

V.

Indian Studies.

By

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No. I.

The Jagadûcharita of Sarvânanda, a historical romance from
Gujarât.

The Jagadûcharita¹ or Life of Jagadû (in Sanskrit Jagaddeva) belongs to the class of historical romances, which the modern researches in India have brought to light in considerable numbers. It differs from the other works of the same kind, like the Śrī-Harshacharita of Bâṇa, the Vikramânka-devacharita of Bilhaṇa, the Kîrtikaumudî of Someśvara and the Sukṛitasamkîrtana of Arisimha, only by its comparatively late origin, by a want of artistic finish and by the circumstance that its hero is not a king or minister, but a simple merchant, who did much for his native town by rebuilding its walls, and for Gujarât by alleviating the wide-spread distress during a terrible famine in A. D. 1256—58.

The Jagadûcharita, which in the colophons is called a Mahâkâvya, contains seven Sargas, with 388 verses:

I. Viyatṭhuprabhṛitipûrvapurushavarṇana, i. e., the description of Viyatṭhu and other ancestors of Jagadû; verses 45; chief metre, Vasantatilakâ,

¹ The MS., on which the subjoined essay is based, is that of the India Office Library, Sanskrit MSS. Bühler, No. 291 (see Zeitschrift der Deutschen morgenländischen Gesellschaft, vol. XLII, p. 551). It was kindly lent to me in 1876 by Râo Sâheb Dalpatrâm P. Khakhar, then Educational Inspector of Kachh, who of late has sanctioned its presentation to the India Office. It is a modern, but very correct copy, made for Mr. Khakhar from an old MS., belonging to a Jaina Yati in Bhuj.