THE kingdom of Nepal is situated to the north-east of Patna, at the distance of ten or eleven days journey from that city. The common road to it lies through the kingdom of Macwanpur; but the missionaries and many other persons enter it on the Bettia quarter. Within the distance of four days journey from Nepal the road is good in the plains of Hindustan, but in the mountains it is bad, narrow, and dangerous. At the foot of the hills the country is called Teriani; and there the air is very unwholesome from the middle of March to the middle of November; and the people in their passage catch a disorder, called in the language of that country Aul, which is a putrid fever, and of which the generality of people who are attacked with it die in a few days; but on the plains there is no apprehension of it. Although the road be very narrow and inconvenient for three or four days at the passes of the hills, where it is necessary to cross and recross the river more than fifty times, yet, on reaching the interior mountain before you descend, you have an agreeable prospect of the extensive plain of Nepal, resembling an amphitheatre covered with populous towns and villages: the circumference of the plain is about 200 miles, a little irregular, and surrounded by hills on all sides, so that no person can enter or come out of it without passing the mountains.
There are three principal cities in the plain, each of which was the capital of an independent kingdom; the principal city of the three is situated to the northward of the plain, and is called *Cat'hmandu*: it contains about 18,000 houses; and this kingdom from south to north extends to the distance of twelve or thirteen days journey as far as the borders of *Tibet*, and is almost as extensive from east to west. The king of *Cat'hmandu* has always about fifty thousand soldiers in his service. The second city to the southwest of *Cat'hmandu* is called *Lelit Pattan*, where I resided about four years; it contains near 24,000 houses; the southern boundary of this kingdom is at the distance of four days journey, bordering on the kingdom of *Macwanpur*. The third principal city to the east of *Lelit Pattan* is called *B'hatgan*; it contains about 12,000 families, extends towards the east to the distance of five or six days journey, and borders upon another nation, also independent, called *Ciratas*, who profess no religion. Besides these three principal cities, there are many other large and less considerable towns or fortresses, one of which is *Timi*, and another *Cipoli*, each of which contains about 8,000 houses, and is very populous. All those towns, both great and small, are well built; the houses are constructed of brick, and are three or four stories high; their apartments are not lofty; they have doors and windows of wood, well worked and arranged with great regularity. The streets of all their towns are paved with brick or stone, with a regular declivity to carry off the water. In almost every street of the capital towns there are also good wells made of stone, from which the water passes through several stone-canals for the public benefit. In every town there are large square varandas, well built for the accommodation of travellers and the public. These varandas are called *Pali*; and there are also many of them, as well as wells, in different parts of the country for public
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use. There are also, on the outside of the great towns, small square reservoirs of water, faced with brick, with a good road to walk upon, and a large flight of steps for the convenience of those who choose to bathe. A piece of water of this kind on the outside of the city of Katmandu, was at least 200 feet long on each side of the square; and every part of its workmanship had a good appearance.

The religion of Nepal is of two kinds: the more ancient is professed by many people who call themselves Baryesus: they pluck out all the hair from their heads; their dress is of coarse red woollen cloth, and they wear a cap of the same; they are considered as people of the religious order; and their religion prohibits them from marrying, as it is with the Lamas of Tibet, from which country their religion was originally brought; but in Nepal they do not observe this rule, except at their discretion. They have large monasteries, in which every one has a separate apartment, or place of abode; they observe also particular festivals, the principal of which is called Yatra in their language, and continues a month or longer, according to the pleasure of the king. The ceremony consists in drawing an idol, which at Lelit Pattan is called Baghero*, in a large and richly ornamented car, covered with gilt copper: round about the idol stand the king and the principal Baryesus; and in this manner the vehicle is almost every day drawn through some one of the streets of the city by the inhabitants, who run about beating and playing upon every kind of instrument their country affords, which make an inconceivable noise.

* I suppose a name of Bhagavat or Crishna; but Bharga is Maha-deva, and Bajri, or Vajri, means the Thunderer.

