the time of the Arab invasion. Riff, the north-western branch of Berber, has hitherto been an unwritten language.

Linguistic Exploration of the Senegambia.—Prof. René Basset, of Algiers, has now completed his linguistic exploration of the Senegambia, the results of which will appear in three volumes, as soon as possible.

I do not wish to anticipate more than necessary the work of the French explorer, and shall only give, from a few explanatory notes supplied by him, the probable contents of his work, as follows:—

1. *Zenaga*.—History of the Moors and of the country, from the times of Hanno's Periplus.—Morphology and Phonetics.—Zenaga Texts.—French-Zenaga Vocabulary.—Comparative Zenaga-French Dictionary, in order of roots.—Vocabulary of the Berberized Arabic words, in order of roots.

2. *Hassanya Arabic*, spoken on the river Senegal.—Poetry and Letters.—Hassanya Vocabulary, in order of Arabic roots.—Influence of the Arabic over the Senegalian languages, viz.: Wolof, Pul, Mandingo, Susu, Serer, etc.—Arabic Letters written by these populations.

3. *Sangarã*, of the Mandingo group.—Vocabulary.

4. *Khassonke*, of the Mandingo group.—Grammar.—French-Khassonke and Khassonke-French_vocabularies; comparisons with the Susu, Soninke, Mandingo, Bambara, etc.

5. Comparison of the Wolof and Serer-Sin roots.

6. *Serer-Nón*, isolated language (at least provisionally); not to be ranged with Dr. Fr. Müller's so-called Felup languages; at any rate, quite distinct from the Serer-Sin, or Kegem, as illustrated by Gen. L. Faidherbe. Therefore the name "Serer" can no more be used as that of a language having two dialects, Sin and Nón, as these two so-called dialects are, in fact, two different languages; the few particulars given by Faidherbe about the so-called Nón dialect refer to the dialect of the Parors, or Falors, spoken at Nput

and distinct from the Nón proper, as understood by the Dyobas.—Vocabulary.

7. *Landuma*, neither isolated, nor to be classed with Dr. Fr. Müller's so-called Felup languages; but very closely related to the Bullom, Baga, and Timne.—Morphology.—French-Landuma Vocabulary.

8. *Baga*.—Morphology.—French-Baga Vocabulary.

9. Comparative Vocabulary of the Baga, Landuma, Bullom, and Timne.

10. *Dyola (Byafade)*, of the Rio-Grande, isolated.—Morphology and Vocabulary.

11. *Bram* and *Mandyago* as spoken at Bulam, Bissagos islands; these two dialects are closely related.—Morphology and Vocabulary.

12. *Nalu*, isolated.—Morphology and Vocabulary.

13. *Bidyogo*, as spoken at Bulam, Bissagos islands.—Morphology and Vocabulary.

14. Additions and Corrections.

15. Appendices; chiefly unpublished documents of Portuguese origin.

So considerable an amount of linguistic information, collected by so careful a scholar, will certainly prove very welcome; but, as remarked by Prof. R. Basset himself, much work will yet remain to be done in the same region. Perhaps some other scholar will soon have the opportunity of studying the languages of the high Niger, of the Bissagos archipelago, of the Cazamansa (Felup, Papel, Balanta), not to speak of the Pul, which I intend to illustrate myself, as I would have done already, had I not lost many precious documents collected by me some years ago.—CAPT. T. G. DE GÜIRAUDON.

V. REVIEW.

Die Kafa-Sprache in Nordost Afrika, von Leo Reinisch.—I. Grammar of the Kafa language. Vienna, 1888.

Prof. Leo Reinisch's recent work brings to light a language of North-Eastern Africa which was till now almost unknown to us. It forms a new link in the chain of the linguistic series begun some years ago by this distinguished scholar. Unfortunately the materials collected by him on the spot are now very nearly exhausted, and it is highly probable that he will have no further opportunity of returning to the Egyptian Soudan, which seems to be closed to Europeans for a long while to come. The time has