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transmitted to this country, has been supposed to throw some obstacle in the way of publishing exact fac-similes; but as they are now deposited in the Bodleian library, under the charge of the University of Oxford, we have reason to hope that these obstacles will be got the better of, by the extraordinary zeal which that learned body has always shown for publishing corrupt texts, to the rejection even of undoubted emendations;— a propensity very signally evinced in the promulgation of the book which goes by the name of Musgrave's Sophocles, and of the obsolete and useless text of the very plays which had been edited in so immaculate a form by Porson. We look forward, with curiosity, to the appearance of the treatise of Epicurus, which is said to be of the number of the Papyri; though we entertain great doubts whether it will turn out to be a genuine work of that celebrated philosopher. The discourse of Philodemus, contained in the present volume, is of so little intrinsic value, that we have the less regret in seeing it published in so unscholar-like a manner. But the literary world will not be satisfied with any thing less than an accurate copy of the MS. of Epicurus: though, for our part, we should be happy to redeem a single comedy of Menander, or a mime of Sophron, at the price of all the lucubrations of Epicurus and his followers.

ART. VI. *Asiatic Researches; or Transactions of the Society instituted in Bengal, for inquiring into the History and Antiquities, the Arts, Sciences and Literature of Asia. Vol. X.*

WE propose, in this article, to exhibit a succinct analysis of the contents of the last volume of this interesting publication, which has yet reached this country.

Remarks on the State of Agriculture in the District of Dinājpur. By W. Carey.

The district of Dinājpur extends on each side of the 25th and 26th degrees of northern latitude, stretching from the centre of Bengal towards the lofty frontier which skirts that province, on the north. The rivers which have their source in this elevated region, divide their waters into innumerable streams on entering the plains, adding, to the productiveness of the soil, the means of transporting the produce by easy conveyance. The southern part of this district rises in gentle acclivities, which run from north to south, and are divided from each other by interjacent vallies; the whole surface of the country resembling large waves, or rather presenting the appearance of the sea when there is a great swell.

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The vallies and elevations are generally about two or three miles in width. During the periodical rains, the former are usually inundated, and become navigable for vessels of very considerable burthen. A rich loam, which forms their usual superstratum, is probably a deposit from the waters. The stiff clay under it extends over the surface of the higher lands, which have not been exposed to the same operation. These afford only one crop of rice in the year, whilst the vallies yield, in addition, a crop of pulse or mustard. The agriculture of this province, besides the various sorts of rice, of which the *Himanta*, or winter crop, is by far the most general, embraces, 1. *Crotolaria*, of which the fibres, separated from the stalk by the putrid fermentation, are wrought into cordage. 2. *Indigo*, for which the soil and circumstances of the district are but indifferently adapted. 3. *Phaseolus Mungo* and *Radiatus*; the latter affording an useful substitute, when the first crop happens to fail. 4. Three sorts of *mustard* are extensively cultivated. 5. *Tobacco* occupies and rewards the cares of the husbandman. 6. Various sorts of *pulse*, and many cucurbitaceous plants, are raised with little expense and labour.

Mr Carey, in this sensible memoir, suggests several improvements, which he conceives might be successfully introduced. 'Hemp would flourish in many spots. Cotton, scarcely cultivated at all in the district, might be cultivated to a large extent. If proper methods were taken to introduce the best kinds, the culture of wheat and barley might occupy many thousands of bighas, which now lye in an uncultivated state. The culture of some species of *Hibiscus* would be profitable, and furnish one of the most durable fibres for cordage, and perhaps for coarse cloths. But,' says Mr Carey, 'the poverty, prejudices and indolence of the natives, strongly operate against improvements.' These, we believe, are the three most inveterate enemies to improvement in every country; and we are far from thinking that their effects are exclusively or particularly felt in Dinājpur. It is certainly an interesting speculation to inquire, whether government should take any, and what steps, to remedy the evils complained of, in addition to the salutary effects which may naturally be expected to result from the permanent settlement of the revenue accomplished by Lord Cornwallis. An increase in the capital of the husbandman, must be the result of successful industry; but the operation of that settlement seems calculated to add to the capital of the landholder, and his interest strongly to prompt him to the encouragement of productive labour. The removal of prejudices can only be effected by affording to the inhabitants, ocular proof of the superior advantages attending a different mode of agriculture. We think it would occasion little expense, if an experimental farm were

