

ENGRAVED ILLUSTRATIONS
OF
ANTIEN
ARMS AND ARMOUR,

FROM THE

COLLECTION AT GOODRICH COURT, HEREFORDSHIRE;

AFTER THE DRAWINGS, AND WITH THE DESCRIPTIONS

OF

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PLATE CXL.

CHAIN-ARMOUR AND HELMETS FROM DELHI.

THE body-guard of the Moguls has always been, and still continues, protected by this sort of armour, which being handed down as a kind of heir-loom in a family, renders it impossible to assign the date of it on any satisfactory evidence. In the suits represented in this Plate there is every indication of great antiquity. The resemblance to those engraved in Grose's antient armour as being at Tong Castle in Shropshire and since removed, one to His Majesty's collection, the other to Mr. Gwennap's, will be evident on a comparison, as well as their dissimilarity from the antient European hauberks.

FIG. 1.—The helmet with its moveable wide-spreading nasal, orielles, neck and throat guards, the two latter of overlapping laminæ connected by rings.

FIG. 2.—Back view of the same.

FIG. 3.—Front view.

FIG. 4.—The coat of mail and plate united, with eight loops in front for the fastening cords.

FIG. 5.—The back of the same, the centre of which is formed of overlapping laminæ, such as are seen attached to the helmet.

FIG. 6.—Two of the four front plates on another suit.

FIG. 7.—Front view of the helmet of united mail and plate belonging to the last mentioned.

FIG. 8.—A portion of the mail to shew that every alternate row of rings is made with that kind which is strengthened by a tranverse bar.

