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Discovery of Buddhist Remains at Mount Uren in Mungir (Monghyr) district, and Identification of the site with a celebrated Hermitage of Buddha.—By L. A. WADDELL, M. B.

(With four Plates).

Seldom is it possible to identify an ancient site so perfectly as that now reported; for it seldom happens that the historical description is so very detailed, the geographical position so well defined, and the remains themselves so little disturbed as in the present case. And in addition to the discovery of the hermitage where Buddha spent the rainy season (the so-called 'Buddhist Lent') of the sixteenth year of his ministry, it is interesting and important to find that a famous incident in the legendary life of Buddha, which occurred here and which has hitherto been considered a solar myth, is in fact an almost unembellished record of a local event. Evidence is also offered of the forcible expulsion hence of Buddhism by the Muhammadan invaders, in opposition to the opinion expressed by many writers that Buddhism died out of India through its own inherent decay.

Discovery of site.—The antiquities at the village of Uren have quite escaped the notice of archæologists. On passing through the village some months ago, I observed numerous fragments of Buddhist statues scattered everywhere around, and was so led to explore the locality during the limited time at my disposal, with the result of discovering that the hill adjoining the village is one on which Buddha rested a season,

during the rains, and a celebrated place of pilgrimage in olden times, very fully described by the Buddhist pilgrim Hiuen Tsiang* in the seventh century A. D.

Remains being destroyed by quarriers.—It is a pity that the site has remained so long undiscovered, for the unfortunate proximity of the hill to the railway, and the excellent quality of the rock (granite) have induced the railway authorities to use the hill as a quarry for ‘road-metal’; and only about six years ago two of the most interesting of the rock-sculptures were in this way demolished and the fragments further broken up and carried off as ballast; and the blasting operations have now extended to within a few feet of the more important rock-sculptures and markings still remaining. Many of the inscribed statues also have been carried off from time to time by the overseers or contractors supervising the quarrying operations—one of these in particular, a Mr. S— is reported to have carried off, about thirty-six years ago, a full cart-load of the best preserved statuettes, the ultimate destination of which cannot now be traced. Sufficient evidence, however, still exists to place the identification of the site beyond all dispute, and I am glad to have been the means of rescuing these ancient remains, more especially the rock-markings, from imminent destruction.†

Hiuen Tsiang’s description of the site.—The I-lan-na-po-fa-to (*Hiranya-parvata*) country of Hiuen Tsiang is held by the recognized authorities Julien,‡ Fergusson§ and Sir A. Cunningham|| to have coincided approximately with the hilly portion (*i. e.*, the eastern half) of the modern district of Mungir (Monghyr) in the province of Bihár, with its capital at the site of the present town of Monghyr. In describing this country, Hiuen Tsiang writes:—¶

“On the western frontier of the country (I-lan-na-po-fa-to), to the

* *Si-yu-ki*, Buddhist Records of the Western World, translated from the Chinese of Hiuen Tsiang by S. BEAL, Vol. II, pp. 190-91, London, 1884.

† Since writing the above I have again visited the site and find that further quarrying operations have been extensively carried on since the submission of this report to the Society. The western cliff, bearing numerous chaitya figures, has been in great part removed by blasting, only the fractured bases of a few of the chaityas still remaining. Also at the south-east margin of the hill, where the rock was highly polished and contained ancient markings, most of this surface has been removed by blasting. And a blast had been put in within two yards of Buddha’s footprint, but had miscarried in explosion. All this destruction has occurred subsequent to my report to the Society.

‡ *Memoires sur les Contrées Occidentales*, traduits du Chinois, Paris, 1853.

§ *Jour. Roy. As. Soc.*, Vol. VI, p. 230.

|| *Ancient Geography of India*, p. 476; and Arch. Survey of India Reports, Vol. XV, p. 16.

¶ BEAL, *loc. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 190.

“south of the river Ganges, we come to a small solitary mountain with a double peak rising high (Beal here notes ‘The passage might be translated “there is a small solitary hill with successive crags heaped up.”) “Formerly Buddha in this place rested during the three months of rain, and subdued the Yaksha Vakula (Yo-o’ha Po-khu-lo). Below a corner of the south-east of the mountain is a great stone. On this are marks caused by Buddha sitting thereon. The marks are about an inch deep, five feet two inches long, and two feet one inch wide. Above them is built a *stūpa*. Again to the south is the impression on a stone where Buddha set down his *kiun-chi-kia* (*kundika* or water-vessel). In depth the lines are about an inch, and are like a flower with eight buds (*or* petals). Not far to the south-east of this spot are the foot-traces of the Yaksha Vakula. They are about one foot five or six inches long, seven or eight inches wide, and in depth less than two inches. Behind these traces of the Yaksha is a stone figure of Buddha in sitting posture, about six or seven feet high. Next, to the west, not far off, is a place where Buddha walked for exercise. Above this mountain top is the old residence of the Yaksha. Next, to the north is a foot-trace of Buddha, a foot and eight inches long and perhaps six inches wide and half an inch deep. Above it is a *stūpa* erected. Formerly when Buddha subdued the Yaksha, he commanded him not to kill men nor eat their flesh. Having respectfully received the law of Buddha, he was born in heaven. To the west of this are six or seven hot springs. The water is exceedingly hot.”

General Cunningham's identification with Mahādeva hill.—So very detailed a description of this site ought to render its identification comparatively easy and certain; and it seems remarkable that guided by such a minute description the identification should have been so long delayed. It may be that this is partly owing to Sir A. Cunningham having already in his official report* identified the Mahādeva peak in the Kharakpur hills with the site just described by Hiuen Tsiang. But it had so happened that about two months previous to my visiting Uren, I had occasion to be in the neighbourhood of the Mahādeva hill referred to by General Cunningham, and I took advantage of the opportunity to visit the hill, book in hand—with the pilgrim's account and General Cunningham's remarks side by side for reference on the spot. And I confess to being thoroughly disappointed. In this case certainly the remarks applied by Fergusson to another identification of General Cunningham's are again fully applicable, *viz.*, that after arbitrarily altering the direction given by his author, he fails in every instance to “bring

* *Archæological Survey of India Reports*, Vol. XV, p. 19, Calcutta, 1882.

“the natural features of the country into accord with the descriptions “of the pilgrim.”

