

passage, probably falsified by a copyist).* The earliest notice of this new constellation occurs in Geminus and Varro scarcely half a century before our era; and as the Romans, from the time of Augustus to Antoninus, became more strongly imbued with a predilection for astrological inquiry, those constellations which "lay in the celestial path of the sun" acquired an exaggerated and fanciful importance. The Egyptian zodiacal constellations found at Dendera, Esneh, the Propylon of Panopolis, and on some mummy-cases, belong to the first half of this period of the Roman dominion, as was maintained by Visconti and Testa, at a time when the necessary materials for the decision of the question had not been collected, and the wildest hypothesis still prevailed regarding the signification of these symbolical zodiacal signs, and their dependence on the precession of the equinoxes. The great antiquity which, from passages in Manu's Book of Laws, Valmiki's Ramayana and Amarasinha's Dictionary, Augustus William von Schlegel attributed to the zodiacal circles found in India, has been rendered very doubtful by Adolph Holtzmann's ingenious investigations.†

* On the passage referred to in the text, and interpolated by a copyist of Hipparchus, see Letronne, *Orig. du Zod.*, 1840, p. 20. As early as 1812, when I was much disposed to believe that the Greeks had been long acquainted with the sign of Libra, I directed attention in an elaborate memoir (on all the passages in Greek and Roman writers of antiquity, in which the Balance occurs as a sign of the zodiac) to that passage in Hipparchus (*Comment. in Aratum*, lib. iii., cap. 2) which refers to the *θηριόν* held by the Centaur (in his fore-foot), as well as to the remarkable passage of Ptolemy, lib. ix., cap. 7 (Halma, t. ii., p. 170). In the latter the Southern Balance is named with the affix *κατὰ Χαλδαίους*, and is opposed to the pincers of the Scorpion in an observation, which was undoubtedly not made at Babylon, but by some of the astrological Chaldeans, dispersed throughout Syria and Alexandria. (*Vues des Cordillères et Monumens des Peuples Indigènes de l'Amérique*, t. ii., p. 380.) Buttman maintained, what is very improbable, that the *χηλαί* originally signified the two scales of the Balance, and were subsequently by some misconception converted into the pincers of a scorpion. (Compare Ideler, *Untersuchungen über die astronomischen Beobachtungen der Alten.*, s. 374, and *Ueber die Sternnamen*, s. 174-177, with Carteron, *Recherches de M. Letronne*, p. 113.) It is a remarkable circumstance connected with the analogy between many of the names of the twenty-seven "houses of the moon," and the Dodecatomeria of the zodiac, that we also meet with the sign of the Balance among the Indian Nakschatras (Moon-houses), which are undoubtedly of very great antiquity. (*Vues des Cordillères*, t. ii., p. 6-12.)

† Compare A. W. von Schlegel, *Ueber Sternbilder des Thierkreises im alten Indien*, in the *Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes*, bd. i., Heft 3, 1837, and his *Commentatio de Zodiaci Antiquitate et Origine*, 1839, with Adolph Holtzmann, *Ueber den Griechischen Ursprung des In*