

II.—*Memoir on the Topes and Antiquities of Afghánistán.* By J. G. Gerard, Esq. Surgeon, Beng. Est., addressed to the President of the Asiatic Society, from Jelalábád, 4th Dec. 1833.

[Read at the Meetings of the 30th April and 20th May.]

The topes or edifices of which *Manikyála* is already familiar to us by the enterprising researches of General VENTURA, had appealed to our curiosity in the journey to *Turkistán*, but three only were visited en passant; viz. *Manikyála* itself, one at *Usmán Khátr* in the basin of the *Indus*, and another at *Pésháwer*. On my return to *Kábul*, in November last, ample gratification awaited me, through the zealous exertions of Messrs. MARTIN HONIGBERGER and MASSON, whom I met in that city.

The interest excited by the labours of these travellers (as might be supposed) was not limited to the mere inspection of their collections, which were displayed to me with an open candour that leaves me their debtor. I followed up the inquiry to which they had unfolded to me the clue; and though unproductive of similar results to those which have crowned their exertions, I am enabled to speak to some points from actual experience, and hope to have it in my power to add more hereafter.

The monuments now about to be considered, which were first introduced to our notice by Mr. ELPHINSTONE, are calculated to rouse the attention of the antiquarian and the philosopher, when he surveys the relics they disclose in connexion with dynasties, of which all our knowledge is scarcely more than the faintest lineaments, and of the events to which they yielded and ceased to exist, history gives us little or no account. To have a prospect of filling up a blank in chronological annals is of itself sufficiently interesting, but it is doubly so when these may serve to illustrate the career of one whose exploits are a theme of so much fame, and whose foot-steps have employed so many pens to trace even consistently.

These ancient edifices may perhaps present to us the sepulchral remains of the Bactrian kings, and others who succeeded to their sway; but, whether we view them as cotemporary with the Grecian dynasty of *Balkh* in *Turkistán*, or of those subsequent satrapies which emanated from the remains of that kingdom, the same thoughts recur, the same suggestions rise, Who were those kings? and what was the extent of their individual sway in these and other regions? for there is no doubt that the whole of the *Panjáb*, and even a great part of the Gangetic territory and *Sind*, were the seat of their dominion, whether this was Indo-Scythic or Indo-Grecian;—by what revolutions their reign termi-

nated, and they themselves became extinct? and who were their successors till the period when the frenzy of Muhammedan religion overturned the whole institutions of the country? These questions, which involve many others, may yet be answered by these memorials.

Ancient history is sufficiently intelligible, and conducts us to the path, and even the allocation of Macedonian conquest in *Afghanistan*; and if identity in the appellations of places is still perplexing, and even apparently inaccessible, it must be assigned rather to a deficiency in ourselves, than to a result produced by any interchange of language that may have occurred during the lapse of ages; for instance, if a person, familiar with Sanscrit, were to visit these regions, there is no doubt that things would speak to us, instead of awaiting to be interrogated.

We are indebted to Col. WILFORD for a knowledge of the fact, that the names of all the places in ALEXANDER'S route from *Bamián* to *Multán*, are pure Sanscrit.

The Persian will also assist us in the inquiry. I need scarcely mention the single word *Panjáb* (i. e. *pañj-áb*), five waters; or *Hydaspes* (*Jhilam*), the initial syllable of which answers to the Greek term for water, and the last to the Persian word "*asp*," a horse; and it is notorious, that the *Doáb* (two waters, or rather the land between them), of the *Jhilam*, is famed for a breed of fine horses called *dhanis**, and also of fine women. It is related to us, that so many honors were reported to be paid to beauty in the country of the Cathæi under King SOPHITES, that even dogs and horses were selected for their quality; and farther, that notwithstanding their barbarism, this nation was first in wisdom, being ruled by salutary customs, one of which was, that children born with disproportions in any part of their body were to be killed; nuptials being only influenced by beauty of exterior in children: a commentary upon this will readily occur in the practice of the present day, and the usages which prevail in the territory watered by the Hydaspes. In *Turkistán*, the field for etymological affinities is equally prolific: the river Jaxartes, we are told, is read in the Mongol *Ixiartis*; but the Türks also call it *Secandria* or ALEXANDER'S river. The river *Sogd* retains its name, as we find from ISART OOLAH'S Journal. The Sogdrians are therefore readily recognised as the people inhabiting the course of that valley. The Getæ must be identified with the *Jogatai*, who inhabit *Zataria*; beyond the limit of *Yarkand* and *Kashgar*, and of which stock the present king of Delhi and his relative, the sovereign of China, are descendants. *Balkh*, I think, Colonel WILFORD designates in the Sanscrit *Bahalac*; also *Ba-*

