

The Marquis D'Hervey de Saint-Denis.—We are sorry to announce the death of the well-known Chinese scholar, the Marquis D'Hervey de Saint-Denis, which occurred a few days since in Paris. The Marquis was born in 1823, and was therefore nearly seventy years of age, but although for some time his health had been failing the end was sudden, and, indeed, to within a day or two of his death he pursued his usual avocations. From his youth up he devoted himself to the study of Oriental languages, and especially Chinese, which he studied in the *École des Langues orientales vivantes*. He subsequently became assistant to Stanislas Julien at the Collège de France, and, on the death of that scholar in 1874, he succeeded him as professor. He was a prolific writer on Chinese. Some of his best known works are his “*Poésies de L'Époque des Thang, 1862*”; his “*Translation of the Ethnographical Chapters of Ma Twanlin's Encyclopædia*”; and his “*Recherches sur L'Agriculture des Chinois.*” He published also Translations of some Chinese Novelettes and a “*Recueil de Textes faciles et gradués en Chinois moderne.*” He was a member of the Academy of Inscriptions, and represented China as Commissioner at the Exhibition of 1867. Though his scholarship did not possess the depth with which it has been credited by certain French newspapers during the last few days, his knowledge of Chinese was considerable and his enthusiasm in the study was undoubted.—*Athenæum*.

III. NOTES AND NEWS.

The Buddhist Order in Ceylon.—According to the latest Ceylon Census Returns there are now 9598 members of the Buddhist Order in Ceylon. In the time of Hiouen Tshang there were said to be about double that number.

Semitic Comparative Grammar.—On p. 109 of his “*Aufsätze und Abhandlungen arabistisch-semitologischen Inhalts*” (München, 1892) Prof. Fritz Hommel promises a comparative grammar of the older Semitic dialects. In this

he will endeavour to show that the Assyrians were the first to leave the original settlements of the Semites, and that of those who remained behind, the speech of the Aramæans and Arabs makes a separate class distinct from that of the Kainanites. He proposes also to include in the work a discussion of the relative position of Old Egyptian and Assyrian; he will have, therefore, to deal with some of the most interesting and important problems of the most ancient history; and his book will be looked forward to with a lively interest.

Baroda, the Shri Sayaji Library.—This local library promises to become a most important institution, and already reflects the greatest credit on the wise foresight and public spirit of its founder, Shrimant Sampatrao K. Gaikwad. Three catalogues, one of the books in English, another of the books in Marāthī, and a third of the books in Gujarātī have just been published at the “Gujarati Printing Press” in Bombay, and show how great has been the progress made. There is no mention of MSS. in these catalogues. It is much to be hoped that the library will make a specialty of acquiring MSS., more especially of the works (whether in Sanskrit or not) by authors born or resident in that portion of India. Future catalogues might then distinguish between MSS. and printed books, and give the date and place where the latter were printed.

Hebrew MSS. from Egypt.—A large collection of fragments of Hebrew MSS. discovered in Egypt was presented some months ago by the Rev. Greville J. Chester to the Cambridge University Library, and Mr. Schechter is engaged in the task of examining and classifying them.

The Dhammapada.—Under the title “Worte der Wahrheit” (Leipzig: Hæssel) Prof. Leopold von Schröder, of Dorpat, has published a new translation into German verse of this popular text of the Buddhist canon. He has endeavoured to reproduce the beauty of the Pāli verse, and in this respect, at least, has surpassed all the previous versions. It is interesting to have to add one more to the list of Professors of Sanskrit who see the importance, in the history of

Indian thought, of works not written in Sanskrit, and it is to be hoped that the learned and gifted author will carry his Pāli studies into other and less hackneyed fields.

Semitic Notes.—Prof. Dr. D. H. Müller laid before the Semitic section of the last Congress of Orientalists the *Gedichte und Fragmente des 'Aus Ibn Hajar, gesammelt, herausgegeben und übersetzt von Dr. Rudolf Geyer* (126th vol. of the *Sitzungsberichte der Kais. Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wien, Phil.-Histor. Classe*).

The Smithsonian Institution at Washington has published the English translation (by Miss Henrietta Szold) of the late Prof. August Müller's biography of the late Prof. H. L. Fleischer.

An extract from as-Sajastāni's *Gharib-al-Kur'ān* with some introductory remarks concerning the author, his work, and the MSS., has just been published by Dr. Josef Feilchenfeld.

To the 3rd biennial report of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York is added an *Essay on Manzur* (*sic*) *al-Dhamārī* by Dr. Alexander Kohut, with Hebrew and Arabic extracts of his commentary on the Pentateuch.

