

season of the year.(1) As if it was necessary to send them to different parts to effect this. About two centuries later, the Chou-King mentions a solar eclipse, but with absurd circumstances, as in all the fables of this kind; for a general, and the whole Chinese army is made to march against the astronomers, because they had not properly predicted it:(2) and it is known that for more than two thousand years afterwards the Chinese astronomers had no means of predicting the eclipses of the sun with precision. In 1629, of our era, at the time of their dispute with the Jesuits, they did not even know how to calculate the obscurations.

The real eclipses, recorded by Confucius in his chronicle of the kingdom of Lou, do not begin until 1400 years after this, in 776 before Christ, and scarcely fifty years earlier than those of the Chaldeans recorded by Ptoleæus. So true it is, those nations which escaped at the same period from the universal catastrophe, have, under similar circumstances, reached a similar degree of civilization about the same period. But we should believe, by

to point out to me in the heavens the constellation of Antarmada, he immediately directed me to Andromeda, which I had taken care not to show as a constellation that I knew. He then produced a very scarce and curious book, in Sanscrit, in which was a particular chapter on the Upanacshatras, or extra zodiacal constellations, with figures of Capeya, and of Casyape sitting, holding a lotus flower in her hand, of Antarmada, chained with the fish near her, and of Parasica, holding the head of a slain monster dripping with blood, and with snakes for hair."

Who does not here recognise Perseus, Cepheus and Cassiopea? But let us not forget that this pundit of M. Wilfort, has been much doubted.

(1) Chou-King, pp. 6—7.

(2) Chou-King, pp. 66, et seq.