* MAHÁ RÁJÁ RUNJEET SINGH gets his best steeds from that district.

mián, in *Vimiyán*. *Bakhtra*, of which *Balkh* was the capital, is the native cognomen which the Greeks modified into the more liquid sound Bactria or Bactriana. *Bakhtar** is applied to *Kábul* to this day, and occurs in the histories of those countries; but if this proves any thing, it is that the Greeks retained the appellation, and did not bestow it. *Pesháwer* is known as a district of *Baigram*, which was a province of *Bakhtar*; in short, a philologist coming into those regions would find synonymes at every step, and could not fail to elucidate etymologies, which we at present receive as vitiated beyond the limits of analysis, and inaccessible by synchronotic induction. In this view, the *Afghán* or *Pashtú* language may furnish us with many idioms, and especially the local dialects of districts which have resisted Muhammedan conquest, and are comparatively in a state of primitive simplicity. The vernacular dialects of the *Tájiks* (simply crowned heads or descended of kings,) the aborigines of the country, may be expected to elucidate something; for it is there we can hope to find traces of far antiquity; and if sepulchres alone are the result, they may at least enable us to connect local affinities, and fix the situs of some monarchs whom we already know to have been extant, but of whose reigns and institutions no vestiges have hitherto been discovered; and though the inference is, that they perished by the sword of the Khalifs, which swept away almost every written memorial of a prior epoch, it would be an extreme conclusion that some annals of the dynasties which followed the Grecian empire, if not those of the original settlers in *Balkh*, may not exist. The period of 1200 or 1500 years is far from incompatible with the expectation of finding inscribed legends either in stone or metal. Coins, the representatives of nations, are already in our possession, and obnoxious as they are to Islamism, as the types of idolatry, they have survived both the ravage of time, and the intolerance of bigotry, and still mock the prejudices of religious zeal; we may therefore expect to find remains that will afford local illustrations the more interesting to anticipate from the very obscurity of the subject, the total absence of research at any former period, and the barrenness of history and tradition concerning such events.

The topes or tombs which appear in the environs of *Kábul* are planted along the skirt of the mountain ridges, which support that elevated plain, and this peculiarity is common to almost all of them: the adjacent level has obviously been the basin of a lake or sheet of standing water, till drained away by the course of rivers, and it still continues more or less a quaggy marsh. The first settlers seem to have

* I don't know if it occurs in *BABER'S* Memoirs, but I think it does in the *Timúr Nama*.

chosen the rising ground at the roots of the hills for their locations, the ancient city of *Kábul* (still visible in the remains of mounds or heaps) also occupying that basal line.

The position of the monuments, if not influenced by natural causes, or selected from motives of religious veneration, is rather fanciful; those which I have seen being either situate close under the cliff of the mountains, or secluded within recesses, wherever a running stream had its course; and it would appear that a rill of water nourishing a few trees or patches of cultivation and verdure was a conjunctive feature of every spot. The most usual site of those structures is an isolated rising ground, washed by a perennial current. Trophies of such magnitude, serving merely as receptacles for the dead, and often devoid of any traces either of them or of the living, sequestered and almost shut out from sight, will not be sufficiently intelligible to our ideas, except by comparing them with edifices in other regions of the world, the object of which is known:—if they had been smaller they must have fallen to ruin in a few centuries. The masses of *Manikyála* in the *Khyber* Pass and at *Pesháwer* almost forbid the idea of identifying them as tombs, except some more decided proofs are forthcoming than have yet appeared, though we are not without analogies in the size of some of the Muhammedan cemeteries, not to speak of the pyramids of Egypt themselves, while the absence of any inscriptions to denote another purpose, leaves us in the former belief.

