

(for he is the commentator in view) uses the *Samvat* era because he, Utpala, considers Vikramáditya S'akári to be contemporaneous with the beginning of the S'áka era. What kind of weight has to be attached to such a conclusion, will be clear from an example nearer home. Let us suppose that some European considers, however erroneously, that the beginning of the Emperor Augustus' reign and the beginning of the Christian era are contemporaneous facts; would then the only possible conclusion be this, that the man thinks that he lives in the year of grace 1896, instead of 1865? It is imaginable, certainly, that one might make such a mistake, imaginable, although it would be an abuse of language to call it possible. But let it be possible, it is not the only possibility; the man may have forgotten the precise date of Augustus' reign, a much more probable contingency. Thirdly, it is again, imaginable, that the man places the two not contemporaneous facts, wrongly supposed contemporaneous by him, in a time which is wrong for both, say at the time of Pericles. The first and third conclusions are, to use a mild term, so extremely improbable that only the second is left. Let us apply it to the case of Utpala; and we shall find that the only, not preposterous, conclusion is, that Utpala places Vikramáditya 78 A. D., not 57 B. C. What is *a priori* the only admissible conclusion, becomes *a posteriori* quite certain, because happily Utpala gives us his own date, and in so doing affords us the means of ascertaining what he means by the S'áka era. At the end of his commentary on Varáha-mihira's Brhaj-játaka we read :

चैत्रमासस्य पञ्चम्यां सितायां गुरुवासरे ॥

वस्वष्टाष्टमिते शाके कृतेयं विवृतिर्मया ॥

“ This commentary was finished by me on the 5th day of the light half of Caitra, on a Thursday, in the year 888 S'áka.” Now the specified date falls on a Thursday and could only do so, if the S'áka era is taken as the era which *Anglice*, not in Sanskrit, is called S'aliváhana era.\*

\* Not trusting myself only in calculating back the given date, I had it