

to which we are indebted for the substance of this notice, that Dr. Steingass was almost entirely self-taught, and that he knew at least fourteen languages. We shall conclude by quoting two interesting remarks from the preface to his Persian Dictionary. One is that Persian is so deeply imbued with Arabic, that sooner or later the student of Persian must become a student of Arabic also. The other is:—"This Dictionary is not and cannot be complete. The complete dictionary of any language has yet to be written. It far exceeds the powers of any single individual, and depends for its realisation on the modest, although imperial, motto, *viribus unitis*. The author's only ambition was to advance the work close to the point at which the practical adoption of this motto, with regard to Persian, becomes a necessity, and should be seriously contemplated by Oriental societies and congresses."

We commend these words, and also some similar remarks of Mr. Blochmann in his "Contributions to Persian Lexicography," J.A.S.B., vol. xxxvii, and of Professor Browne in this Journal, to the consideration of members of Oriental congresses.

H. B.

IV. NOTES AND NEWS.

ADAM'S PEAK (CEYLON) IN 1902. — The history of Adam's Peak (named by the Singhalese Aukanagau, the sky league) is well known, especially from the account in Sir James Emerson Tennant's *Ceylon*, 1860. But as the present condition is very different from the idea one takes from the drawing and plan in that work, it may be of interest to place on record the annexed sketches of the spot as it now is. The pagoda-like canopy (C) is supported on slender columns and open on all sides, and has now two entrances, whilst formerly there was

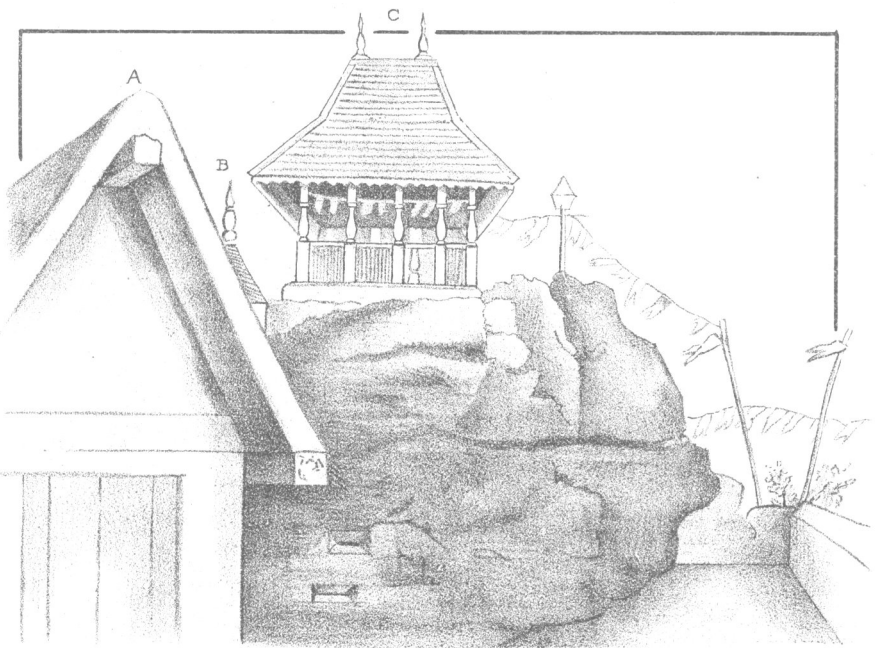
only one. Under this canopy, which is built of wood and embellished with small white and red flags, is the footprint in the rock. The rock is of a brown and blackish colour, and in places much worn away. There are, moreover, marked instances of repairs having been made from time to time with cement and red bricks, especially at the end furthest away from the heel. The heel of the footprint is particularly well preserved, but the impression of the toes is now built over by the N.N.W. wall of the canopy. What now remains visible is only the impression of the heel end of the foot. The measurement of this itself is now $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet long by $2\frac{3}{4}$ feet broad, and it varies in depth from 3 to 6 inches. To this pagoda-shaped canopy has been added a projecting roof to the N.N.W. side, and a small terrace with steps leading to the base of the larger terrace.

Another addition to the buildings on the summit is a small shrine (B) containing a small marble figure of Buddha seated. This building, situated midway between the canopy and the house, is constructed of plaster and wood white-washed, shown on the left of my sketch (A). This is the residence of four Buddhist monks, who informed me that for the last four years they had not descended from the mountain. They complained of the cold, but said that otherwise they were quite happy and contented, and spent much time in study. They showed me their palm-leaf books, and were most hospitable, presenting me with hot tea and rice.

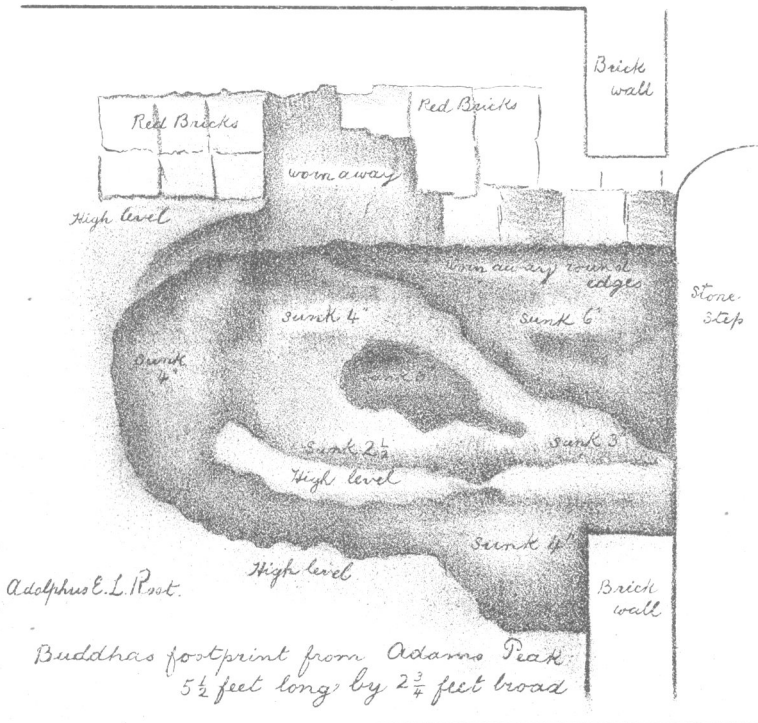
The terrace around the rock is about 50 by 30 feet; with very irregular walls from 3 to 4 feet high; but in many places the walls are rapidly going to decay.