X 2
The other religion, the more common of the two, is that of the Brahmins, and is the same as is followed in Hindustan, with the difference that in the latter country, the Hindus being mixed with the Mohammedans, their religion also abounds with many prejudices, and is not strictly observed; whereas in Nepal, where there are no Muselmans (except one Cashmirian merchant) the Hindu religion is practised in its greatest purity. Every day of the month they class under its proper name, when certain sacrifices are to be performed and certain prayers offered up in their temples. The places of worship are more in number in their towns than, I believe, are to be found in the most populous and most flourishing cities of Christendom; many of them are magnificent according to their ideas of architecture, and constructed at a very considerable expense; some of them have four or five square cupolas; and in some of the temples two or three of the extreme cupolas, as well as the doors and windows of them, are decorated with gilt copper.

In the city of Lelit Pattan the temple of Baghero was contiguous to my habitation, and was more valuable, on account of the gold, silver, and jewels it contained, than even the house of the king. Besides the large temples, there are also many small ones, which have stairs, by which a single person may ascend on the outside all around them: and some of those small temples have four sides, others six, with small stone or marble pillars, polished very smooth, with two or three pyramidal stories, and all their ornaments well gilt and neatly worked, according to their ideas of taste: and I think, that, if Europeans should ever go into Nepal, they might take some models from those little temples, especially from the two which are in the great court of Lelit Pattan, before the royal palace. On the outside of some of their temples there are also great square pillars of single stones, from twenty to
thirty feet high, upon which they place their idols, superbly gilt. The greatest number of their temples have a good stone staircase in the middle of the four squares, and at the end of each flight of stairs there are lines cut out of stone on both sides. Round about their temples there are also bells, which the people ring on particular occasions; and when they are at prayers, many cupolas are also quite filled with little bells, hanging by cords in the inside, about the distance of a foot from each other, which make a great noise on that quarter where the wind conveys the sound. There are not only superb temples in their great cities, but also within their castles.

To the eastward of Cathmandu, at the distance of two or three miles, there is a place called Tolu, by which there flows a small river, the water of which is esteemed holy, according to their superstitious ideas; and thither they carry people of high rank, when they are thought to be at the point of death. At this place there is a temple, which is not inferior to the best and richest in any of the capital cities. They also have it on tradition, that at two or three places in Nepal, valuable treasures are concealed under ground. One of those places they believe is Tolu; but no one is permitted to make use of them except the king, and that only in cases of necessity. Those treasures, they say, have been accumulated in this manner: When any temple had become very rich from the offerings of the people, it was destroyed, and deep vaults dug under ground, one above another, in which the gold, silver, gilt copper, jewels, and every thing of value were deposited. When I was in Nepal, Gainprejas, king of Cathmandu, being in the utmost distress for money to pay his troops, in order to support himself against Prit'hwinarayan, ordered search to be made for the treasures of Tolu; and, having dug to a considerable depth under ground, they came to the first...
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vault; from which his people took to the value of a lac of rupees in gilt copper, with which Gainprejas paid his troops, exclusive of a number of small figures in gold, or gilt copper, which the people who had made the search had privately carried off; and this I know very well; because one evening as I was walking in the country alone, a poor man, whom I met on the road, made me an offer of a figure of an idol in gold, or copper gilt, which might be five or six sicca weight, and which he cautiously preserved under his arm; but I declined accepting it. The people of Gainprejas had not completely emptied the first vault, when the army of Prit'hwinarayan arrived at Tolu, possessed themselves of the place where the treasure was deposited, and closed the door of the vault, having first replaced all the copper there had been on the outside.