Of the sepulchres excavated by M. MARTIN HONIGBERGER, amounting to more than thirty, the greater part have their sites at *Jelálábád* and the adjacent territories, and it is this spot particularly that commands our notice, since it may be assumed to have formed the seat of one of the Bactrian sovereignties, as *Balkh* did another; the more readily as it would seem to answer in its locale and conformation to the spot which ALEXANDER consecrated with Bacchanalian revels; and it is certainly from physical position fully eligible for the capital of a kingdom, uniting, as if by a band, the temperature and even some of the productions of an intertropical climate, with zones chilled by perpetual frost, having a considerable expanse of level, and a soil irrigated by perennial streams. Here we behold the tombs of a long race of kings (as I suppose them to be) which have survived in obscurity the lapse of many centuries: a large proportion of them, indeed the majority, have crumbled into mere tumuli; but, except those opened by Mr. HONIGBERGER they appear to have been hitherto untouched by the hand of man.

Muhammedan bigotry, which swept away all the traces of written knowledge within its reach, and defaced the memorials of whole nations,

has spared these cemeteries : yet this does not surprise us when the *Bhúts* of *Bemids*, such gigantic types of idolatry, remain trophies of cotemporary or even prior ages. These wonderful images are mentioned in the Koran, and if we admit the authority of the Mahábhárat, and the still more fabulous history of the Pándu dynasty, their antiquity will approach to a period co-existent with the fall of the Grecian kingdom, which is perhaps somewhat repugnant to conjectural analysis ; yet we must either assign that date, or an epoch antecedent to ALEXANDER'S conquest, for the construction of those wonderful idols.

But, to return to *Jelálábád*. The topes are here very thickly planted on both banks of the river, which washes the northern limit of the valley ; the declivity of the soil being from the snowy ridge of *Sufféd koh*, has thrown the stream quite to their base ; and here the tombs appear, black with age, extending from *Bólá Bágh* to the conflux of the *Kábul* river at *Dronta*, about 10 miles downward and four from *Jelálábád*. As we passed along, several were noticed, which did not appear to be delapséd ; but they had no doubt been excavated at their base, since it is in this immediate vicinity that recent discoveries have been chiefly directed.—In the plain were seen the ruins of others which had subsided into mere heaps like cairns : these were standing in the midst of green fields, but this is rare ; and upon a shelf of conglomerate rock, and diluvial accretions continuous from the roots of *Sufféd koh*, and here forming the cultivable limit of the valley on the south, extends a long line of tumuli or ruined sepulchres, insulated upon natural eminences ; though often upon raised platforms, a dozen of these may be recognised, not as mere visible heaps, but mounds of great size, and which until very recently had been undisturbed by man*. Several having been opened by Mr. MARTIN *Хомичевскыи* with sufficient recompense. Their position is strange enough, upon a bare rugged surface of attrited stones, furrowed by the intersections of water-courses, the cliff of which formed of agglutinated pebbles, or pudding stone, is hollowed into recesses which were represented to me as the caves of the *Káfirs*, or “ unbelievers :” they are still inhabited by the pastoral tribes, who migrate with their flocks, according to the seasons of the year, and take up their winter quarters in these Troglodite abodes. The site of the topes commands the whole landscape, which is limited to a narrow slip of luxuriant cultivation, sloping to the cavity of the valley ; the interval southward, of ten or twelve miles, being a high plain of gravel, pebbles, and rolled stones, all sterile and arid to the foot of *Sufféd koh*, where again villages and

* There is one immense edifice, but now crumbled into a mere heap, near *Jelálábád*, which serves the *Nawab* as a prospect point : he often repairs to it and seats himself upon its summit for hours to enjoy the fresh atmosphere.