Mahádeva hill certainly not the site.—That the Mahádeva hill is certainly not the site referred to by the pilgrim is evident from the following facts:—

- 1st. It is *not* “on the western frontier,” but rather on the eastern frontier of I-lan-na-po-fa-to.
- 2nd. It is *not* “a small solitary hill,” but is within and among the hills and not a detached hill; it is only a lower shoulder of a higher hill of the range behind.
- 3rd. It has *not* “a double peak rising high”—the 2nd peak really belongs to another hill of the range.
- 4th. It has *no* “successive crags heaped up”—on the contrary its sides are trim and sub-conical.
- 5th. It has *not* “to the west not far off” any place suitable for a promenade.
- 6th. It has *none* of the very numerous rock-markings described by Hiuen Tsiang (so far as is known, and special inquiry and search for these were made).
- 7th. It has *no* remains of the several *stúpas* erected on the site.
- 8th. The hot springs are *not* “to the west” of the hill, but actually upon the hill itself and on its eastern and N. E. slope.
- 9th. Lastly it has no Buddhist remains, nor remains of any kind (except a small brick shrine about 4 feet square housing a *linga* [Mahádeva], nor is there any history or likelihood of there ever having been remains hereabouts; and the situation is so remote from rail and roadways and villages, that had any buildings or remains ever existed here, it is scarcely possible that every trace of them could have been swept away.*

Mt. Uren fully satisfies description in every detail.—Finding thus that the Mahádeva peak was certainly not the place referred to by the pilgrim, I was, at the time I stumbled on the Uren ruins, on the outlook for a site which would be more in harmony with the pilgrim’s account; and that Mt. Uren fully satisfies the pilgrim’s description, even to the minutest detail, will be abundantly evident from the following particulars:—

Situation of Mount Uren.—Mount Uren is situated in the Mungir dis-

* The *Pánc̣h Kumár* figure referred to by Genl. CUNNINGHAM was found about five miles from here and is only a five-faced ‘*linga*’ (phallus).

trict and on the Western frontier of the I-lan-na-po-to (*Hiranya-parvata*) country, formerly included in the ancient kingdom of Magadha, and within the Buddhist Holy Land. It is about twenty miles distant from the town of Mungir in a S. W. direction, and about seven miles south of the present course of the Ganges, but in the rains the Ganges flood reaches almost up to Uren. In the Survey map the name is spelt "Oorein," but the local pronunciation and spelling of the name is *Uren*.

Local traditions.—Tradition is singularly meagre both in regard to the hill itself, and the ruins and remains at its base. The only story which is current amongst the villagers is, that the hill was formerly the abode of a demon or deified giant called Lorik, famous in the nursery tales of Bihár. And to this Lorik were ascribed the known markings on the hill, *viz.*, the *lofá*-mark, the two footprints, and that portion of the hill called 'the house.' The existence of Buddha's footprint and the numerous inscriptions on the summit of the hill, and a footprint and inscriptions at the S. E. base were, however, unknown to the villagers, until I pointed them out.

Conformation of Hill identical with Hiuen Tsiang's description.—Of the hill itself no more concise description could be given than that contained in Beal's translation,* *viz.*, "a small solitary hill with successive crags heaped up." The hill is also "a small solitary mountain† with a double peak rising high." In appearance, therefore, the hill literally satisfies both the original and alternative descriptions. The hill is bare and devoid of vegetation, except in a few chinks in the rock where a scanty soil and debris have accumulated. Its black naked rocks, rising in a rugged series of crags abruptly from the plain, give it a most weird appearance. The rock consists of granite of a pale bluish colour on fracture, and its surface, where unpolished, becomes covered over with a black lichen. The hill is isolated and solitary, being distant about two miles from the mass of the Mungir hills, here consisting of what Buchanan calls 'silicious hornstone'‡, and separated from these by a stretch of plain, now under rice cultivation. The height of the hill seems to be about 250 feet above the surrounding plain. The shape of the hill is seen in the accompanying sketch-map (see Plate I), which also indicates the position of the remains and rock-markings. The southern peak is the higher and forms the true summit of the hill.

* *Loc. cit.*

† One of the translations gives 'mountain' instead of hill, but BEAL shows that the word also means 'hill,' and there are no mountains in this part of India.

‡ *Eastern India*, II, 166. It is commonly known as quartzite.

The numerous remains noted by Hiuen Tsiang identified seriatim.—In identifying *seriatim* the remains noted by Hiuen Tsiang, it is convenient to describe these in a slightly different order to that given by the pilgrim, as at least two of the rock “traces” have lately been removed, respectively five and six years ago.

The residence of the Yaksha.—1st, “Above this mountain top is the old residence of the Yaksha (*Vakula*).” This to the present day is one of the sights of the hill. The villagers call it *Lorik ká ghar* or ‘the house of Lorik the giant’ (i. e., Yaksha). It is a somewhat flat area on the top of the hill, below the S. E. side of the summit, and is surrounded on three sides by vaguely columnar rock, slightly suggestive of rude walls.

The local survival of the name of the Yaksha, viz., Bakula.—In regard to the name of the Yaksha, viz., *Vakula*,* which in modern Hindí becomes *Bakula*, it is remarkable to find the local survival of this name and the awe in which it is still held. Immediately behind Uren is the mouth of a pass which leads into the wild Singhol hills; and the pass and the hills beyond were the retreat of banditti till long after the Muhammadan invasion. The older banditti are popularly alleged by the villagers to have been cannibals, and their raids are still spoken of by the lowlanders here with dread. These highland aborigines were formerly called *rakshas* or ‘demons’ by the plains-people; and the oldest settlement of these raksha or yaksha tribes is about five miles beyond the mouth of the pass, and is called *Bakura*—which is identical with the name of the ‘yaksha’ given by Hiuen Tsiang—*l* and *r* being interchangeable, and indeed such interchange is the rule hereabouts; thus the common word *gwál*, a cowherd, is ordinarily pronounced *gwár*. And in Chinese transliteration *r* is expressed by *l*. It is a common practice to name villages after their founders: thus Bakura village = ‘the village of Bakura.’ And so great was the dread inspired by this Bakura that he is even now worshipped by the semi-aborigines of the plains (the *Dosádhs* and *Gwálas*) at a shrine in the village of Jalálábád†, about eight miles east from Uren, under the name of ‘*Ban-Bakura Náth* or the ‘Savage Lord Bakura.’ His image is in basalt and represents a squat muscular man in a semi-sitting posture. He has a large sensual head, thick lips and curly hair which latter is fastened in a coil with a scimitar-shaped dagger, as with the aborigines in

* A Hindú legend of a man-eating demon, bearing the somewhat similar name of *Vaka*, is told in the *Mahábhárata* (Whoeler’s Transl., p. 110), the demon being slain by *Bhíma*. But the great Asura *Rájá*, named *Vaka*, lived near the city *Ekachakra*, which is believed to be within the modern district of *Sháhábád*, about two hundred miles to the north of Uren. This may be a Hindú version of the Buddhist story.

† And six miles north-east from *Kharagpur*.

the Barhut Sculptures. And it is interesting in regard to Hiuen Tsiang's note that the Yaksha was converted to Buddhism, to find that these tribes had acquired profound respect for the remains at Uren; for they had carried off from the ruins to the pass several inscribed Buddhist stones and images, some of which are reverently disposed under trees at the foot of the pass and others on the summit of the pass, where they are rudely worshipped by daubing with vermillion. And most of these fragments show fractures so sharp as to lead to the belief that they had been carried off and deposited where they now are very shortly after the destruction of the Buddhist establishment at Uren.

