

ASIATICK RESEARCHES;

OR,

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

SOCIETY INSTITUTED IN BENGAL,

FOR INQUIRING INTO THE

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES,

THE

ARTS, SCIENCES, AND LITERATURE,

OF

A S I A.

VOLUME THE FIFTH.

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1801.

which, although not the only organ of speech, is yet of such use in articulation, as to be commonly considered as such. Hence it is, that an indistinct articulation has become fashionable, even when the tongue is at liberty.

I shall begin with the *Burma* language as being at present the most prevalent. There are four dialects of it, that of the *Burma* proper, that of *Arakan*, that of the *Yo*, and that of *Tenaferim*.

The people called by us *Burmas*, *Barmas*, *Vermas*, *Brimmas*, &c. stile themselves *Myammaw*. By the people of *Pegu*, they are named *Pummay*; by the *Karaya*, *Yoo*; by the people of *Cuffay*, *Awaw*; by the *Cuffay shau*, *Kammau*; by the *Chinese* of *Younan*, *Laumeen*; and by the *Aykobat*, *Anwa*. They esteem themselves to be descended from the people of *Arakan*, whom they often call *Myammaw gye*, that is to say, great *Burmas*.

The proper natives of *Arakan*, call themselves *Yakain*, which name is also commonly given to them by the *Burmas*. By the people of *Pegu* they are named *Takain*. By the *Bengal Hindus*, at least by such of them as have been settled in *Arakan*, the country is called *Roffawn*, from whence, I suppose, Mr. RENNELL has been induced to make a country named *Roshawn* occupy part of his map, not conceiving that it would be *Arakan*, or the kingdom of the *Mugs*, as we often call it. Whence this name of *Mug*, given by *Europeans* to the natives of *Arakan*, has been derived, I know not; but, as far as I could learn, it is totally unknown to the natives and their neighbours, except such of them as by their intercourse with us have learned its use. The *Mahommedans* settled at *Arakan*, call the country *Rovingaw*, the *Persians* call it *Rekan*.

fight, and the language of one race is totally unintelligible to the others, yet I can perceive in them all some coincidences; and a knowledge of the languages, with their obsolete words, their phrases, their inflections of words, and elisions, *euphoniæ causa*, would, perhaps, shew many more. Those that have the greatest affinity are in Tab. I. IV. and V. Mr. GILCHRIST, whose knowledge of the common dialects in use on the banks of the *Ganges* is, I believe, exceeded by that of no *European*, was so obliging as to look over these vocabularies; but he could not trace the smallest relation between the languages.

I shall now add three dialects, spoken in the *Burma* empire, but evidently derived from the language of the *Hindu* nation.

The first is that spoken by the *Mohammedans*, who have been long settled in *Arakan*, and who call themselves *Roeinga*, or natives of *Arakan*.

The second dialect is that spoken by the *Hindus* of *Arakan*. I procured it from a *Brâhmen* and his attendants, who had been brought to *Amarapura* by the king's eldest son, on his return from the conquest of *Arakan*. They called themselves *Rossawn*, and, for what reason I do not know, wanted to persuade me that theirs was the common language of *Arakan*. Both these tribes, by the real natives of *Arakan*, are called *Kulaw Yakain*, or stranger *Arakan*.

The last dialect of the *Hindu* nation which I shall mention is, that of a people called by the *Burmas* *Aykobat*, many of whom are slaves at *Amarapura*. By one of them I was informed, that they called themselves *Banga*; that formerly they had kings of their own, but that, in his father's time, their kingdom had been overturned by the king of *Munnypura*, who carried away a great part of the inhabitants to his residence.

When that was taken last by the *Burmas*, which was about fifteen years ago, this man was one of the many captives who were brought to *Ava*. He said also, that *Banga* was seven days' journey fouth-west from *Munnypura*; it must, therefore, be on the frontiers of *Bengal*, and may, perhaps, be the country called in our maps *Cashar*.

Mr. GILCHRIST has been so good as to examine particularly these two dialects, and to mark thus (*) those words, which come nearest the *Hindustanee* spoken on the *Ganges*; and thus (+) those not so evidently in connection with the same, but which shew resemblance by analogy.