Discovery of Early Christian Manuscripts.—A discovery has been made by Professor Harnack in examining some codices found in a twelfth-century grave in Upper Egypt. In these codices Professor Harnack asserts that he has recognized literary monuments of the oldest Christianity, which enjoyed the reputation of full or partial authenticity in Christian communities at the time when the canon of the New Testament was being formed, but were afterwards rejected and lost. They are three in number. One of them bears the title, "The Revelation of Peter." It is a prophetic book, resembling the Apocalypse of St. John, and was quoted as a sacred "scripture" by the great Christian teacher Clement of Alexandria in the second century after Christ. It is supposed to have been written by the Apostle Peter. Another is "The Gospel of Peter," a narrative of the life of Christ, similar to those of the four Gospels. It was in use in the second century, especially in the Syrian communities, and was at first admitted by

the ecclesiastical authorities, but afterwards stigmatized as gnostic. It, too, is supposed to have been written by St. Peter. The third codex contains considerable fragments of the Book of Enoch, a prophetic book, which was of high authority among the early Christians, but the origin of which is not cleared up. The ascription to the Old Testament patriarch "who walked with God" is, of course, a mere literary fiction. Professor Harnack intends to publish a full report of this important discovery in the January number of the *Preussische Jahrbücher*, edited by Professor Hans Delbrück.

The Budha-Gaya Temple.—The Budha-Gaya temple, near Gaya, is revered among Budhists as having been built on the spot where Budha attained Nirvana; but though visited by many Budhist pilgrims from Ceylon, Burma, Tibet, etc., it has long been in the hands of a Hindu religious community, whose head, the Mahant, claims to hold it in virtue of a sanad granted by the Mogul Emperors of Dehli about three centuries ago; but the original document is believed to have perished when the old records of the Gaya Collectorate were destroyed during the mutiny in 1857. The temple was repaired by Government in 1884, at a cost of 1½ lakhs of rupees, and since then the temple and grounds have been in charge of the Magistrate of Gaya. From the year 1890 a subordinate of the Public Works Department has, with the consent of the Mahant, been appointed to act as custodian of the premises, and to carry out such repairs and petty works as are necessary. The pay of the custodian and the cost of executing the necessary repairs to the temple are borne by Government, the Mahant continuing to receive fees and gifts from pilgrims as now. During the past year applications were made to Government to support the schemes of a society named the Budha-Gaya Maha Bodhi Society, which has been formed in Ceylon with the object of purchasing the Budha-Gaya temple and site, and of founding there a Budhist monastic institution. The Lieutenant-Governor has, however, refused to interfere in the matter,

which is one that should be settled by private contract, and not by the authority of Government.

Quarters were constructed for the custodian of the temple, and a building is in course of erection to serve as a museum of fragments of sculpture picked up from the vicinity.

When Mr. Broadley was in charge of the Bihar sub-division, he made a collection of statues, by purchase and other means, from various parts of this sub-division, and that of Nowada. The collection was transferred to his successor, who, in his turn, after adding to it, transferred it to a Trust Committee, composed of the members of the Bihar Municipality, with the Commissioner and the Collector of Patna as President and Vice-President respectively. In 1888 the Director of the Archæological Survey of India called the attention of this Government to the deplorable state in which the collection was lying at the head-quarters of the Bihar sub-division, and suggested that a portion of them should be removed to Calcutta. The proposal was received in 1891, when the Commissioner of Patna, having reported that of the 19 members of the Committee one was dead and the others had resigned, and the Trustees of the Indian Museum having expressed a willingness to receive the whole collection, the Government sanctioned a grant of R5,000 to carry out the work of removing the whole collection to the Indian Museum at Calcutta, as well as of employing a skilled artist to make drawings of other remains left in the neighbourhood of Bihar.—*Hindu Patriot*.

University College, London.—The late Miss Amelia Edwards, the well-known Egyptologist, founded by her will a Chair of Egyptology in University College. This is the first endowment of the kind in this country. The Council of the College have appointed Mr. W. M. Flinders Petrie, D.C.L., to be the first Edwards Professor, and that gentleman will commence work there soon after Christmas. The appliances for study will include a library complete in works of reference for the history, language, and antiquities of Egypt, and upwards of 1000 photographs of monuments, with paper impressions of inscriptions. In addition to the

typical collection of Egyptian antiquities bequeathed to the college by Miss Edwards, Professor Petrie hopes to obtain the temporary loan of some valuable private collections. The Professor proposes to undertake the following work:—

1. Lectures on current discoveries, on History, and on the systematic study of Egyptian Antiquities; 2. Lessons on the Language and Philology of Egypt; 3. Attendance in the library on fixed days for the assistance and direction of students working there; 4. Practical Training on Excavations in Egypt. London will thus have a new school for the study of the civilization of Egypt.

Oriental Linguists in the Army.—At the recent examination of officers in various foreign languages, two officers qualified as interpreters of Arabic and one as an interpreter of Turkish.