horticultural productions abound, ramifying within the flexures of the mountains, or rising upon the acclivities, till checked by the rigor of climate. It must have been in this neighborhood that ALEXANDER revelled in imitation of Bacchus, and there is actually a spot upon the flanks of the snowy ridge that would seem to correspond with the locale of that event, the summer residence of the Nuwab of *Jelalábád*, which is described as affording the most delicious transition from the heat of the valley, embowered in the most redundant ever-green verdure. This portion of territory acknowledging but a capricious allegiance to the Nuwab, and a less certain attachment to his authority, is seldom frequented and little known; and though it is affirmed that there are no monuments beyond the line above alluded to, I cannot doubt that research would be repaid, and that along the skirts of a magnificent range, crowned with eternal snow, tombs will be discovered: the situation almost warrants the belief, if that has been selected from a regard to natural concomitants, and in *Kábul* the choice has evidently been influenced by such circumstances, for we cannot otherwise account for a position that connects its objects with the surrounding gloom. There, in one of the recesses or glens deeply locked within the mountains, stands a Grecian pillar called *Surkh Minár*, from its red colour. The site is isolated upon a natural eminence, showing a steep acclivity, lofty and almost mural cliffs rear on all sides. Another Grecian monument or minar, appears perched upon the crest of the ridge, at a great elevation; neither of these bear inscriptions nor any kind of device, but I am informed there is no doubt about their origin.

The decay and most commonly total wreck of all the edifices planted upon the southern margin of the dell at *Jelalábád* is easily explained in the nature of the materials that have composed them, which are pebbles of vast size, or blocks of stone, attrited by water to smoothness, conjoined by a cement of mud. They have consequently been easily delapsd, and have crumbled away into mere heaps, like gigantic mole-hills. Where these have been excavated at their base, a small hollow square or cavity is disclosed, formed of hewn stones*, wherein was deposited whatever remains were designed. These topes differ very materially from that of *Manikyála*, and *Usmán Khatir*, where the square is continued from the top in the form of a shaft. In none of those which I have seen, or which have been opened by Mr. HONIGBERGER, does this conformation occur, and we may at once note it as a distinguishing feature in these fabrics, which has no doubt a local import. There are indeed few exactly similar; for they vary in size, in external decorations, or in their structure; though the contour has

* Then the *carré* of Gen. VENTURA, about which a doubt was expressed in the foregoing paper, was a hollow, and not a solid, square.—Ed.

a generic type, as we should expect, if the mausolea represented the offspring of a single and original dynasty; however much its character might be altered by the interchange of successive generations, deriving new ties of consanguinity, in the same manner as ALEXANDER did, intermarrying with the conquered, which he considered a link of union in a government, that was to become dependent upon its natural resources, though perhaps the only apology that he could offer for the sudden transport of love which wedded him to ROXANA.

The contents of the thirty or more topes excavated by Mr. HONIGBERGER are of the highest interest. Many of them were indeed unproductive of any insignia by which we can identify their original design, or connect them with their founders: a circumstance the less remarkable, when we consider the surreptitious interests of the workmen often employed remote from any control, but even where control embraced the entire operations the labour often ended in inanity. Many of the sepulchres (perhaps most of them) are comparatively small*; from 30 to 45 or 50 feet high, with a circumference of 80 to 110 feet; and not one of them presented the structure of *Manikyála*, or a hollow shaft penetrating from the top, filled up however with the materials of the building, and discovering deposits of coins at various intervals, which continued beyond the limit of the shaft or 25 feet, to the base where the excavated stone reservoir was found, that proved so fruitful of reliquisæ. Nothing answering to the above has accrued to Mr. HONIGBERGER, if we except a single gold coin, I believe of SOTER MEGAST, which was found in one tope lodged within a silver cup, but a similar cup yet unopened, would seem to argue the prototype of that acquired by General VENTURA. The exterior is a hard metal, containing a fluid which is perhaps inclosed within a golden casket like that of *Manikyála*; on perceiving which Mr. HONIGBERGER with provisionary care cemented the whole cylinder, till he should lay it before his countrymen at Vienna. With the above solitary exception, I do not think any coins were elicited from the tombs, nor any other device indicative of the object of their erection, though it would be an extreme supposition to entertain, that such fabrics should be raised as mementos to posterity without a single trait

* In the gorge of the *Khyber* Pass which penetrates the country from *Pesháwer*, stands a most magnificent edifice, equal to or exceeding that of *Manikyála*, and if I am not mistaken, there are others. Mr. HONIGBERGER sent a servant to explore the antiquities of this district, habited as a faqir or mendicant, his best or only passport among people who live by pillage. He tempted the *Khyberis* to dig by the prospect of treasure, but they would do nothing without pay, and the object was thus (fortunately) abandoned.