<i>English.</i>	<i>Rosinga.</i>	<i>Roffawa.</i>	<i>Banga.</i>
1 Sun	Bel	*Sooja	Baylee
2 Moon	Sawn	Sundfa	Satkan
3 Stars	Tara	*Nokyoto	*Tara
4 Earth	Kool	Murtika	*Matee
5 Water	Pannæ	*Dfol	*Pannæ
6 Fire	Auin	*Aagancee	Zee
7 Stone	Sheel	*Sheel	*Heel
8 Wind	Bau	*Pawun	*Bo
9 Rain	Jorail	†Biltee	*Booun
10 Man	Manush	†Moanufa	*Manoo
11 Woman	Meealaw	Stree	Zaylan
12 Child	Gourapa	*Balouk	Sogwo
13 Head	Mata	Mustok	Teekgo
14 Mouth	Gall	Bodon	Totohan

<i>English.</i>	<i>Roinga.</i>	<i>Rossaw.</i>	<i>Banga.</i>
15 Arm	Bahara	*Baho	Paepoung
16 Hand	Hat	Osto	Hatkan
17 Leg	Ban	†Podo	Torooa
18 Foot	Pau	Pata	Zankan
19 Beast	—	Zoomtroo	Safee fangee
20 Bird	Paik	†Pookyee	†Pakya
21 Fish	Maws	Mootsæ	†Mas
22 Good	Goom	Gam	Hoba
23 Bad	Goom nay	Gumnay	Hoba nay
24 Great	Boddau	Dangor	Domorgo
25 Little	Thuddee	*Tsooto	Hoorooogo
26 Long	Botdean	Deengol	Deengul
27 Short	Banick	*Batee'	*Batee
28 One	Awg	*Aik	*Ak
29 Two	Doo	*Doo	De
30 Three	Teen	*Teen	†Teen
31 Four	Tchair	*Tfar	*Saree
32 Five	Panfoee	*Paus	*Pas
33 Six	Saw	*Tfo	*Tsæ
34 Seven	Sat	*Sat	*Hat
35 Eight	Awtoa	†Asto	*Awt
36 Nine	Nonaw	*No	*No
37 Ten	Dussoa	*Dos	*Dos
38 Eat	Kau	*Kawaj	†Kæk
39 Drink	Karin	Kawo	†Peek

<i>English.</i>	<i>Roungsa.</i>	<i>Rossawn.</i>	<i>Banga.</i>
40 Sleep	Layrow	†Needfara	Hooleck
41 Walk	Paw kay	Bayra	†O-teca-ootea
42 Sit	Boihow	†Boesho	†Bo
43 Stand	Tcheilayto	*Karao	†Oot
44 Kill	Marium	*Maro	*Mar
45 Yes	Hoi	Oir	Oo
46 No	Etibar	*Noay	*Naway
47 Here	Hayray	Eray	Erang
48 There	Horay	Horay	Orung
49 Above	Ouchalo	*Ooper	Gos
50 Below	Ayray	Hayray	†Tel

A
GEOGRAPHICAL, STATISTICAL, AND HISTORICAL

. DESCRIPTION

OF

H I N D O S T A N,

AND THE

ADJACENT COUNTRIES.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

BY WALTER HAMILTON, ESQ.

VOL. II.

LONDON.

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

1820.

they dispose of their cargo, and return with Indian and European commodities. Prior to 1764, the Dutch used to purchase rice and slaves here. Latterly, on account of the increasing tyranny of the Birman government, this province has so greatly deteriorated, that in 1812 it was stated by Colonel Morgan, the commanding officer in Chittagong, that the Birmans had no means of subsisting any considerable body of troops within 150 miles of the Chittagong southern frontier, as nearly the whole of the cattle had been driven off, maimed, or slaughtered, by the insurgent Kingberring. The jack, mangoe, betel nut, and other fruit trees, had been cut down, and all the grain either destroyed or removed.

The natives of Arracan Proper call their country Yekein; the Hindoos of Bengal, Rossaun. The latter, who have settled in great numbers in Arracan, are denominated by the original inhabitants Kulaw Yekein, or unnaturalized Arracaners. The Moguls know this country by the name of Rakhang, and the Mahomedans, who have been long settled in the country, call themselves Rooinga, or natives of Arracan. The term Mugh is never used by the natives of Arracan as applicable to themselves, and its origin has never been properly ascertained. The Raking is the original language of the inhabitants of Arracan, who adhere to the tenets of Buddha, and is the first of that singular class of Indo-Chinese languages which may be properly termed monosyllabic, from the mass of their radical words consisting of monosyllables, like the spoken dialect of China. Until the last conquest by the Birmans, the tribes of Arracan seem for a long period to have preserved their independence; their language is consequently purer than that of the Birmans, who sustained various revolutions. The national name of the Arracan race is Ma-rum-ma, which appears to be only a corruption of Maha Vurma; Vurma being an appellation peculiar to tribes of Khetri extraction. A native of Arracan cannot, without extreme difficulty, articulate a word which has a consonant for a final.