To the westward also of the great city of Lelit Pattan, at the distance of only three miles, is a castle called Banga, in which there is a magnificent temple. No one of the missionaries ever entered into this castle, because the people who have the care of it have such a scrupulous veneration for this temple, that no person is permitted to enter it with his shoes on; and the missionaries, unwilling to show such respect to their false deities, never entered it. But when I was at Nepal, this castle being in the possession of the people of Gorc'ha, the commandant of the castle and of the two forts which border on the road, being a friend of the missionaries, gave me an invitation to his house, as he had occasion for a little physic for himself and some of his people. I then, under the protection of the Commandant, entered the castle several times, and the people durst not oblige me to take off my shoes. One day, when I was at the Commandant's house, he had occasion to go into the varanda, which is at the bottom of the great court.
facing the temple, where all the chiefs dependent upon his orders were assembled, and where also was collected the wealth of the temple; and, wishing to speak to me before I went away, he called me into the varanda. From this incident I obtained a sight of the temple, and then passed by the great court which was in front: it is entirely marble almost blue, but interspersed with large flowers of bronze well disposed, to form the pavement of the great courtyard, the magnificence of which astonished me; and I do not believe there is another equal to it in Europe.

Besides the magnificence of the temples, which their cities and towns contain, there are many other rarities. At Kathmandu, on one side of the royal garden, there is a large fountain, in which is one of their idols, called Narayan. This idol is of blue stone, crowned and sleeping on a mattress of the same kind of stone: and the idol and mattress appear as floating upon the water. This stone machine is very large: I believe it to be eighteen or twenty feet long, and broad in proportion; but well worked, and in good repair.

In a wall of the royal palace of Kathmandu, which is built upon the court before the palace, there is a great stone of a single piece, which is about fifteen feet long, and four or five feet thick: on the top of this great stone there are four square holes at equal distances from each other. In the inside of the wall they pour water into the holes, and in the court-side, each hole having a closed canal, every person may draw water to drink. At the foot of the stone is a large ladder, by which people ascend to drink; but the curiosity of the stone consists in its being quite covered with characters of different languages cut upon it. Some lines contain the characters of the language of the country; others the characters of
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Tibet, others Persian, others Greek, besides several others of different nations; and in the middle there is a line of Roman characters, which appears in this form AVTOMNEW INTER LHIVERT; but none of the inhabitants have any knowledge how they came there, nor do they know whether or not any European had ever been in Nepal before the missionaries, who arrived there only the beginning of the present century. They are manifestly two French names of seasons, with an English word between them.

There is also to the northward of the city of Kathmandu a hill called Simbi, upon which are some tombs of the Lamas of Tibet, and other people of high rank of the same nation. The monuments are constructed after various forms; two or three of them are pyramidal, very high and well ornamented; so that they have a very good appearance, and may be seen at a considerable distance. Round these monuments are remarkable stones covered with characters, which probably are the inscriptions of some of the inhabitants of Tibet, whose bones were interred there. The natives of Nepal not only look upon the hill as sacred, but imagine it is protected by their idols; and, from this erroneous supposition, never thought of stationing troops there for the defence of it, although it be a post of great importance, and only at a short mile's distance from the city: but during the time of hostilities a party of Prit'hwinarayan's troops being pursued by those of Gainprejas, the former, to save themselves, fled to this hill, and, apprehending no danger from its guardian idols, they possessed themselves of it, and erected a fortification (in their own style) to defend themselves. In digging the ditches round the fort, which were adjoining to the tombs, they found considerable pieces of gold, with a quantity of which metal the corpses of the grandees of Tibet
are always interred; and when the war was ended, I myself went to see the monuments upon the hills.

I believe that the kingdom of Nepal is very ancient, because it has always preserved its peculiar language and independence; but the cause of its ruin is the dissention which subsists among the three kings. After the death of their sovereign, the nobles of Lelit Pattan nominated for their king Gainprejas, a man possessed of the greatest influence in Nepal; although some years afterwards they removed him from his government, and conferred it upon the king of Bhatgan; but he also a short time afterwards was deposed; and, after having put to death another king who succeeded him, they made an offer of the government to Prit’hwinarayan, who had already commenced war. Prit’hwinarayan deputed one of his brothers, by name Delmerden Sah, to govern the kingdom of Lelit Pattan, and he was in the actual government of it when I arrived at Nepal; but the nobles perceiving that Prit’hwinarayan still continued to interrupt the tranquillity of the kingdom, they disclaimed all subjection to him, and acknowledged for their sovereign Delmerden Sah, who continued the war against his brother Prit’hwinarayan: but some years afterwards they even deposed Delmerden Sah, and elected in his room a poor man of Lelit Pattan, who was of royal origin.