† *Soter-megas*, see Mr. MASSON'S Memoir, page 168.—ED.

to connect them with the individuals whose existence they commemorate*. The relics which have accrued to Mr. HONIGBERGER are however extremely curious, consisting of very minute bones, or their dust, pearls, pieces of amber and rubies, and different kinds of sedimentary remains, the nature of which can only become known by chemical analysis. These were found reposing within excavated (turned) cylinders, of a soft striated stone, quite similar to that of which the shot and shells of H. R. H. ABBAS MIRZA at Meshed are made. These cups, both in their size and form, correspond to a model which is frequent enough in India: they have a lid surmounted by a small knob. A roll of paper, apparently the back of the *Bijpatra*, containing written characters, occurred in one instance; this precious fragment may unfold some satisfactory evidence of the origin and design of the edifice which enclosed it. Small burnt clay lamps, and occasionally square or oblong clay receptacles, filled with osseous remains, gems, and thread, are among the collection. If my memory does not deceive me, I think I remarked small golden images of birds, while I am certain that many things escaped my observation, and also that I retain but a very imperfect idea of any individual relic, notwithstanding the candor and liberality with which they were displayed to my view. I felt backward to gratify a curiosity that had little to recommend it, and the brief and defective notice I have now taken of Mr. HONIGBERGER's discoveries, while it can only convey but a faint trace of the facts which remain for original analysis, I venture to believe will receive from that gentleman the only construction that its motives can be supposed to meditate in making it. One object may indeed be gained, since Mr. HONIGBERGER has already embarked upon a long and perilous journey *viâ Bakhtar* to his native land†, after having given charge of all his valuable acquisitions to Chev. ALLARD, whose prospects of returning to Europe seemed to offer a favorable passport for their transmission to Germany, but which I have since learnt is likely to be protracted indefinitely. Under such a view, the foregoing remarks, if deemed worthy of being read before the Asiatic Society, may become known in Europe through the medium of a journal which has already in these obscure regions (as will soon be shewn) stimulated the development of antiquarian research, and in this immediate instance is calculated to communicate and preserve the merit of labors, which natural and adventitious causes might otherwise tend to consign to oblivion.

* There are inscriptions on the brass cylinders deposited in the topes; see the foregoing paper.—ED.

† See note of this traveller's adventure at *Bawian*, p. 246. It is fortunate that he had left his coins and relics behind.—ED.

Mr. HONIGBERGER would only have promoted his own views, had he made the Journal of the Asiatic Society a channel of publicity to his discoveries, since it is fully probable that subsequent laborers in the same field will weaken the interest of his researches, before that gentleman can reach his own country (which must be considered a problem), or the fruits of his exertions shall have quitted British India. These are destined to enrich the Cabinet of Vienna, and we may imagine the precious banquet they will afford to such eminent literary patrons as KLAPROTH and VON HAMMER.

[We thank Dr. GERARD most cordially for his zeal on behalf of the Journal, but it would indeed be presumption in us to imagine the German Doctor's coins could be better disposed of here than in the hands of the eminent men he names. We appeal to M. SCHLEGEL'S note on Bactrian coins too often to allow of our undervaluing such high authority. We have been obliged for want of space to curtail the foregoing memoir, and to omit for the present Dr. G.'s remarks on the climate and country of *Kábul* and *Jelálabád*. We have said nothing on his hypothesis that these mounds are the sepulchres of kings; a theory also adopted by Mr. MASSON, but contradicted by most other authorities, who look upon them as Buddhist structures. This supposition is confirmed by the existence of similar mounds in Nipal and elsewhere, and by the very nature of the relics discovered in them.—ED.]

