

varying testimonies of Hindu authors to a severe scrutiny. This has been done by Prof. Lassen, more fully, so far as I know, than by any other. But notwithstanding the care bestowed by that distinguished scholar on the subject, his conclusions seem to me utterly inadmissible ; it is therefore my duty to state the reasons why I cannot adopt the received opinion.

Lassen, well aware that weighty testimonies place Vikramá-ditya, the conqueror of the S'akas or Scythians, *after* not *before*, our era, and that the same testimonies make him the founder of the S'áka era, not of the *Samvat*, examines more than once their worth. In a foot-note to p. 50, of Vol. II. of his "Indische Alterthumskunde," he says :

"The astronomer Varáha-mihira calls this era the time of the kings of the S'akas ; see Colebrooke's Misc. Ess. II. p. 475." The commentator explains : "The time when the S'aka kings were conquered by Vikramáditya." A later astronomer, Brahmagupta makes, in reference to this epoch, use of the expression "the end of the S'aka kings," which passage is explained by a commentator of Bháskara, a still more modern astronomer, in this way : "The end of the life or of the reign of Vikramáditya, the destroyer of the Mlecha tribe, called S'aka." The commentator of Varáha-mihira, *consequently*, as Colebrooke remarks, considers the era used by him to be that of Vikramáditya, which every where else (*sic.*) is called Samvat. Brahmagupta reckons from S'alivahana's era, so that the commentator here also wrongly brings forward Vikramáditya. I cite this because it shows that in after times they confounded the two kings and their history. Of the two astronomers the former lived in the beginning of the 6th century, the latter in the beginning of the 7th. The name of the S'áka era clearly explains its origin, and in this sense the expression of Varáha-mihira will have to be taken."

So far Lassen. The objections to the foregoing are many and obvious ; leaving out less important points, my first remark refers to Colebrooke's startling conclusion, that Utpala