The king of Bahtgan, in order to wage war with the other kings of Nepal, had demanded assistance from Prit’hwinarayan; but seeing that Prit’hwinarayan was possessing himself of the country, he was obliged to desist, and to take measures for the defence of his own possessions; so that the king of Gorc’ha, although he had been formerly a subject of Gainprejas, taking advantage of the dissensions which prevailed among the other kings of Nepal, attached to his party many
mountain-chiefs, promising to keep them in possession, and also to augment their authority and importance; and if any of them were guilty of a breach of faith, he seized their country as he had done to the kings of Marecajis, although his relations.

The king of Gorc'ha having already possessed himself of all the mountains which surround the plain of Nepal, began to descend into the flat country, imagining he should be able to carry on his operations with the same facility and success as had attended him on the hills; and, having drawn up his army before a town containing about 8000 houses, situate upon a hill called Cirtipur, about a league's distance from Kat'hammadu, employed his utmost endeavours to get possession of it. The inhabitants of Cirtipur receiving no support from the king of Lelit Pattan, to whom they were subject, applied for assistance to Gainprejas, who immediately marched with his whole army to their relief, gave battle to the army of the king of Gorc'ha, and obtained a complete victory. A brother of the king of Gorc'ha was killed on the field of battle; and the king himself, by the assistance of good bearers, narrowly escaped with his life, by fleeing into the mountains. After the action, the inhabitants of Cirtipur demanded Gainprejas for their king, and the nobles of the town went to confer with him on the business, but, being all assembled in the same apartment with the king, they were all surprised and seized by his people. After the seizure of those persons, Gainprejas, perhaps to revenge himself of these nobles for having refused their concurrence to his nomination as king, privately caused some of them to be put to death; another, by name Danuvanta, was led through the city in a woman's dress, along with several others, clothed in a ridiculous and whimsical manner, at the expence of the nobles of Lelit Pattan. They were
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then kept in close confinement for a long time. At last, after making certain promises, and interesting all the principal men of the country in their behalf, Gainprejas set them at liberty.

The king of Gorc'ha, despairing of his ability to get possession of the plain of Nepal by strength, hoped to effect his purpose by causing a famine, and with this design, stationed troops at all the passes of the mountains to prevent any intercourse with Nepal; and his orders were most rigorously obeyed, for every person who was found in the road, with only a little salt or cotton about him, was hung upon a tree; and he caused all the inhabitants of a neighbouring village to be put to death in a most cruel manner (even the women and children did not escape) for having supplied a little cotton to the inhabitants of Nepal; and, when I arrived in that country at the beginning of 1769, it was a most horrid spectacle to behold so many people hanging on the trees in the road. However the king of Gorc'ha being also disappointed in his expectations of gaining his end by this project, fomented dissentions among the nobles of the three kingdoms of Nepal, and attached to his party many of the principal ones, by holding forth to them liberal and enticing promises; for which purpose he had about 2000 Brahmens into his service. When he thought he had acquired a party sufficiently strong, he advanced a second time with his army to Cirtipur, and laid siege to it on the north-west quarter, that he might avoid exposing his army between the two cities of Catt'humanu and Lelit Pattan. After a siege of several months, the king of Gorc'ha demanded the regency of the town of Cirtipur, when the commandant of the town, seconded by the approbation of the inhabitants, dispatched to him by an arrow a very impertinent and exasperating answer. The king of Gorc'ha was so much enraged at this mode of proceeding, that he gave im-
mediate orders to all his troops to storm the town on every side: but the inhabitants bravely defended it, so that all the efforts of his men availed him nothing; and, when he saw that his army had failed of gaining the precipice, and that his brother, named Suruparatna, had fallen wounded by an arrow, he was obliged to raise the siege a second time, and to retreat with his army from Cirtipur. The brother of the king was afterwards cured of his wound by our father Michael Angelo, who is at present in Bettia.