III.—*Extracts from Mr. Masson's Letter to Dr. J. G. Gerard, on the Excavation of Topes, dated Tattung, 22nd March, 1834.*

The fourth tope I opened had in its centre a small chamber, with nothing therein but a little loose dust. I excavated to the very soil beneath the foundation, but nothing farther was discovered: eighteen days' labor were expended here. In the central chamber was a small cobweb with its tenant, a spider, apparently in good health and spirits: The tope was 144 feet in circumference, and how the insect got there, and contrived to live, is somewhat astonishing; if he introduced himself at the period of the erection of the tope, he must have been above 1600 years old. I know not whether naturalists will concede to his species such extraordinary longevity. The results of three other topes will be known within the three next days. Of one of them a *nishán* or token of there being something has been brought to light. Although by the experience of the fourth tope, I find that some of these structures do not contain relics, by which they may be identified, as coins, writings on leaves, &c. yet from the experience of all hitherto opened, I am confirmed in the opinion, that no one is without a sign or token of some kind, if it be only a small recess or chamber in the centre. Ultimately, a line of distinction may be formed between the topes of

sovereign princes, members of their family who did not rule, and of saints, at least it so strikes me on a *prima facie* consideration of these monuments; but there is one misfortune, that the contents of none can be judged by the mere appearance. To ascertain them it is necessary to excavate; and tokens the most useful to antiquarian or historical research are often extracted from such whose appearance is least inviting, and vice versa. The *topes*, which are well preserved, and whose outlines are clear, are also excavated at less expence, than the dilapidated ones whose outlines are faint or totally defaced. With the first the *sanctum sanctorum* is reached without chance of error: with the last, the direction of the excavation depends more on chance, and there is the additional trouble of penetrating through the mass of fallen materials around. The famous *Nandúrá* *tope*, 164 feet in circumference, was opened in eight days; a much inferior one on the level plain, from which I now expect something, and which has a circumference only of 108 feet, has now employed the same number of men twelve days.

My search for coins at this place has been very unsuccessful; I look forward however to a glorious stock from *Kábul* this year, and only hope that my competitors may not raise the market too high for me. I have an idea, if funds permit, to send one of my men to *Balkh* for a couple of months, for the purchase of antiques: this will moreover depend on my verifying what I have heard from two or three sources, viz. that old coins are readily procurable at that place and neighbourhood. Now that Bactrian coins excite so much attention, you may, if you please, let Mr. PRINSEP know that three years since Major TAYLOR at Bagdad had some sixteen or seventeen Bactrian silver tetradrachms, and that two gold Bactrians were procured at *Tabriz*, both or one of them by Dr. CORMICK. That gentleman's coin was stolen from him. Major TAYLOR intended his coins, with a vast number of others, for Sir JOHN MALCOLM.

I have heard nothing farther concerning MARTIN. I learn that he did not forward to Captain WADE the account of his operations on the *topes* of *Jelálabád* and *Kábul*, which he had prepared for that purpose in Persian. When I wrote the notice on the *Beghram* coins, I supposed that he had sent it, as he even read it to me, and made the remark that Captain WADE might publish it if he pleased. I observed that Captain WADE was not likely to do so unless authorized by him: he therefore by a letter authorized Captain WADE to make it public. Neither one or the other was probably sent, and this I merely note in case I may have alluded to this account in the memoir, which I presumed would have been published by the Indian press. The account was simply one of the operations and discoveries, without any hint or opinion as to what age, &c. they had reference.

I have some idea of publishing a detached small volume in India, (that is Calcutta,) "An Account of the Topes of *Afghanistan*," with sketches of the whole. I apprehend that India is too limited a field to expect any extensive sale for any literary work whatever, nor do I know how the publication of works is managed in Calcutta, neither whether engravers would be found to execute the plates. Of these there would be some thirty or forty, or perhaps more. Neither am I satisfied that any one would undertake the expence of publication, nor am I sure that a publication by subscription would be sufficiently encouraged. I have set in order a general and individual account of these tope, explaining their site and identification as far as the relics extracted from them testify, with my conjectures respecting all and each of them: these conjectures involve some points of history and geography not to be avoided. I have also taken sketches of all of them, at a certain measured distance, and used a camera lucida, that their comparative dimensions in the sketches might be exactly preserved*.

