

origin. One of the Indian pundits, who supplied M. Wilfort with these, confessed that he filled up at his pleasure, with imaginary names, the spaces that occurred between celebrated kings;(1) and he added, that his predecessors had done the same. If this be true of the lists which the English now obtain, why should it not be so with reference to those which Abou-Fazel has given as extracts from the annals of Cachemere,(2) and which, besides, though filled with fiction, only refer to 4300 years back, of which more than 1200 are filled with the names of princes, the extent of whose reigns are not determined.

The very era whence the Indians now calculate their years, beginning fifty-seven years before Christ, and which bears the name of a prince called Vicramaditjia, or Bickermadjit, bears it only by a kind of convention; for we find, according to the synchronisms attributed to Vicramaditjia, that there were three, and perhaps eight or nine, princes of this name, who have all had similar legends, and who have all been at war with a prince called Saliwahanna; and what is more, they do not accurately know if this fifty-seventh year before Christ be that of the birth, the reign, or the death of Vicramaditjia, whose name it bears.(3)

Again, the most authentic of the Indian records contradict, by intrinsic and very obvious characters, the antiquity which these people attribute to them.

(1) Wilfort, Mem. de Calcutta, in 8vo. vol. ix. p. 133.

(2) In the Ayeen-Acbery, vol. ii. p. 138 of the English translation. See also Heeren, Commerce of the Ancients, 1st vol. part ii. page 329.

(3) See Bentley on the Hindoo Astronomical Systems, and their Unison with History, Mem. de Calcutta, vol. viii. page 243 of the 8vo. edition.