Until the Birman conquest, the ancient government of Arracan had never been so completely subdued as to acknowledge vassalage to a foreign power, although the Moguls and Peguers had, at different periods, carried arms into the heart of the country. During the reign of Aurengzebe, the unfortunate Sultan Shujah, his brother, was basely murdered by the Arracan Raja. The Portuguese sometimes as allies, at others as open enemies, gained an establishment in the country, which only decayed with the general ruin of their interests in Asia. In 1783, the province was conquered after a very feeble resistance by the Birmans, and was followed by the surrender of Cheduba, Ramree, and the Broken Isles. Many of the Mughs, preferring flight to servitude, took refuge among the Dumbuck hills, on the western border of Chittagong, and in the deep jungles and forests that skirt that frontier, where they formed themselves into

tribes of independent robbers. Many also settled in the Chittagong and Tiperah districts, while others quietly submitted to the yoke. When the conquest of Arracan had been thus completed, it was formed into a province of the Birman empire, and a Maywoon or Viceroy deputed to govern it. Sholamboos was the first invested with that office, and 1000 Birman soldiers were left to garrison the fort. Small parties were likewise distributed in the different towns, and many Birmans who had obtained grants of land came with their families and settled in the country, thereby consolidating the Birman supremacy. The dethroned Raja, Mahasumda, died a natural death, in the first year of his captivity, and thus the subjugation of Arracan was accomplished in a few months.

In this state of apparent tranquillity it remained until the year 1811, when a native of Arracan, named Kingberring (King-ber-ring), formed the design of embodying his followers and other refugee Mughls to invade his native province, which project he actually carried into execution in the month of May 1811. He was afterwards joined by many Arracangers, advanced into the interior, and in a short time subjected the whole to his authority, with the exception of the capital, to which he laid siege. While these achievements were going on, he addressed a letter to the British government offering to become their tributary, which was rejected; but in order to induce a supposition of a connexion or connivance, he had some of his followers clothed in red. Some time afterwards the Birmans collected forces sufficient to defeat Kingberring and disperse his followers, who fled towards Chittagong followed by the Birmans, who pursued them across the frontier, but were compelled to return by a British detachment sent against them. In 1812, Kingberring again emerged from his concealment, and once more attempted the invasion of Arracan, but even with worse success than before, being met and defeated by the Birman troops immediately after crossing the frontier. During the commotions no quarter was given; every suspected Mugh was put to death, and one dispatch mentions the total extermination of a village containing 2500 persons. On the decease of the Arracan Viceroy in 1813, the governors of Rane, Cheduba, and Sandowy, with some other functionaries, were directed by the Ava sovereign to officiate in the province until the arrival of a successor. This took place in 1814, in which year, in consequence of the intrusion of some Birman troops within the Chittagong boundaries, in pursuit of the insurgent Kingberring, a correspondence ensued between the magistrate of that district and the Arracan Viceroy, the commencement of whose letter, as a specimen of the Birman official style, is here inserted:—
“ My sovereign is of high destiny; he possesses gold, diamonds, and jewels, and the white elephant and the whole world. He possesses great resolution and great power; he possesses the spear; he is king over 100 kings, &c. &c.” The

AN ACCOUNT
OF THE
BURMAN EMPIRE,

COMPILED FROM THE WORKS OF COLONEL SYMES, MAJOR
CANNING, CAPTAIN COX, DR. LEYDEN, DR.
BUCHANAN, &c. &c. &c. ;

A DESCRIPTION OF
DIFFERENT TRIBES
INHABITING IN AND AROUND THAT DOMINION ;

AND
A NARRATIVE

OF THE
LATE MILITARY AND POLITICAL OPERATIONS

IN THE
BURMESE EMPIRE,

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE PRESENT CONDITION OF
THE COUNTRY, ITS MANNERS, CUSTOMS AND
INHABITANTS.

BY
HENRY G. BELL, Esq.

WITH A COLOURED MAP.

CALCUTTA :
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1852.

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