

favour, and the chronology of the Ceylonese Buddhists has been preferred to it. The Ceylonese annals ought to bear an unusual stamp of trustworthiness, since they are extolled at the expense, not only of the Northern Buddhistical writings, but also of the Brahmanical records, which, although silent on Buddha's date, agree in other respects with the Northern Buddhists' works. So, for example, neither the Brahmans, nor the Northern Buddhists, know anything about a Kálāçoka, who is said by the Ceylonese to have lived one hundred years after the Nirvána, and under whom a second convocation was held, a convocation the Northern Buddhists know nothing about. Again, the lists of Indian Kings, said to have reigned before Buddha, coincide pretty well in the writings of Brahmanic and of Northern Buddhistic origin, but vary greatly with the succession, as given in the Mahávanso. Let us see, whether the Mahávanso really deserves so much credit as has been given to it. We read on p. 42 (Turnour's translation): "In the seventeenth year of the reign of this king (Açoka), this all-perfect minister of religion (Tisso Moggaliputto), aged seventy-two years, conducted in the utmost perfection this great convocation on religion." This convocation, the third, according to the Mahávanso (the second according to the Northern Buddhists), took place in the seventeenth year of Açoka's reign, *i. e.* $263 - 17 = 246$ B. C. Now the same Mahávanso tells us (p. 28), that the theros who held the second convocation ordered Siggavo to initiate Tisso Moggaliputto, who as yet had to be born. As this second convocation is said to have been held 100 years after Buddha's death, or in the tenth year of king Kálāçoka (*ib.* p. 15, 19), and as Buddha's death is said to have occurred 543 B. C., it follows that Siggavo received the order 443 B. C., at which time he must have been at least twenty years old; he was eighteen when he was converted to Buddhism by Sonako (*ib.* p. 30); so he cannot have been born later than $443 + 20 = 463$ B. C. This same Siggavo initiates Tisso Moggaliputto when the latter was 20