

2. WIENER ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR DIE KUNDE DES MORGENLANDES.

Vol. iv. part iii.

1. P. J. Dashian. Zur Abgur Sage (Schluss).
2. M. Winternitz. Notes on Ancestor Worship among Indo-European Nations.
3. Fr. Müller. Armenisches.
4. Th. Houtsma. Zum Kitab al Fihrist.
5. H. Jacobi. Ānanda Vardhana and the date of Māgha.

III. OBITUARY NOTICES.

Mr. E. C. Baber.—We regret to have to record the death of Mr. Edward Colborne Baber, which occurred at Bhamo, in Upper Burma, in June last. For some years Mr. Baber's health had been failing, owing to repeated and persistent attacks of malarial fever. The seeds of this complaint were sown during his journey into Yunnan in South-Western China, to inquire into the circumstances connected with the murder of Mr. Margary. His subsequent residence in Seoul, the capital of Korea, increased his malady, and on his last return to England on leave, it was painfully plain to his friends that his constitution had been very seriously shaken by the constant attacks of the ailment to which he had been subjected. With, however, the keen sense of duty which distinguished him, he declined to apply for a further extension of leave when he recognized that his services were required on the Burmo-Chinese frontier; and he went out to take his place on the frontier-limitation commission with a full sense of the danger to his health and life that his service entailed. After some slight attacks of his old enemy, a serious illness of a febrile nature overtook him, and his constitution, having been weakened by constant ill-health, succumbed to the further strain now put upon it. In spite of every care and attention, he died after a few days' illness, and thus there has been lost the services of one who, if it had not been for his oft infirmities,

would unquestionably have achieved marked distinction in the fields of philological and geographical research.

As a boy Baber was educated at Christ's Hospital, and having gained the position of a "Grecian," went up with an exhibition to Magdalene College, Cambridge. Being a man of independent and liberal views in religion as in other matters, he gained for himself when at the University a reputation for more thorough-going heretical opinions than he really held. After having completed his academical career, he competed successfully for an appointment in the China Consular Service, and in 1866 he joined the Student Interpreter Staff at Peking. Here he speedily distinguished himself by the progress he made in the language as well as by the exceptional talents and culture which he showed. His first years after leaving Peking were passed in the ordinary duties of a junior consular assistant, and it was not until 1875, when the murder of Mr. Margary made it necessary to despatch a commission to inquire into the circumstances of the crime, that his chances of distinction came. Mr. Grosvenor was appointed commissioner, with Messrs. Davenport and Baber to assist him. On these two last-named officials devolved the duties of examining the witnesses on the scene of the murder, and the way in which they conducted their investigations received warm approval from Lord Derby. All those interested in the subject will remember the extremely graphic and interesting account of the journey between Tali fu and Momien, written by Mr. Baber, in the papers laid before Parliament. Of this account Lord Aberdare, when, as President of the Royal Geographical Society, he presented Mr. Baber with the Society's gold medal, said: "This narrative, in spite of the disadvantage of making its appearance in a Blue Book, and therefore obtaining but a limited circulation, yet 'a fit audience found, though few,' and made European geographers acquainted with the fact that a geographical observer and narrator of remarkable power had appeared in the far East."

One result of the Margary murder was the signing of the Chefoo Convention. Under the terms of this instrument a

Consular Agent was to be allowed to reside in the city of Ch'ung K'ing, in the province of Szech'uen, on the Upper Yang-tsze. Most appropriately Mr. Baber was chosen for this service, and it was while he was officially resident at his new post that he made those expeditions in Eastern Szech'uen which have become memorable from the results achieved and from the description of them which was communicated by its author to the Royal Geographical Society. The much-coveted gold medal was awarded to him for the services he thus rendered to science, and in presenting this prize to him Lord Aberdare remarked, "Of these great services to geography I have given only the dry outlines. It is the merest justice to you to add that your journeys have been exceptionally productive, because of the exceptional store of various and accurate knowledge with which you started on your travels. Your mastery of the Chinese language, and of Chinese customs and habits of thought, enabled you to collect a great amount of miscellaneous information, which has been conveyed in narratives full of novelty, vivacity, and sustained interest. Altogether, both in these journeys and the report of their results, you have displayed the qualities of an accomplished traveller in a degree of which we have but few examples, and which fully justify our choice of you for sharing with Sir Joseph Hooker our highest distinction, even although you have, we firmly believe, only given the first-fruits of that rich harvest which we expect from your matured powers and enlarged experience."

In 1879 Mr. Baber was, on the death of Mr. Mayers, appointed Chinese Secretary of Legation at Peking, and in 1885 he was transferred to Korea as Consul General. In the confined and unhealthy atmosphere of Seoul his health broke down, and he returned on leave, only to go out to meet his death at Bhamo. While on his last leave he contributed to the Journal of this Society a most interesting paper, to which Professor de Lacouperie added notes, on some Formosan manuscripts written in Roman letters, and displayed his literary acumen by deciphering the meanings of several of the then entirely unknown words. By his early death at the age

of 47 the learned world has lost a distinguished member, and a wide circle of acquaintances a true and valued friend.

The Rev. John Davies.—We regret to have to hear, just as we are going to press, of the death at a ripe old age of this gentleman, one of our members, and the author of ‘Hindu Philosophy, an Exposition of the System of Kapila,’ etc. We hope to give an account of his life and labours in our next issue.

IV. NOTES AND NEWS.

The first publication in Pali with Bengali translation appeared at Chittagong in September, 1889. It consists of the Sigālovādasutta (Dīghanikāya II. viii.) with a Bengali translation by Dharmarāja Baruā (Vaḍḍya?).

A-propos of Bengali Buddhism the attention of our readers may be directed to an account of Rāmachandra, afterwards called Bauddhāgama, the author of the Bauddha-Çataka, given in a recent number of the Proceedings of the Bengal Asiatic Society (Feb. 1890), contributed by Haraprasāda Çāstri.—C. B.

The Mahāvansa.—On the departure of Sir Arthur Gordon from Ceylon the Buddhist clergy and pandits presented him with a special address in acknowledgment of the service he had rendered to native literature by authorizing the printing of the Mahāvansa at the Government press.

The Gaekwar of Baroda and Old Gujerat Literature.—His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda has more than once shown what a native prince with a liberal education can do for the advancement of knowledge and letters among his people. He has shown special regard for the cultivation of the vernaculars of the province among the masses, whom English will always reach with difficulty. Among other enterprises which his Highness has encouraged, says the *Bombay Gazette*, is a recently formulated scheme for collecting and publishing the works of old popular Gujerat authors, who have indirectly influenced the social life of the province. A committee of gentlemen keenly interested in education, like Dewan Baha-