Foot-trace of Buddha.—2nd. “Next to the north is a foot-trace of Buddha, a foot and eight inches long, and perhaps six inches wide and half an inch deep.” This foot-trace of Buddha is to be found to the north of ‘Lorik ká ghar’ and about five yards from the summit of the hill; see No. 5 on the plan (Plate I). It is of the right foot, and its dimensions are 23 inches long by $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad and about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in depth. It is directed to the N.N E.

The footprint is partly natural and partly artificial, the outer border of the print, for the greater part of its extent, is outlined by a linear flaw in the granite rock, into which has poured a quartzose material, part of which had been picked out to give greater distinctness to the outline. The inner border of the footprint is also a natural line, and the depression of the heel and sole seem also natural; but the rock, forming the ball of the great toe and the marks of the toe-tips, has all been artificially chipped, the operation having been assisted by the rock in this situation slightly tending to scale, or peel off in one or two layers. No chiselling seems to have been resorted to, nor was it needed. In the depression from the root of the toes to the heel, the rock is highly polished and contains traces of numerous inscriptions, all, except the one registered in two lines on the ball of the toes, so indistinct as to give no legible impression—and even this one, I fear will prove unreadable.

The stúpa above footprint.—3rd, “Above it (the foot-trace of Buddha) is a stúpa erected.” Five yards above the foot-trace, and in line with the direction in which it points, is a mound of bricks, the most prominent feature on the hill top, and suggestive of the remains of a small stúpa. The bricks are small, flattened and well-baked, and many of them are wedge-shaped. The narrowness of the rocky base, viz., about 12 feet by 12 feet, would not admit of a very large stúpa being built here. In the village below are collected numerous bevelled and sculptured basalt blocks which formed the facings of small stúpas. At the N. E. base of the brick mound is seen outcropping a part of the base of a thickly plastered wall, but its direction is nearly straight, and as it is dis-

posed somewhat radiatingly to the centre of the brick mound, it may be the remains of a wall bounding a path leading up to the stúpa; but as I had no leisure to explore the mound properly, I left it undisturbed. The villagers report that at the last quarrying operations, about four years ago, the overseer carried off a black stone which was on the top of this brick-mound, and there is a square arrangement of the superficial bricks around the centre of the mound suggestive of the existence of a small square shrine here. The position being on the very top of the hill, it is quite possible that there may have been here a relatively modern shrine to a Brahmanic god, erected on the ruins of the stúpa and built with the bricks of the latter. Some of the villagers say that the officer of the 'fort' had his house here, but this is manifestly absurd, as there is no room for a dwelling house in such a circumscribed spot. This brick mound, therefore, demands careful exploration, although it is extremely improbable that any relics will be found here, as the depth of bricks now remaining is only about 3 feet or so.

Buddha's loḥá-print.—4th. "Again to the south is the impression on a stone on which Buddha set down his *kiun-chi-kia* (*kuṇḍika* or water-vessel). In depth the lines are about an inch and are like a flower with "eight buds (or petals)." This mark, which is locally known as Lorik's 'loḥá-mark'—*loḥá* being the modern term for the ancient *kuṇḍiká*,—is still an absolutely fixed point, although the mark itself no longer exists, the portion of rock on which it was graven having been blasted about five years ago. Several of the villagers whom I separately interrogated led me always to the very same spot. Fortunately, however, in this case we are not dependent on the mere testimony of the villagers. On several parts of the hill are sculptured on the rock the figures of stúpas or chaityas of most elaborate patterns. And I observed that these groups of stúpa-figures have their apices pointing towards one or other of the footprints and other sacred markings. In this case, the group of stúpa-figures which are situated immediately below, and with their apices directed towards the reported site of the *loḥá*-mark are supplemented by figures of the *loḥá* or water-vessel very specially and prominently displayed; see Plate II.

The *loḥá* is here figured in no less than three and probably four different phases, *viz.* :—

(a) The small single circle to the left of the stúpa (No. 1, Pl. II.), which is reported to be the exact facsimile reproduction of the actual circumference of the body of the original *loḥá*-mark—now destroyed as above noted; its diameter measures $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

(b) The elongated pear-shaped figure (No. 2, Pl. II), immediately

opposite the circle, on the right of the stúpa, is the same *loṭá* seen in profile, with four leafy projections at rim and with rope attached. To prevent all mistake as to the object here represented, the Buddhist artist (probably a monk) has added the indication of the four fingers in the act of grasping the rope, from which the *loṭá* is suspended.

(c) Below the circle, representing the circumference of the *loṭá*, is the profile of an ascetic's pitcher (No. 3), such as are still used by Hindú mendicants under the name of *kamaṇḍalu*. In this case also are represented four fingers in the act of grasping the rope-handle of the *loṭá*.

(d) The looped figure (No. 4) by the side of the *loṭá* profile on the right is evidently the coiled drawing rope of the *loṭá*. When straightened out, it measures 3 feet $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The remaining figures, except the large concentric circles (which may possibly represent cymbals, being much too large for a begging bowl), are merely accessories of worship, viz., a pile of granular material (evidently intended for rice and sweetmeats) on a raised tray, and the *sankha* or conch shell-trumpet (fig. 6) blown at the hours of worship also on a stand. These are evidently representative of the offerings and worship which were daily being made at the *loṭá*-print of Buddha, at the time when the drawing was executed. The inscription, contained in the base of this chaitya, seems to be merely the Buddhist creed, and is written in characters of the 8th or 9th century A. D.

Regarding the original *loṭá*-print, the villagers concur in reporting that its depth was a little over the length of the terminal phalanx (1st joint) of the index-finger, thus concurring with the pilgrim's description of "about an inch deep." The small circle, above noted as measuring $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches across, is said to have been equal to the circumference of the shoulder of the *loṭá*-print; but the rim of the print was of about one inch greater width all round than the base, and the whole depression was ornamented 'like a flower' (*N. B.*—this was a spontaneous expression of one of the villagers, thus agreeing with the pilgrim's account.) It is not recollected by the villagers how many petals were represented: but in the *loṭá*-profile (fig. 2), represented to the right of the stúpa-figure, are four petaloid appendages to the rim, two of which are distinctly subdivided (see also larger tracing No. 2a. at the foot of Plate II) thus affording evidence of the subdivision of the flower into eight petals as described by Hiuen Tsiang.

Further, the villagers report that all around the *loṭá*-print, the rock was highly polished and covered with numerous inscriptions in unknown characters. That the rock hereabouts was highly polished, I find to be the case as the rock containing the *loṭá*-print was on a ter-

race, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet above the plane of its stúpa-figures below, and a portion of this old surface, about four feet above the site of *loṭá*-print, has escaped dislodgement by the blasting and shows towards its lower border a commencing area of high polish. Finally the *loṭá*-print was situated on the southern portion of the hill (see Plate I) as stated by the pilgrim.