I have not heard whether M. MARTIN, on being despoiled, lost his gold medal of KADPHISES: as he justly prized it he always retained it about his person, and it was the only one of his coins, excepting perhaps the silver ones of MENANDER and EUTHYDEMUS, of each of which he had one, that he did not forward by your medium to M. ALLARD. If he lost it, it is fortunate that I preserved the sketch of it. (See Pl. xiii.)

I hear nothing conclusive here of your researches at the Peshawar tope. OSMAN notes in his letter to me that the statues are very wonderful and beautiful. I trust you will have found a prize there; they are certainly a very singular discovery, and may occasion a good deal of speculation as to the nature of the monument; it will be highly interesting if their *caste* be recognizable.

I inclose a copy of the inscriptions around the *koti* or box extracted from a tope here, as noted in my last. This if you think fit may be forwarded to Mr. PRINSEP for notice in the Journal†, and he may invite those who are competent to decypher it. There must surely be individuals at Calcutta, certainly at Bombay among the Parsees, who

* We should be most happy to second Mr. MASSON's project, did we think that he could be rewarded by any sale or subscription in Calcutta. It would certainly be preferable to publish in Europe, with all the advantages of good engravers, a large reading public, and the various facilities which publishers there enjoy of interchange and communication with others of the profession at home and abroad. There is besides a heavy duty on importing into England works printed in this part of her dominions! The camera lucida sketches will be most valuable.—ED.

† See plate xxii. and the remarks in page 319.—ED.

can read the Zendavesta in the original. I should fancy a reference to the article ALPHABET in any of the Encyclopedias would exhibit the value of the Zend and Pehlevi characters. I note in a memorandum the equivalent characters of the Greek Bactrian coins to five Greek names and cognomens, and could have carried the subject farther, did time allow*.

Your messenger brought a letter for the Nuwab from *Osman*, and this caused his detention to-day. I visited the búrjes or topes in hand : the one I noted as expecting something from is not yet got through : in the centre was a kind of structure in form [as in Plate xxii. Fig 27], the bottom has not yet been reached. I hope to-morrow will produce something. The topes with these forms of inferior *gumbases* or domes, &c. in the centre, are very suspicious ; I fear in some instances these are the only tokens they contain, and they do not give much information.

23rd March, 1834.

C. M.

IV.—*Journal of a Tour through Georgia, Persia, and Mesopotamia.* By Capt. Mignan, Bombay European Regiment, Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, and M. R. A. S.

[Continued from p. 280.]

Speaking to Prince GALETZIN of the Russian Cavalry, who had been attached to the Count's staff in Turkey, he said, " We do not lose half so many men as you are inclined to believe ; since on the instant a man is infected, we plunge him in iced water, wash all his linen, and on the second day he is sure to be convalescent." That the soldiers of the Russian army should be infected, can create no surprise whatever. Their filthiness is proverbial. I once saw a regiment paraded to perform (as I imagined) their evolutions. On being drawn up in line, a serjeant stepped out to the front with a long broom, and rubbed down the men, as our grooms do horses. Had I been on the parade ground, I might have been murdered by an attack of lice—a second plague which has smote this land. A punishment parade succeeded this scene, and several offenders were brought forward. The drum-major passed down the line, and actually spat into the mouths of the prisoners. The reader is tired of a narrative so disagreeable. I can assure him, that my disgust to this nation is founded on practices that exist not amongst the most barbarous people. I leave them to their admirers.

On the morning of the 8th of February, we quitted Ganja for Zodi, distant four leagues. On leaving the town, my attention was attracted

* We shall take an opportunity of introducing these in a subsequent plate, with as many more of the same character as are now within our reach from the collections of Shékh KERA'MET ALI, and Munshi MOHAN LAL.—ED.