The iron chains fixed against the rock, some 30 feet from the summit, are relics of so great antiquity that in the legends of the Mahometans they are associated with the name of Alexander the Great, are still there, and are of great service to enable pilgrims to reach the top of the sacred rock.

The pathway up the mountain is still in a very wild state, and most difficult of ascent. The finest sight is to see the



Main wall of building



Adolphus E. L. Post.

*Buddha's footprint from Adams Peak.
5 1/2 feet long by 2 3/4 feet broad*

sun rise from the summit and the shadow of the mountain cast on the surrounding country.

It may be of interest to many that in making my way up the mountain I repeatedly came across unmistakable traces of elephants having tramped around the neck of the mountain.

ADOLPHUS E. L. ROST
(late of Ceylon).

THE FAR EAST.—The report of the French Oriental School in the Far East for 1901 has just been issued by the acting director, M. Alfred Foucher. It is a very satisfactory and encouraging document, and reflects great credit on the administration of French Indo-China. The library has been greatly increased in the course of the year, especially in the department of Chinese. The number of inscriptions deposited in the Museum has a little more than doubled; and a large number of sculptures, paintings, vases, bronzes, coins, and medals have been added to the collections. The books published during the year amount to six, not including either the report for 1900 or the annual volume of transactions; and it may be said of each of them that they are a distinct addition to our knowledge. M. Finot, the director, returned early in the following year from leave of absence, and took charge again on January 24th, 1902. The great value of the work done is no doubt due as much to his organising ability in the past as it is to the excellent manner in which the acting director was able to carry on the traditions he received; and we beg to congratulate both these gentlemen on the result.

THE CHĀNDOGYA UPANISHAD.—Dr. Pfungst points out in "Das Freie Wort" for May that a translation of this Upanishad into German, from the Perso-Latin of Anquetil du Perron, was published at Nürnberg already in 1808. The author was Thaddä Anselm Rixner, Professor of Philosophy in the Lycæum at Passau. Schopenhauer worked at his "Die Welt als Wille und Vorstellung" for

four years, from 1814 onwards; and refers in his preface to such of his readers as might be already acquainted with the ancient pantheism of the East. It is very probable, therefore, that he had this now exceedingly rare little book in his mind. In any case it is undoubtedly the oldest extant translation of any Upanishad into a European language.

MR. VINCENT A. SMITH, M.A., has resigned his appointment as Reader in Indian History and Hindustani in the University of Dublin, with effect from the end of the current academic year.

THE Royal Asiatic Society, being desirous to give a greater attention than it has hitherto been able to do to the study of Far Eastern questions, is considering the advisability of printing such articles as are contributed to its Journal by scholars interested in the literature of China, Japan, Siam, and the adjoining countries in a separate publication, to be entitled

“THE FAR EAST.”

It is proposed to issue *The Far East* at first every six months; and if the project should receive encouragement, then every quarter. Each issue will contain such illustrations as are necessary for the intelligence of the articles.

The co-operation of leading scholars has already been obtained, and a special committee has been appointed to deal with the details of the scheme.

Each issue will contain, besides original articles, also correspondence, paragraphs of notes and news, and reviews of books.

It is proposed, if sufficient subscribers be forthcoming, to commence with the issue of January, 1904; and the Society will be glad to know what support it will receive in this undertaking.

The *Far East* will be issued gratis to members of the Society. The subscription to the Society is, for those

residing fifty miles or more from London, 30s. a year. Those who would prefer to subscribe separately for *The Far East* can do so by a payment in advance of £1 in England or ten dollars in China. Residents in China or elsewhere who wish to support the Society in this undertaking are requested to send their names to the Secretary, 22, Albemarle Street, London, W.

Messrs. Kelly & Walsh have been appointed sole agents in China and Japan for *The Far East*.

V. ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Presented from the Royal Library, Windsor.

Birch (S.). *The Papyrus of Nas-Khem.* 8vo. 1862 (?).

Presented by the India Office.

Ross (E. D.) and Browne (E. G.). *Catalogue of Two Collections of Persian and Arabic MSS. in the India Office Library.* 8vo. London, 1902.

Bingham (Col. C. T.). *Hymenoptera.* Vol. ii. (*Fauna of British India.*) 8vo. London, 1903.

Evans (Vet.-Capt. G. H.). *Treatise on Elephants.* 8vo. Rangoon, 1901.

Whiteway (R. S.). *The Portuguese Expedition to Abyssinia in 1541-1543, as narrated by Castanhoso, with some contemporary Letters, the short account of Bermudez, and certain extracts from Correa.*

Presented by the Ministère de l'Instruction Publique et des Beaux Arts.

Legrain (G.) et Naville (E.). *L'Aile nord du Pylône d'Aménophis III à Karnak.*

Gayet (A.). *L'Exploration des Nécropoles gréco-byzantines d'Antinoë.* (*Annales du Musée Guimet, tome xxx,* pts. 1, 2.) 4to. Paris, 1902.