were established at the chief seat of every district, and placed under the superintendance of the surgeon attached to the station. As the natives seldom apply for medical aid to an European practitioner, his duties are confined to half a dozen resident gentlemen; the education of medical men enables them readily to embrace the application of theoretical views; and if the expenses were defrayed by government, whilst the profit accrued to themselves, it might stimulate to exertion those few of that respectable profession, to whom motives of benevolence, and the love of experimental research, might prove an inadequate inducement. We candidly confess, that we are by no means ourselves convinced that the processes and instruments of agriculture employed in England, could all be advantageously introduced into Bengal. But when experiment has decided that they are equally adapted to that soil and climate, the prejudices of the natives, as in other instances, will doubtless give way to their interest. The best antidote to indolence, consists in the conviction of the husbandman, that the fruits of his toils will be enjoyed by himself. The Bengal government have set permanent limits to their demands on the landholders; the duty now incumbent on their servants, is to preclude his exaction of any impost from his tenants, not distinctly specified in the *potta* or lease, and to encourage the granting of these universally, by rendering it the interest of the proprietor.

We believe we shall come pretty near the truth, in estimating the revenues of the zemindary of Dinājpur, paid to government, at sixteen lacs of rupees, or 160,000*l. per annum*, derived from a country of 4500 British square miles in extent. The zemindar, in whose family this possession has been about a century and a half, enjoys a revenue of about 16,000*l. per annum*. The demands of government are now permanently fixed. It is probable that, of the lands which compose his zemindary, only one-fifth is in cultivation. But, since increased or improved cultivation will not now produce any additional demands on the part of government, it becomes his obvious interest to promote to the utmost the productive powers of his district, and to consider his capital as a fund for agricultural improvements. On the other hand, if, neglecting his own interest, husbandry is suffered to decline, the arrears of revenue which consequently accrue must be liquidated by the sale of a proportionate extent of his lands; and the new proprietor, considering the purchase in no other light than as an advantageous speculation, will in all probability adopt the means neglected by his indolent predecessor. This system, it is true, has not yet lasted long enough to produce all the effect which may ultimately be expected from it. It appears, however, on the one hand, to render it the interest of the zemindar to assist industrious husbandmen

men in the prosecution of their rural toils; and, on the other, by rendering them responsible to government for a sum equal to ten times the amount of their annual income, to furnish a powerful counteraction to indolence. Fair and reasonable as these expectations appear, we candidly own that they have not as yet been realized to the degree that might have been imagined. But the information before the public respecting Indian affairs, is far too imperfect to enable us to judge, whether the obstacles which have impeded the operation of a system apparently so beneficent and wise, are of a permanent or a temporary nature.

In our observations on Mr Colebrooke's admirable treatise on the agriculture and commerce of Bengal, we ventured to doubt whether the simple implements and accustomed processes of the Indian peasant, would be advantageously supplanted by those employed in Europe. We own, that our doubts on this subject are by no means removed; but think, that no duty is more incumbent on our Indian government, than that of ascertaining, by a series of judicious experiments, conducted by persons qualified by education and habits for the task, a fact so important to the prosperity of our Eastern dominions, and to the most interesting part of their inhabitants.

' An Essay on the Sacred Isles of the West, with other Essays connected with that Work, by Captain Wilford. Essay V. On the Origin and Decline of the Christian Religion in India. '

Those who have followed us through our remarks on the Asiatic Researches, are already sufficiently acquainted with the peculiarities of Captain Wilford's manner. They know his extensive erudition, his fondness for hypothesis, and his neglect of that lucid arrangement which might display the true value of his rich materials. On the present occasion, we have not even been able to discover the connexion between the subject about to engage our attention, and the extraordinary proposition he has undertaken to maintain, that the Hindu religion had its origin in the British isles. It is however but fair, for the present, to attribute this circumstance to a defect of perspicacity in ourselves, and to do justice to a learned disquisition on an interesting topic.

Whoever the St Thomas was, who first preached Christianity in India, it had unquestionably made considerable progress at a very early period. This apostle embarked at Aden in Arabia; landed at the city now called Cranganor; was well received by Masdeus (Vāsudeva), king of that country; and converted his son Zuzan (Sujana), whom he ordained a deacon. He suffered martyrdom at the place named from him St Thomé, near Madras, where