Foot-prints of the Yaksha.—5th. “Not far to the south-east of this spot are the foot-traces of the Yaksha Vakula. They are about 1 foot 5 or 6 inches long, 7 or 8 inches wide and in depth less than 2 inches.” In the exact direction and position here indicated, *viz.*, south-east from the *loṭá*-mark and at a distance of about 100 yards, were the two “footprints of Lorik” (see No. 4 on Plate I.) These marks, which were well-known to the villagers were blown up only four years ago. The two footprints were each about 18” long by 7 or 8 inches wide (described by villagers respectively as one *háth* (cubit) and two palm-breadths) and about 2 inches in depth. The divisions of the toes were clearly incised, and the surrounding stone was highly polished. One footprint was in front of the other, and they tended S. E. in the direction of *Lorik-ká ghar*, the abode of the yaksha. I would here refer to the unfortunately erratic manner in which these blasting operations are being conducted. At this particular part of the hill the only portion of the rock blasted was that which contained these two footprints and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet on either side of them—as if this overseer (a European) had purposely demolished these ancient marks. I believe the fact really is, that these markings were made on the most compact and undecomposed rock—the so-called *jítá pathar* ‘the living stone’ of the quarriers, and its highly polished surface attracted their unkind attention.

Colossal statue of Buddha.—6th. “Behind these traces of the Yaksha is a stone figure of Buddha in sitting posture about six or seven feet high.” No superficial trace of this image now exists, unless a small splinter of basalt, which I found a few yards lower down and which had formed part of some image, can be considered as such. At this site, however, is a hollow, between two shoulders of rock, which has become filled up with the debris of ages, so it is possible that excavation here might reveal traces of this statue.

Buddha's promenade.—7th. “Next to the west (of Yaksha's foot-prints), not far off is a place where Buddha walked for exercise.” In the situation here indicated is a narrow level tract between two long massive shoulders of rock, see Plate No. III. Before the great accumulation of debris had taken place, the rock on either side must have stood up like walls and bounded a rocky lane—a most suitable pro-

menade for the great ascetic, affording an outlook only to the distant hills and overhead the sky.

Marks where Buddha sat down.—8th. “Below a corner of the south-east side of the mountains is a great stone. On this are marks caused by Buddha sitting thereon. The marks are about an inch deep, 5 feet 2 inches long and 2 feet 1 inch wide. Above them is built a stúpa.” Julien, however, notes* the existence of a *cave* here in which Buddha dwelt. He says “Au bas d’une caverne située au Sud-est;” yet, Beale makes no remark when giving a different translation, *viz.*, ‘corner.’ It will be seen presently that Julien’s translation seems the correct one. I have left the identification of this site to the last, because the whole of the old surface of the S. E. corner of the hill has been removed by blasting, and the markings on the rock here must have been demolished by the quarriers. Evidence, however, is still extant of the former existence of a Buddhist sacred spot within the quarried area near the point marked No. 7 on Plate I, “on the south-east side of the hill.” On the vertical face of the rock, about twenty and thirty yards to the south and S. W. of that spot, are carved two stúpas pointing to that spot, and the old surface of the rock on the verge of the quarry and about seven or eight yards above that spot shows the commencement of an area of high polish such as is only found at the sacred spots; and here are numerous traces of short inscriptions but mostly illegible. Evidence also is found of the existence of a cave here. On this edge of the quarry, in comparatively modern Devanágari characters, is cut the inscription *Jájú ghar*, *i. e.*, ‘Jájú’s cave or house.’† This Jájú was evidently a modern occupant of the cave in which Buddha formerly dwelt, which was close to the large pípal tree (*Ficus religiosa*), see No. 7 on Plate I, and which was removed by the railway quarriers. But the villagers possess no tradition of any ascetic or local worthy of the name of Jájú, nor indeed were they aware of the existence of this inscription, till I pointed it out. He must have lived several generations ago. The greater portion of this side of the hill was blasted about thirty years ago, but farther blasting was done three years ago and also this year, and as the ballast coolies gather up fragments of bricks as well as stones, the remains of the stúpa here must have been removed. In a hollow in the rock immediately to the west of this are the numerous remains of broken bricks presumably those of the stúpa.

The Hot Springs in relation to Uren.—The above are the remains

* *Op. cit.*, III, p. 70.

† *Ghar* is the Mithila vernacular for *ghar*, a dwelling, and this portion of Monghyr district is included within the Mithila range of dialect. GRIERSON’S *Bihar Peasant Life*, p. 331.

noted by Hiuen Tsiang as existing on the hill. But immediately following the pilgrim's description of the hill is the paragraph: "To the west of this are six or seven hot springs. The water is exceedingly hot. To the south the country (I-lan-no) is bounded by great mountain forests in which are many wild elephants of great size. Leaving this kingdom, &c."

General Cunningham considers this note regarding the hot springs as being related to the description of Buddha's hermitage on the hill. But that it is so related, is open to doubt in view of the fact that (a) Hiuen Tsiang, as Beale remarks,* was evidently writing from the capital of I-lan-no-po-fo-to, not having himself visited this hill, and (b) the preceding paragraph seemingly disposes of this hill with the words, "Formerly when Buddha subdued the Yaksha, he commanded him not to kill men nor eat their flesh. Having respectfully received the law of Buddha, he was born in heaven," and the succeeding paragraph would seem to refer to the *country* of I-lan-no and not to this *hill*.

This paragraph therefore, regarding the direction of the hot springs, may equally well be taken as indicating their direction from the capital instead of from the hill. West from the capital of 'I-lan-no po-fo-to', which, as before noted, Vivien de Saint Martin, Fergusson and Cunningham are agreed was situated at or near the present town of Mungir, are two groups of hot springs the water of which "is exceedingly hot," viz., the hot springs of Janamkund, distant about 20 miles† to the south west, and the hot springs of Bhimband, distant about 25 miles to the S. S. W. and mentioned by General Cunningham. Dr. Buchanan visited these springs about the year 1810 and found the temperature of the waters to be in both cases 150° Fah.‡. And a more modern observation records the temperature as being 145°F. and 146·1°F. respectively.§

But even were the reference to the hot springs taken as an essential part of the description of the hermitage hill, then hot springs are still to be found not far off from Uren, and in a direction not altogether out of keeping with the pilgrim's description. The hot springs of Singhí Rikh are about three miles due south from Uren, and the hot springs of Janamkund are about twelve miles south-east from Uren; but, as a range of hills intervenes, the road leading from Uren to both of the above springs proceeds *south-west* for about four miles so as to get round the shoulder of this range of hills. So that on enquiring from certain villagers, at Uren, the way to the hot springs of Singhí Rikh

* *Op. cit.*, ii, foot-note, No. 11, p. 190.

† The pilgrim does not specify any distance for the springs.

‡ *Eastern India*, II, p. 198.

§ L. A. WADDELL, *J. A. S. B.* Vol. LIX, II, p. 226.

and Janamkund, I was directed to go *south-west*, and only subsequently ascertained that these springs really lay to the south and south-east respectively.