Tel-el-Amarna.—Mr. Percy E. Newberry, M.R.A.S., with a staff consisting of Mr. Percy Buckman (artist), Mr. John E. Newberry (architect), and Mr. Howard Carter (draughtsman), is leaving England this week for Upper Egypt, to carry on the archæological survey under the auspices of the Egypt Exploration Fund. The great capital of Tel-el-Amarna will be the main seat of operations for the coming season. The private work of Professor Flinders Petrie during last winter has elucidated many points relating to the city itself, but the numerous rock-cut tombs of courtiers of the heretic king, with their abundant scenes and inscriptions, still await a thorough survey, and promise to throw much light on the official creed and mode of life in a remarkable epoch of Egyptian history.

Easter Island Antiquities.—Dr. Carrol thinks he has discovered a clue, in an ancient alphabet used in Central America, to the interpretation of the curious old statues found on the Easter Island. These antiquities are well known from the specimens under the entrance porch of the British Museum.

Buddhism in Mongolia.—Dr. Georg Huth, Privat-dozent at the University of Berlin, is publishing in the original Tibetan, with translation and notes, the history of Buddhism

in Mongolia, written in 1818 by Jigs-med Nam-ka. The first volume, containing the Tibetan text in native character, has just appeared (Strassburg : Trübner. Price 20 marks).

Siamese.—Dr. Wershoven has published a little grammar, reading book, and vocabulary of modern Siamese as the thirty-eighth volume of Hartheben's series of linguistic handbooks. This is a very useful and handy little volume.

Sanskrit MSS. at Cambridge.—Professor Aufrecht, who published many years ago the Catalogue of the Sanskrit MSS. at Oxford, is said to be about to take up his residence in Cambridge, with a view to cataloguing the Sanskrit MSS. there.

Tenth International Congress of Orientalists.—His Majesty the King of Sweden and Norway has offered a Gold Medal for the best Essay on the following subject:—"A Comparative Treatment of the Grammatical Forms peculiar to the Rig-Veda, Yagur-Veda, Sama-Veda, and Atharva-Veda, distinguishing the Forms peculiar to the Mantras, Brāhmaṇas, and Upanishads." MSS. should be sent Registered (with the name of the writer in a sealed envelope) to Prof. F. Max Müller, Oxford, not later than March 1st, 1894. The prize will be awarded at the Tenth Congress to be held at Geneva in September, 1894. The following gentlemen have consented to co-operate as judges:—Prof. Lanman, of Harvard College; M. Victor Henri, of the Paris University; and Prof. Oldenberg, of Kiel University.

Asoka's Mysore Inscriptions.—We are glad to see that M. Senart has published in the "Journal Asiatique" the important paper on Mr. Lewis Rice's interesting discoveries, which he read at the "Academie des Inscriptions" at its sitting in May last. The distinguished Indianist goes carefully through the three newly found inscriptions, suggesting many emendations on the way, and then gives a new reading of the text and a complete translation. In conclusion, he points out the historical results of the data obtained, especially as to the early appearance of the worship of Siva, and as to the entirely new light thrown on our ideas as to the civilization of S. India in this remote period.

Adam's Peak.—The Buddhist Text Society, of Calcutta, is about to publish, in the Devanāgarī character, the Pāli text and a translation into Sanskrit of Wedeha's poem on this sacred mountain, entitled the Samanta Kūṭa Vaṇṇanā.

Lankāvatāra Sūtra.—A translation into French of this standard work of the Nepalese Buddhists is being prepared for the "Annales du Musée Guimet."

Mr. Woodville Rockhill has got back safely to Peking, after a second adventurous journey to the frontiers of Tibet. He has made many notes and observations, but was again prevented from entering Lhasa itself.

The Mahābhārata.—Hofrath Dr. Bühler and Professor J. Kirste have published in the "Sitzungs-berichte der Kais. Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Wien" a brochure on the history of the Mahābhārata. They show that the poem was regarded as a Smṛiti or Dharmaśāstra, and not merely as an epic, from about 300 A.D., and that from about 500 A.D. the text cannot have differed materially from that which we now have. These results are reached by a careful comparison of the quotations and references made by Kumarila (who cannot be assigned to a later date than the first half of the eighth century) and of the abstract made by Kshemendra in the early part of the twelfth century.

IV. NOTICES OF BOOKS.

BUDDHISM, PRIMITIVE AND PRESENT, IN MAGADHA AND IN CEYLON. By REGINALD STEPHEN COPLESTON, D.D. (8vo. pp. xv. and 501. Longmans.)

This substantial volume is a study of Buddhism, as it appears in the sacred books and in practice in Ceylon, considered from the point of view of the Anglican bishop. The industry and scholarship apparent in every page distinguish it in a marked degree from every other controversial work on the subject. Impartial, of course, as the learned author himself states in the preface, he could not be. But