

half of the first century before Christ, say 50 B. C. till 1 A. D., Pratápáditya would have commenced his reign 280 years before him, consequently 40 B. C., that is according to a calculation beyond my comprehension 280 B. C. + 50 B. C. is equal to 40 B. C., instead of 330 B. C. ! That is not all. It is said that about "that time," *i. e.* 40 B. C. Açoka was master of Kashmere ! Nobody knows better than Lassen that Açoka reigned 263—226 B. C. To such straits an illustrious scholar is led, because he incautiously has adopted a cause which admits of no defence.

I leave the reader to examine the objections of Lassen against Albírúní,* who is another witness for Vikramáditya S'akári living 78 A. D. and call up another witness in the person of Hiouen-Thsang. This Chinese traveller informs us, that the powerful Vikramáditya, king of S'rāvasti, lived in the "middle of the thousand years" elapsed since the Nirváṇa of Buddha.† Although Stan. Julien cautiously adds in a foot-note, that Hiouen-Thsang's expression *may* mean, in one of the thousand years elapsed since the Nirváṇa, it is obvious, that such a vague signification is utterly incompatible with the object of any one who intends to give a date, and Stan. Julien himself takes it in the sense of 500 years, and so does Reinaud.‡ As the Nirváṇa, according to Hiouen-Thsang, took place 100 years before Açoka, and Açoka began to reign 263 B. C., and as Hiouen-Thsang is speaking about 640 A. D., there had just elapsed 1000 years between the Nirváṇa and Hiouen-Thsang, and the expression is quite proper. According to his chronology then, the Nirváṇa took place about 363 B. C. ; 500 years later brings us to 137 A. D., only twenty years later than the date of Mátrgupta, the contemporary of Vikramáditya S'akári according to Kalhana-Pandita. The date, assigned by Hiouen-Thsang and the Northern Buddhists generally, I know, has not found

* Indische Alterthumskunde, Vol. II. p. 761.

† Stanislas Julien, Mémoires sur les contrées occidentales, Vol. I. p. 115.

‡ Mèmoire sur l' Inde p. 80.