To describe, therefore, these springs in general terms as lying to the west of Uren is perhaps allowable under the circumstances, as the pilgrim was noting down a mere hearsay report, and the determination of such niceties of direction for distant places, where tortuous passages among hills are concerned, is possible even in modern times only to those provided with a compass. At each of these two sites the hot water outflows at six or seven separate springs.

Remains on hill additional to those noted by Hiuen Tsiang.—In addition to the above described remains and markings noted by Hiuen Tsiang, I observed on the hill the following additional remains :—

(a) *Part of a rock-cut inscription in large cuneiform headed characters* on the summit of the hill about four feet to the east of Buddha's footprint, (see No. 4, Plate IV.) The rock here is much scaled, so that only a fragment of the inscription is apparent. The inscription seems to be in 5 or 6 lines. The fragment given in the plate is the only portion legible and seems to be a portion of the 3rd line. This inscription is bounded by four lines forming a square with a side of about 7 feet; the borders of which are in exact relation to Buddha's foot-print.

(b) *Short rock-cut inscription in later Gupta characters*, on highest peak of rock, and about three feet above Buddha's footprint. See No. 5, Plate IV).

(c) Innumerable names in a great variety of archaic characters cover the surface of rock, at the summit for several square yards. These are written across one another in every direction, and are evidently in most part the names of pilgrims. On such an exposed situation and worn away by the feet during so many centuries, the words are well nigh obliterated and will I fear prove quite illegible. The ordinary process of copying by ink-impression is much too rough for such markings and only indicates those written in the larger sized letters. On one part of the rock, at No. 9 on map, are characters of a distinctly Burmese type forming a closely written series of about ten lines.

(d) A footprint with modern Hindí inscriptions and traces of words in older character is found on the south-east portion of the hill at the point marked No. 6 on Plate I. The footprint measures 24 inches in length, by 9 inches in breadth; its outline is rather indistinct, and compared with Buddha's footprint it has a relatively modern appearance—the presence, however, of some letters in the Kutila character show that it must be of considerable age, although probably subsequent to the time of Hiuen Tsiang.

(e) Numerous *chaitya* figures sculptured on the rock on various parts of the hill. The site of these are indicated on Plate I, and they all have their apices pointing to one or other of the holy spots. On the base of the large *chaitya* figure of the *lofá*-mark, and also on a vertical one at the south-west corner of the hill, are inscriptions, but these seem merely to contain the Buddhist creed.

Résumé of evidence identifying Mt. Uren with the hill described by Hiuen Tsiang.—Taking a brief *résumé* of the evidence for the identification of Mt. Uren, with the hill described by Hiuen Tsiang, we see that the identity is proved by:—

- 1st. The geographical position.
- 2nd. The physical conformation of the hill.
- 3rd. The actual presence and co-existence of all the very numerous and specialized remains and rock-markings noted by Hiuen Tsiang.
- 4th. The very numerous votive Buddhist statues and *chaityas* and the thousands of names carved on rock, indicating a sacred place of Buddhist pilgrimage.
- 5th. The survival of the old tradition recorded by Hiuen Tsiang that the hill-top was the abode of a demon, and his abode and footprints and the *lofá*-mark still being pointed out, and the survival of the name and worship of 'the Savage Lord *Bakura*.'

THE REMAINS AT BASE OF THE HILL.

I now proceed to describe the superficial remains at the base of the hill. Running out from the north base of Mt. Uren is a small flat and somewhat rocky spur on the northern extremity of which is situated the village of Uren. Occupying the north-eastern portion of this spur and adjoining the base of the hill, is a terraced area of broken bricks and fragments of Buddhist statues and hewn stones, locally known as "*Indardaun ká garh*"—the fort of Indardaun, see No. 13 on Plate I. Indardaun (the Indradyumna of Buchanan*), whose name still lingers in the memory of the people, was the reigning king of Magadha, at the time of the Muhammadan invasion in 1195 A. D., and he is believed by Buchanan to have been one of the Pála dynasty which was Buddhist, and on his flight from Bengal he is stated to have built the temple of Jagarnáth, the original Buddhist character of which seems undoubted.

The so-called 'garh,' or fort, evidently a monastery.—Although it is not improbable that some of Indardaun's troops may have occupied this

* *Eastern India*, II, 23. Also Cunningham's *Repts.*, III, p. 132.

post when being hard-pressed by the Muhammadan invaders,—the historical accounts, however, state that his troops fled without offering resistance—still the whole appearance of the place seems to justify the belief that the so-called ‘*garh*’ or fort at Uren was originally and essentially a Buddhist monastery. It is much too small in size for a fort, nor has it the outline ditch or earthworks of one or any cavity or depression within. On the other hand it teems with fragments of Buddhist statues and rough-hewn lintels and door-jamba, and seems to have been an almost solid mass of brick buildings. An old resident states that when the greater part of the ruins were being dug up for bricks on the construction of the adjoining railway embankment over thirty years ago, the appearance revealed was that of innumerable small rooms, and in one of these he saw on a shelf-like recess in the wall a folded-up cloth like a sash, which crumbled to dust on being touched.

Historic reference to this monastery.—No mention is made by Hiuen Tsiang of a monastery at this place: this may be owing to his not having himself visited the locality. That a monastery did exist at such a sacred place, hallowed by the residence of Buddha and containing so many visible “traces” of his presence, and itself a place of pilgrimage, may be considered certain. From another source we find what seems a reference to this monastery. The fullest accounts of Buddha’s life, yet known, are preserved in the Southern Scriptures, and from these it would appear that this hill is the place where Buddha spent the *Vassa* (rains—July to September, the so-called Lent) of the sixteenth season of his ministry. Reference is only made to one occasion on which Buddha converted a solitary man-eating demon; and both the Sinhalese* and the Burmese† versions of the legend agree in placing the scene at the place spelt respectively A-low and A-la-wi, which bears a remarkably close resemblance to the name of Uren—seeing that the old Sinhalese and Burmese translators being unable to pronounce the letter *r*, either elided it or substituted an *l*, thus habitually mangling Indian names. The general details of the attendant circumstances of that event also favour the view that this was the same incident which Hiuen Tsiang narrates. The Sinhalese version further states that the place was 30 yojanas (*i. e.*, over 400 miles according to Sinhalese calculation‡) distant from the great Jetavana Vihāra near Śrāvastī, which St. Martin§ indicated and Genl.

* SPENCE HARDY’S *Man. of Buddhism*, 2nd ed., p. 269.

† BIGANDET’S *Legend of Gautama*, I, p. 245.

‡ According to Indian calculation, the yojana is considered to be only about seven miles. It is generally believed, however, to have been greater than this in ancient times.

§ *Loc. cit.*, p. 355.