After the action, the king of Gorc'ha sent his army against the king of Lamji (one of the twenty-four kings who reign to the westward of Nepal) bordering upon his own kingdom of Gorc'ha. After many desperate engagements, an accommodation took place with the king of Lamji; and the king of Gorc'ha collecting all his forces, sent them for the third time to besiege Cirtipur; and the army on this expedition was commanded by his brother Suruparatna. The inhabitants of Cirtipur defended themselves with their usual bravery, and, after a siege of several months, the three kings of Nepal assembled at Cat'hmandu to march a body of troops to the relief of Cirtipur. One day in the afternoon they attacked some of the Tanas of the Gorc'hians, but did not succeed on forcing them, because the king of Gorc'ha's party had been reinforced by many of the nobility, who to ruin Gainprejas, were willing to sacrifice their own lives. The inhabitants of Cirtipur having already sustained six or seven months siege, a noble of Lelit Pattan, called Danuvanta, fled to the Gorc'ha party, and treacherously introduced their army into the town. The inhabitants might still have defended themselves, having many other fortresses in the upper parts of the town to retreat to; but the people at Gorc'ha having published a general amnesty, the inhabitants, greatly exhausted by the fatigues of a long siege, surrendered
themselves prisoners upon the faith of that promise. In the mean time the men of Gor'cha seized all the gates and fortresses within the town; but two days afterwards Prit'hwinarayan, who was at Navacuta (a long day's journey distant) issued an order to Surupa-ratna his brother, to put to death all the principal inhabitants of the town, and to cut off the noses and lips of every one, even the infants, who were not found in the arms of their mothers; ordering at the same time all the noses and lips, which had been cut off, to be preserved, that he might ascertain how many souls there were, and to change the name of the town into Naskatapur, which signifies the town of cut noses. The order was carried into execution with every mark of horror and cruelty, none escaping but those who could play on wind instruments; although father Michael Angelo, who, without knowing that such an inhuman scene was then exhibited, had gone to the house of Suruparatna, and interceded much in favour of the poor inhabitants. Many of them put an end to their lives in despair; others came in great bodies to us in search of medicines; and it was most shocking to see so many living people with their teeth and noses resembling the skulls of the deceased.

After the capture of Cirtipur, Prit'hwinarayan dispatched immediately his army to lay siege to the great city of Lelit Pattan. The Gor'chians surrounded half the city to the westward with their Tanas; and, my house being situated near the gate of that quarter, I was obliged to retire to Cal'chmandu, to avoid being exposed to the fire of the besiegers. After many engagements between the inhabitants of the town of Lelit Pattan and the men of Gor'cha, in which much blood was spilt on both sides, the former were disposed to surrender themselves, from the fear of having their noses cut off, like those at Cirtipur, and also their right hands: a barbarity the Gor'chians had threatened them with, unless they would surrender within
five days. One night all the Gorc'hians quitted the siege of Lelit Pattan to pursue the English army, which, under the command of Captain Kinloch, had already taken Siduli, an important fort at the foot of the Nepal hills, which border upon the kingdom of Tirhut: but Captain Kinloch not being able to penetrate the hills, either on the Siduli quarter or by the pass at Hereapur, in the kingdom of Macwanpur, the army of Gorc'ha returned to Nepal to direct their operations against the city of C'at'hmandu, where Gainprejass was, who had applied for succour to the English. During the siege of C'at'hmandu the Brahmens of Gorc'ha came almost every night into the city, to engage the chiefs of the people on the part of their king; and the more effectually to impose upon poor Gainprejas, many of the principal Brahmens went to his house, and told him to persevere with confidence, that the chiefs of the Gorc'ha army were attached to his cause, and that even they themselves would deliver up their king Prir'hwinaarayan to his hands. Having by these artifices procured an opportunity of detaching from his party all his principal subjects, tempting them with liberal promises according to their custom, one night the men of Gorc'ha entered the city without opposition, and the wretched Gainprejas, perceiving he was betrayed, had scarce time to escape with about three hundred of his best and most faithful Hindustani troops towards Lelit Pattan; which place however he reached the same night.

