

“stated to be eighteen in number. It is said that there
 “are also eighteen Upa-purāṇas, or minor Purāṇas ; but
 “the names of only a few of these are specified in the
 “least exceptionable authorities, and the greater number
 “of the works is not procurable. With regard to the
 “eighteen Purāṇas, there is a peculiarity in their specifica-
 “tion, which is proof of an interference with the integrity
 “of the text, in some of them at least ; for each of them
 “specifies the names of the whole eighteen. Now the
 “list could not have been complete whilst the work that
 “gives it was unfinished, and in one only therefore, the
 “last of the series, have we a right to look for it. As
 “however there are more last words than one, it is evident
 “that the names must have been inserted in all except
 “one after the whole were completed : which of the
 “eighteen is the exception, and truly the last, there is no
 “clue to discover, and the specification is probably an in-
 “terpolation in most, if not in all.”

As far as we have seen *Bengal Manuscripts*, the Mār-
 caṇḍeya presents a singular exception to this hackneyed
 enumeration of the eighteen Purāṇas, and the celebration
 of Vyāsa's name as the author of them all. The Maithila
 manuscripts, as they are commonly called, are not so
 chaste. We have appended the concluding section from
 a manuscript of that class which recounts, in the ordinary
 way, the number of the eighteen Purāṇas.

But to return to our Digest. After relating the produc-
 tion of Brahmā, Mārcaṇḍeya goes on with the procession
 of all other creatures from him. The Asuras issued from
 his loins receiving bodies pervaded by darkness. The gods
 were produced from his head by the predominance of the
 quality of goodness. Men were created by the preva-