Cunningham* afterwards identified as a spot in the neighbourhood of Sâhet-Mahet in S. Oudh, and the direct distance hence to Uren is by the map about three hundred miles, but by road it would be much greater. Both versions note that the place was near the Ganges, and that the demon killed and ate human beings, and was converted by Buddha. The Sinhalese account states that the abode of the demon in the forest was high and conspicuous as this hill is ; and the Burmese version further states that " Buddha spent herein the sixteenth Season," and adds " on that spot where so glorious and unexpected a conversion " had taken place *a monastery was erected.*"

As the hill of Uren itself offered no room for a monastery this would naturally be built on the spur at the base, now occupied by the mounds of brick ruins.

Sketch of its extent and superficial remains.—In the accompanying map (Plate I) will be seen the position, extent and outline of the mass of brick debris, which seems to be the ruins of the monastery. I should mention that in surveying the site I took the measurements by pacing, and one step is taken as being equivalent to one yard. Before the railway excavations commenced about thirty years ago, the ruins are said to have formed high mounds of bricks outlining the position of the walls. But the railway operations removed all the superficial bricks and the greater portion of the foundation of the walls were also dug up. The old villagers report that the bricks thus exhumed from the foundations were of enormous size, *viz.*, about 18 inches \times 10" or 12" and of a thickness like ordinary modern bricks. Notwithstanding the hundreds of cart-loads of bricks thus dug up and removed, it is said that a considerable portion of the foundation still remains intact underneath the present mounds of brick debris ; so that excavation may yet reveal the exact plan of the building. The surface of these terraced mounds is strewn with fragments of statues and other sculptured stones. At the point marked No. 14 on the map are fragments of what appears to be a life-sized standing statue of Buddha, and these seem to be more or less *in situ*. The numerous Buddhist images throughout the village are reported to have been all collected from this site and carried to where they now are for greater safety. At the point marked No. 15 on the map were exhumed two ornamented pillars. The points, marked No. 13 on the map, indicate unusually high mounds of broken bricks and rough-hewn granite blocks. There is no evidence that any large village ever existed here.

Multitude of inscribed images and votive chaityas.—The multitude of inscribed Buddhist images and votive chaityas of high artistic merit is

* *Arch. S. Rept.*, I. 534.

only to be accounted for on the supposition that this was a famous place of pilgrimage in olden times. The stone employed is, with few exceptions, a fine, almost homogeneous bluish basalt, which is worked into a high polish. No such rock exists in the neighbourhood. The curved appearance of several of the sculptured slabs shows that they formed portions of small stúpas, such as those which existed on the hill. These blocks were clamped together with iron bolts.

The Inscriptions.—Nearly every image bears an inscription. This, in most instances, is merely the Buddhist creed, commencing with ‘*Om ye dharmma-hetu, &c.*’ such as is usually engraved on votive images. But a few of the longer inscriptions may contain interesting information. For one of these see No. 3, Plate IV. Four of these inscriptions are in the curious cuneiform headed character, found in the upper rock-cut inscription, with wedge-like terminations to the up-strokes, suggestive of the old Assyrian style of letters. These appendages are also attached laterally to certain of the letters. This is possibly the same character as that contained in the two specimens, referred to by Mr. Bendall* as not having yet been deciphered by archæologists, but he does not appear to have figured them. This form of character, although Sanskritic has little in common with the style of the so-called ‘nail-headed’ characters, even were the apex of the triangle directed downwards instead of up. That their style is distinctly wedge-headed is evident from the rock-cut inscription, shown in No. 4, Plate IV; and it will be interesting to find, if they have a north-west origin. Mr. Fleet also notes† having lately received from Gayá a specimen of what may possibly be this character in an inscription on the bottom plate of a brass image of Buddha, which he has not yet made out. The three inscriptions, shown in Nos. 1, 2, and 4, of Plate IV, of which the first two are entire and seem to contain the Buddhist creed, may afford a key to this rare style of character. The style of the characters shows that the majority of the inscriptions date from the 8th to the 12th century A. D.; but the letters of the rock cut wedge-headed inscription when divested of their cuneiform appendages are almost Aśoka-like. One of the smaller inscriptions kindly translated by Dr. Hoernle runs ‘This is the pious gift of Śrī Udaya.’

Old Tank-names in the vicinity.—It is worth while, here, to give a list of the names of the old tanks or ponds (*pukhar*) in the vicinity; especially as the names are evidently ancient, and survivals of names which are now meaningless to the villagers.

* *Journey in Nepal, &c.*, p. 54, 1886.

† *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum*, Vol. III, p. 19, Calc., 1889.

1. Dháka kuṇḍa gadráhi.
2. Shamár gaṛhí pukhar.
3. Kumukhar.
4. Jhár Kathí pukhar.
5. Sarpandáni pukhar.
6. Amrouará do.
7. Sahán do.
8. Sitáhi do.
9. Uraiýá do.

The first three are in the immediate vicinity of Uren, and the others within $\frac{1}{8}$ th to $\frac{1}{4}$ th of a mile of that place. In connection with the first named I would note that *Gadrabha* is said to be the name of the house-keeper of the Yaká of A-low* (Uren), and it is remarkable that the tank retains the old Hindí word *kuṇḍa* in stead of *pukhar*. The second tank is at the side of the so-called *gaṛh* or fort, and seems to be named in this relation. As this tank borders what is evidently the monastery, it is possible that *Shamár* may be a corruption of *Shaman* = Skt. 'Śramaṇa' a Buddhist monk. The third tank-name may mean the "Prince's" [*Sakya*] or the "potter's" tank—there have been no potters living here within the recollection of the villagers.† The fourth name evidently means the tank of 'the *Kath* forest'—*Kath* is the name of a kind of tree occasionally worshipped by the aboriginal Musáhars, and is to be found some miles off, although not now near this tank.

The purity of the Buddhism.—The purity of the form of Buddhism prevailing at this establishment is evidenced by the almost total absence of Siyaic images and the very orthodox nature of the truly Buddhist images, and this is in keeping with Hiuen Tsiang's statement that most of the monasteries in this district were of the Hínayána school—the more primitive and pure sect. The majority of the images represent Buddha in the meditative form, others show him in a sitting posture as Teacher expounding the Law, and a few represent him standing and entering into the state of *Parinirváṇa*. He is as frequently represented crowned, as with the tonsure. The monkey episode and the crouching elephant are frequent accessories. The central supporting figure in most of the basements is a squat human male figure with snake-like locks of hair, see Plate IV, No. 2. The upper two-thirds of a female figure in sandstone with leafy ornaments are somewhat after the

* SPENCE HARDY *Op. cit.*, p. 270.

† [The name means neither. It is a contraction of Skr. *Kumbhapushkara*, lit. 'jar-tank'. It contains no reference either to a prince or a potter. Ed.]

style of the Mathurá sculptures figured by General Cunningham.* At a hamlet about a mile to the west is a perforated screen and a portion of a slab with an elegant scroll design.