The king of Gorc'ha having made himself master of C'at'hmandu in the year 1768, persisted in the attempt of possessing himself also of the city of Lelit Pattan, promising all the nobles that he would suffer them to remain in the possession of their property, that he would even augment it; and because the nobles of Lelit Pattan placed a reliance on the faith of his promises, he sent his domestic priest to make this protestation: that, if he
failed to acquit himself of his promise, he should draw
curses upon himself and his family even to the fifth
past and succeeding generation, so that the unhappy
Gainprejas and the king of Lelit Pattan, seeing that
the nobility were disposed to render themselves subject
to the king of Gor'cha, withdrew themselves with
their people to the king of B'hatgan. When the city
of Lelit Pattan became subject to the king of Gor'cha,
he continued for some time to treat the nobility with
great attention, and proposed to appoint a viceroy of
the city from among them. Two or three months
afterwards, having appointed the day for making his
formal entrance into the city of Lelit Pattan, he made
use of innumerable stratagems to get into his pos-
session the persons of the nobility, and in the end suc-
cceeded. He had prevailed upon them to permit their
sons to remain at court as companions of his son; he
had dispatched a noble of each house to Navacut, or
New Fort, pretending that the apprehensions he enter-
tained of them had prevented his making a public
entrance into the city; and the remaining nobles
were seized at the river without the town, where they
went to meet him agreeably to a prior engagement.
Afterwards he entered the city, made a visit to the
temple of Baghero adjoining to our habitation, and
passing in triumph thro' the city amidst immense num-
bers of soldiers who composed his train, entered the
royal palace which had been prepared for his recep-
tion; in the mean time parties of his soldiers broke
open the houses of the nobility, seized all their effects,
and threw the inhabitants of the city into the utmost
consternation. After having caused all the nobles who
were in his power to be put to death, or rather their
bodies to be mangled in a horrid manner, he depart-
ed with a design of besieging B'hatgan; and we ob-
tained permission, through the interest of his son, to
retire with all the Christians into the possessions of the
English.
At the commencement of the year 1769, the king of Gurc'ha acquired possession of the city of B'hatgan, by the same expedients to which he owed his former successes: and on his entrance with his troops into the city, Gainprejas, seeing he had no resource left to save himself, ran courageously with his attendants towards the king of Gurc'ha, and, at a small distance from his palanquin, received a wound in his foot, which a few days afterwards occasioned his death. The king of Lelit Pattan was confined in irons till his death; and the king of B'hatgan, being very far advanced in years, obtained leave to go and die at Benares. A short time afterwards the mother of Gainprejas also procured the same indulgence, having from old age already lost her eye sight: but before her departure they took from her a necklace of jewels (as she herself told me) when she arrived at Patna with the widow of her grandson: and I could not refrain from tears, when I beheld the misery and disgrace of this blind and unhappy queen.

The king of Gurc'ha, having thus in the space of four years effected the conquest of Nepal, made himself master also of the country of the Ciratas to the east of it, and of other kingdoms, as far as the borders of Coch Gihar. After his decease, his eldest son Pratap Sinh held the government of the whole country: but scarcely two years after, on Pratap Sinh's death, a younger brother, by name Bahadar Sah, who resided then at Bettia with his uncle Delmerden Sah, was invited to accept of the government: and the beginning of his government was marked with many massacres. The royal family is in the greatest confusion, because the queen lays claim to the government in the name of her son, whom she had by Pratap Sinh; and perhaps the oath violated by Prit'hwninarayan will in the progress of time have its effect. Such have been the successors of the kingdoms of Nepal, of which Prit'hwninarayan had thus acquired possession.