

patrons first in Bhoja, afterwards in Vikramāditya. With the materials as yet at our disposal, nothing conclusive is to be said in either way. The problem which remains to be solved may be stated thus: can it be gathered from various sources in Sanskrit literature whether Bhoja and Vikramāditya are only two names for one and the same person? If so, which of the three dates 483 A. D., or 544 A. D., or 567 A. D. is to be preferred? As my endeavours to find this out have failed, I hope that others may be more successful.

Throughout the foregoing I have assumed that it was the great Kālidāsa, who found a patron in Bhoja, or as he is also called, S'ri-Sāhasānka. This has been denied or doubted, on the ground that the morals of Kālidāsa, as drawn in the Bhojaprabandha are inconsistent with the purity and tenderness of the feelings in his works. But it has been remarked by Weber* that contrasts between theory and practice are not uncommon in every clime and at all times. One might even go farther, and contend that the character of Kālidāsa, save one single blemish, is represented as amiable and generous. At all events Ballāla-Mis'ra intends to draw the portrait of the great Kālidāsa, and that is the only point of importance for our purpose, not whether the portrait looks "respectable" or not, nor whether it is faithful or the reverse. As to the general trustworthiness of the Bhojaprabandha, I cannot look down on it so contemptuously as others do. The style is so unequal, that it looks more like a patchwork than like the composition of one man. The framework in prose, and perhaps part of the metrical passages are from the hand of Ballāla-Mis'ra himself, but there are stanzas scattered over the whole of the work that would do credit to the best of Indian poets. The motley character of these stanzas enhances, in my opinion, the value of the work, because it scarcely can be explained, but on the supposition that Ballāla-Mis'ra strung together sundry authentic verses of the wits at Bhoja's court, whether they had come down to him

* See Preface to his translation of the Mālavikāgnimitram.