

place, and I wonder that any one who reads the passage is not startled by the intrusion of the stanza. Out of the *nine gems* six are given in the verses immediately before; this might be explained. One may give the names of all the poets, and afterwards repeat the name of a picked number out of them, adding that, amongst all, such and such are the chief ones. But then all the names of the rank and file would be given, and nobody would in the list of the whole leave out some of the first rank, at the same time that others of the first rank are duly registered. One sees how the Pseudo-Kálidása is struggling to bring in the stanza, and he succeeds at last, but only by violence. The reason why he takes so much pains to intrude the stanza is, I should say, this: wishing to give to his forgery the semblance of antiquity, and knowing or supposing, that the stanza was current in the mouth of the pandits, but not found in writings, he practised the trick of inserting it in the bulk of his work. Such a trick would not be a stroke of genius, but it was sufficient for the purpose of imposing upon those for whom he intended it.\* One thing is certain, the stanza *is* in the mouth of every pandit, and *was* so half a century ago. Now if we consider that pandits very seldom read books on astrology, much less derive their knowledge of topics wholly unconnected with astrology from astrological books, if we farther bear in mind that the Jyotirvidábharana is of recent composition, it is next to impossible to account for the popularity of the memorial verse. And apart from this, the notice we have of the existence of the *nine gems* at the court of Vikramáditya is not derived from oral tradition or the Jyotirvidábharana, as Hall supposed. In the inscription of Buddha Gayá, a translation of which is given by Wilkins, (As. Res. Vol. I. p. 286) we find the following: "Vikramáditya was certainly a king renowned in the world. So in his

\* The Pseudo-Kálidása has even found a commentator, unless the commentary be fabricated by himself, which would be another trick quite worthy of the first.