

which bears the name of a prince called *Vicramaditjia*, or *Bickermadjit*, bears it only by a sort of convention ; for we find, according to the synchronisms attributed to *Vicramaditjia*, that there may have been at least three, and perhaps so many as eight or nine, princes of this name, who have all similar legends, and who have all waged war with a prince named *Saliwahanna* ; and, further, we cannot well make out whether this period, the fifty-seventh year before the Christian era, is that of the birth, reign, or death of the hero whose name it bears.*

Lastly, the most authentic books of the Indians, contradict, by intrinsic and very obvious characters, the antiquity attributed to them by the pundits. Their *vedas*, or sacred books, alleged by them to have been revealed by *Brama* himself from the beginning of the world, and arranged by *Viasa* (a name which signifies nothing else than collector), at the commencement of the present age, if we judge of them by the calendar which is found annexed, and to which they refer, as well as by the position of the colures indicated by this calendar, may extend to

* See Bentley, on the Astronomical Systems of the Hindoos, and their Connection with History ; Calcutta Memoirs, vol. viii. p. 243. of the 8vo edition.