The only trace of impurity, observed by me, was found in a small four-armed figure of Avalokiteśvara and a small highly carved marble image of the Bodhisattva Tára of the Nepalese and Tibetan Buddhists. On the back of the latter image is inscribed the Buddhist creed in mediæval *Kutīla* characters, and in the base are portrayed the seven treasures of a *Chakravartī rājā*, such as Śakyamuni was to have been, had he not adopted the life of an ascetic; viz., (1) a wheel (*chakra-ratna*), (2) elephant (*hasti-ratna*), (3) horse (*aśva-ratna*), (4) a jewel on a trifold pedestal (*maṇḍikya-ratna*), (5) a general (*senāpati-ratna*), (6) a minister (*grahapati-ratna*) and (7) a good wife (*strī-ratna*).

In its palmy days, this rocky hill, studded with stūpas and its profusion of images and ministering monks, must have formed a most picturesque sight.

DATE AND MODE OF DESTRUCTION OF THIS BUDDHIST ESTABLISHMENT.

Buddhism is known to have been the state-religion in Magadha so late as the reign of Mahipála, whose inscription, notifying this fact, is dated 1026 A. D. It would thus appear, in Magadha, at least, to have been little, if at all, affected by the Brahmanical persecution under Śankarāśhārya.† General Cunningham states‡ that Buddhism “continued to be the dominant religion of Magadha from the middle of the eighth century down to the time of the Muhammadan conquest, when the monasteries were destroyed, and the monks put to death by the ruthless and illiterate Musalmans.” But it is not apparent on what grounds the General makes the latter portion of this statement, and the attitude towards Buddhism of the Pála kings, subsequent to Mahipála, does not yet appear to be definitely known. Some evidence, however, seems to be available regarding the approximate date and mode of destruction of this Buddhist establishment at Uren which favours the above statement. The latest Buddhist inscriptions on the images are written in mediæval Nágari characters, such as commenced to be current about the 12th and 13th centuries A. D. And local tradition ascribes the destruction of the ‘garh’ and the temples containing the images (Buddhist) to the

* *Arch. Survey Reports.*, vol. I, pl. 40, and vol. III, pl. 6.

† “Ce fut dans ce temps (9th century A. D.) que parurent des ennemis terribles, pour les bouddhistes. Çankaraatchareia et son disciple Bataatchareia, qui exterminèrent le Bouddhisme, le premier dans le Bengale, le second, à Orissa.”—TARANATH in Vassilief's *Le Bouddhisme*, p. 53.

‡ *Arch. Survey Report.*, vol. III, 119.

Paṭhán soldiery at the Muhammadan invasion of Bihár, which event took place in 1195 A. D. under the Afghán General Bakhtyár Khljji.* Stewart† states that Indradyumna's troops fled without offering any resistance; thus the teeming monasteries were left unprotected, and the Muhammadans appear to have regarded the monks as the soldiery of the enemy, and massacred them wholesale. What happened in the neighbouring monastery of Bihár (*vihára*) has been chronicled by one of the historians of the invaders, and it is typical of what must have happened a few days later at Uren. He says‡ “Muḥammad Bakhtyár “with great vigour and audacity rushed into the gate of the fort and “gained possession of the place. Great plunder fell into the hands of “the victors. Most of the inhabitants of the place were Bráhmans with “shaven heads. They were put to death. Large numbers of books “were found there; and when the Muhammadans saw them, they called “for persons to explain their contents, *but all the men had been killed.* “*It was discovered that the whole fort and city was a place of study* (*madrā-sah*). For in the Hindí language the word *vihára* means ‘a college.’” In the above account the occupants of the monasteries are described as ‘Bráhmans with shaven heads.’ These were quite evidently Buddhist monks, as the rude idol-hating invaders were ignorant of the religious distinctions of the Indians, and having killed all the Buddhist monks, the subsequent historian merely designates the massacred priests by the title of the surviving priests of the people. In support of this view is the reference to shaven heads, which condition is a characteristic of Buddhist monks, and not of Bráhman priests, who leave a tail of hair uncut at the crown and do not differ in this respect from the laymen.

Invading Muhammadans the destroyers.—This tradition is also fully supported by the appearance of the remains. The deep-rooted respect paid by Hindús to images and idols of every description, even though these be of strange gods, is as well known as is the Muhammadan's religious abhorrence of images; and Paṭháns are amongst the most fanatical of Muhammadans. Most of the large statues have been shattered into pieces, and of the smaller ones scarcely any have escaped serious mutilation; and that the mutilation was deliberately done is evident from the heads being broken off and features chipped, even when these were in depressed positions and not readily reached; the marks of hatchet cuts are also visible. This same spirit for mutilating images,

* BLOCHMANN in *Statistical Acc., Bengal*, XV, p. 63. STEWART (*Hist. Bengal*, p. 39), puts the date at 1199 A. D.

† *Loc. cit.*

‡ *Minhádj-i-Sirdj in Tubaqát-i-Nápiré*, transl by ELLIOT, II, p. 306.

on religious grounds, still survives amongst Muhammadans. I lately witnessed in Upper Burma this work of destruction taking place under very similar circumstances to what obtained at Uren, *viz.*, a force, consisting mainly of Muhammadan (and these mostly Pathán, *i. e.*, Afghán) troops invading a country actively Buddhistic and hoary with the antiquity of its Buddhist monuments. Although stringent orders had been issued to respect the temples and their teeming images, it was found impossible to repress the Muhammadan soldiery from clandestinely mutilating the very numerous alabaster images of Buddha which abounded in every village. One image would be dashed against another, and the head, thus broken off, used as an instrument to mutilate the features of all the other images within reach, and the heads finally thrown far away. Had these men been altogether unrestrained, the work of destruction must have been enormous. As further illustrating the fanatical spirit of these Muhammadan invaders is the historical note* regarding their invasion of Koch Bihár: the chief (Mír Jumlah) issued "directions to destroy all the idolatrous temples and to erect mosques in their stead. To evince his zeal for religion, the General himself with a battle-axe broke the celebrated image of Narain, the principal object of worship of the Hindús of that province." This image is known to be the mutilated image of Buddha, still at Koch Hajo and worshipped by Hindús under the name of Mádhab, one of the titles of Náráyana or Vishnu. And at Uren itself, when photographing the two ornamental pillars which are now deposited in the garden of a Muhammadan gentleman of the place, I expressed a regret that the figures had been mutilated; on which the aforesaid gentleman stated that when the pillars were exhumed a few years ago, some of the features still remained entire, but he with his own hands completed the mutilation, as otherwise he could not have tolerated the pillars near his dwelling.

Medieval Brahmanic idols similarly destroyed.—At the time of Hiuen Tsiang's visit to Magadha in the seventh century, although the dominant religion was Buddhism, many Brahmanical temples with their priests existed throughout the country. One such small Brahmanical temple appears to have become established at Uren, at the point marked No. 16 on Plate I. It was far removed from the Buddhist settlement and it enshrined one or all of the following idols, which are still found there:—

- (1) A four (?) armed Durgá.
- (2) A Hara-Gaurí (S'iva and Parvatí).
- (3) A pot-bellied god squatted in front of a palm-leaf-like canopy ? (Gaṇeśa).

* STEWART *Ibid.*, p. 289.

The last noted idol has an inscription in mediæval Nágari, and all of them are of very coarse workmanship. But here is the interesting point, as bearing on the destruction of the Buddhist settlement: *all these Brahmanic images have been mutilated in exactly the same manner as the Buddhist images*: the heads being broken off and the features deliberately smashed. No Hindús, nor the hill tribes, who especially worship stones, even unsculptured, could have been the destroying agents here. It is, therefore, only reasonable to believe, as the local tradition relates, that the Muhammadan invaders, not discriminating between Buddhist and Brahmanic images, mutilated both alike. Uren, it is to be noted, must have felt the full force of the invasion, as it lay directly in the line of route to Mungir, a stronghold in which the "invaders soon established themselves, as it seems to have been the second town in Southern Bihár"* at that period.

Conservation of Buddhist images by the Hindús.—The relatively good state of preservation in which many of these fragments of Buddhist images are found after the lapse of so many centuries is directly due to the extreme veneration, in which images of every kind are held by Hindú villagers. The numerous Buddhist images and sculptured stones, now collected on the brick mound, marked No. 16 on Plate VI, which seems to be the ruins of the *deva* temple and is now the *Káli* shrine of the village, are reported to have been gathered by the Hindús from the ruins of the *garh* and deposited there, where they now are treasured up. And as further fragments from time to time are unearthed, they are added to the collection or deposited under one or other of the *pípal* (*Ficus religiosa*) trees in the village, where the larger ones are worshipped by daubing with red lead. The images of Buddha are thus worshipped under the names of *Mai* (= mother) or *Chaṇḍí Mai*, *Parbatí* or *Deví* (= goddess), all of them names of Siva's consort—the mild benign expression of the images being interpreted as indicating a female; and the votive chaityas are worshipped as *lingas* (phallus). In such veneration are these images held that I had the greatest difficulty in copying the inscriptions and taking the photographs. The villagers at first gathered in a rather threatening manner, and said that they would not allow their gods to be desecrated by the hands of any person, whether Hindú or not. I explained to them that these Buddhist images were not Hindú gods at all; but the villagers still persisted in saying that they had for generations become accustomed to regard these images as the *gráma-devatá* (village-gods) of the place, and they would not now give up that belief. Ultimately they were somewhat appeased on my promising to touch the

* BLOCHMANN, *oc. cit.*

images as little as possible, and to replace them again exactly as I found them; but seeing that the process was a rather tedious one, a guard was always kept at the place to see that I did not carry off any of the stones.

Such an attitude on the part of the villagers—who are here mostly bigoted Bábhans of the Rájput caste and possibly descendants of the original Buddhist community—has undoubtedly tended to conserve these remains.

It must not, however, be supposed that the protection thus offered by Hindús to Buddhist images is knowingly given out of pious regard for Buddhism. This is not the case. In every instance the images are cherished in the belief that they are truly Hindú gods. The real attitude of Hindús towards Buddhist images is well seen at Bodh Gayá where the Hindú pilgrims to the adjacent Brahmanical shrines may be seen scowling and even spitting upon the Buddhist images now conserved there by Government. Indeed the Gayá pilgrimage, which every good Hindú must perform is one of direct hostility to Buddhism—the great *Gayá Asura* demon, whose suppression is the *raison d'être* of this pilgrimage, being none other than Buddha himself. This should be well considered by those who believe that the adoption of Buddha as an incarnation of Vishnu by certain of the Hindús in mediæval times necessarily implies that Buddhism disappeared from India by amicable amalgamation with Bráhmanism.

Concluding remarks.—In conclusion, I would draw especial attention to the following points, the importance of which is indeed self-evident, *viz.*,

1st. The necessity for Government-conservation of the hill without delay, in order to prevent further removal, by the quarriers, of these surviving remnants of antiquity.

2nd. The desirability of thoroughly exploring the monastery mounds and stúpa-like sites, &c., as excavation will doubtless reveal numerous remains now buried among the ruins.

3rd. That the legend of this Yaksha is not a mere Sun-myth as supposed by Rhys Davids following Senart,* but is founded on a certain basis of fact. Divested of its embellishments, the story resolves itself into the conversion by Buddha of a notorious and dreaded non-Aryan free-booter and possibly a cannibal whose reputation still survives till the present day. In addition to the particulars already given of these so-called 'demons', it is remarkable that the detailed account of the 'Yakás', given in the Sinhalese Scriptures, is an almost exact

* *Buddhism* by RHYD DAVIDS, p. 73, Lond., 1887.

description of the disposition and leading traits of these wild aborigines up to the present day.*

4th. The light thrown by the local tradition, coupled with the appearance, age, &c. of the remains, on the probable manner in which Buddhism became extinguished in this part of India, *viz.*, a sudden and complete extinction by the fierce onslaught of the Muhammadan invaders. The Buddhist monks, crowded together in large communities and in special buildings, surrounded with idols, must have appeared to the fanatical invaders as *the idolators par excellence*, and as such were undoubtedly the so-called 'unopposing *Bráhmans* with shaven heads' of Muhammadan history† who were massacred by the troops. On the massacre and flight‡ of the monks, the destruction of the temples, &c., and the permanent occupation of the country by the Muhammadan invader, it is not surprising that Buddhism, which, for its popular existence, depends so essentially on its monastic establishment, should have utterly disappeared. Brahmanism, on the other hand, being a much more personal and domestic religion, with comparatively little display of its idols, could still survive the torrent of Moslem fanaticism.

5th. The presence of so many inscriptions in the novel cuneiform headed character is remarkable.

And lastly, additional testimony is here afforded to the marvellous accuracy of that illustrious traveller, Hiuen Tsiang, as a geographer.

Lamaic Rosaries : their Kinds and Uses.—By L. A. WADDELL, M. B.

The rosary is an essential part of a Lama's dress ; and taking, as it does, such a prominent part in the Lamaic ritual, it is remarkable that the Tibetan rosary does not appear to have attracted particular notice.

As a Buddhist article the rosary is especially peculiar to the northern school of Buddhists ; and the outcome of the esoteric teachings of the Maháyána school, instilling belief in the potency of muttering

* "The dwelling-place of the *Yakás* is not in the *narakas* (hell) ; . . . they are found in the earth They marry and *delight in dances, songs and other amusements ; their strength is great ;* and some of them are represented as possessing splendour and dignity," and from what follows they are much addicted to "*intoxicating drinks.*"—Spence Hardy's '*Manual of Buddhism,*' p. 46.

† *Loc. cit.*

‡ Many of the fugitive monks, seem to have escaped into Nepal and Tibet.—'*Sketches from Nepal*' by H. A. OLDFIELD, M. D., II, p. 67.