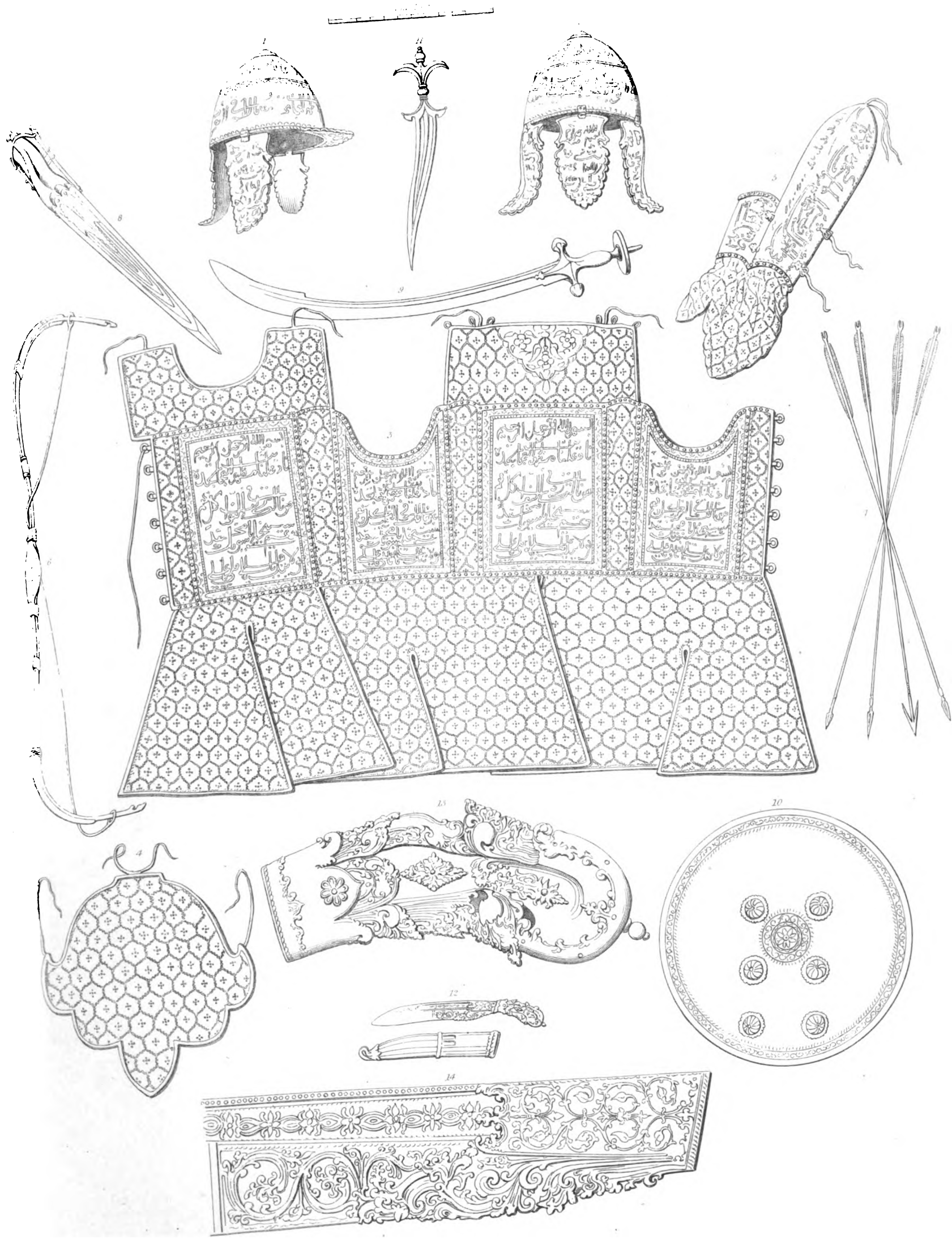


PLATE CXLI.

INDIAN ARMS AND ARMOUR.

AT Mundavie, in the gulph of Cutch in the north part of India, is a manufactory for making armour and shields of rhinoceros' and buffalo's hides. The pieces are boiled in oil till they become transparent; and such is the process, that they are rendered proof against the edge of a sabre, and, it is asserted, even against a bullet. The splendid suit of armour exhibited in this plate being of that description, in all probability belonged to the Rajah of the Guzerat, and from the inscription upon it, beginning with an invocation to Ali, we find he was a Sheer, a religious sect violently opposed to the Sunis. The Persians are of the former class, the Turks of the latter. It was once in the collection of his Royal Highness the late Duke of York.

FIG. 1.—The helmet viewed side ways.

FIG. 2.—The same seen behind, the ground is black, the inscription and ornament gold.

FIG. 3.—The body armour. Between, above and below the four pieces of rhinoceros' hide is black velvet, ornamented with brass studs and padded. The whole is lined with a rich silk mixed with threads of gold and figured with flowers.

FIG. 4.—One of the velvet shoulder guards padded and lined as before.

FIG. 5.—One of the elbow gauntlets, the velvet covering for the hand having within it chain mail. The same inscription is upon each part of the armour, and may thus be translated: "In the name of God, the clement and merciful. Say, (oh Muhammed) that he is the only God, the eternal Lord, who neither begetteth nor is begotten, who hath no equal. God is the

superlative preserver; He is the most merciful of the merciful. With assistance from God, victory is at hand.—Those proclaim glad tidings to the true believers. Call out for Ali (oh Muhammed) the person in whom wonders are made manifest. Thou wilt find him a succour in calamity. By him the whole of thy grief and anxiety will be dispelled. Do this, oh Muhammed, by thy gift of prophecy, and thou oh Ali by thy succession to it. There are five persons by whom I can extinguish the heat of the tormenting plague; Mustafá (Muhammed), Murteza (Ali), his two sons (Hasan and Hussein) and Fatimah (the daughter of Muhammed, wife of Ali and mother of Hasan and Hussein).”

FIG. 6.—An Indian bow made of antelope's horns, &c. covered with fish skin bound round with sinews. The cord consists of several parallel threads of silk.

FIG. 7.—Four varieties of dark reed arrows with steel piles belonging to this bow.

FIG. 8.—A paiscush furnished with a knuckle guard.

FIG. 9.—A sabre.

FIG. 10.—A shield of buffalo's hide, made transparent and ornamented with gilding.

FIG. 11.—An antient Indian kanjar with a steel hilt, partly gilt.

FIG. 12.—A dagger from Ceylon, and its sheath of wood and silver.

FIG. 13.—The hilt of ditto of ivory and silver, of its full size.

FIG. 14.—That part of the blade next the hilt covered with silver, of like dimensions.

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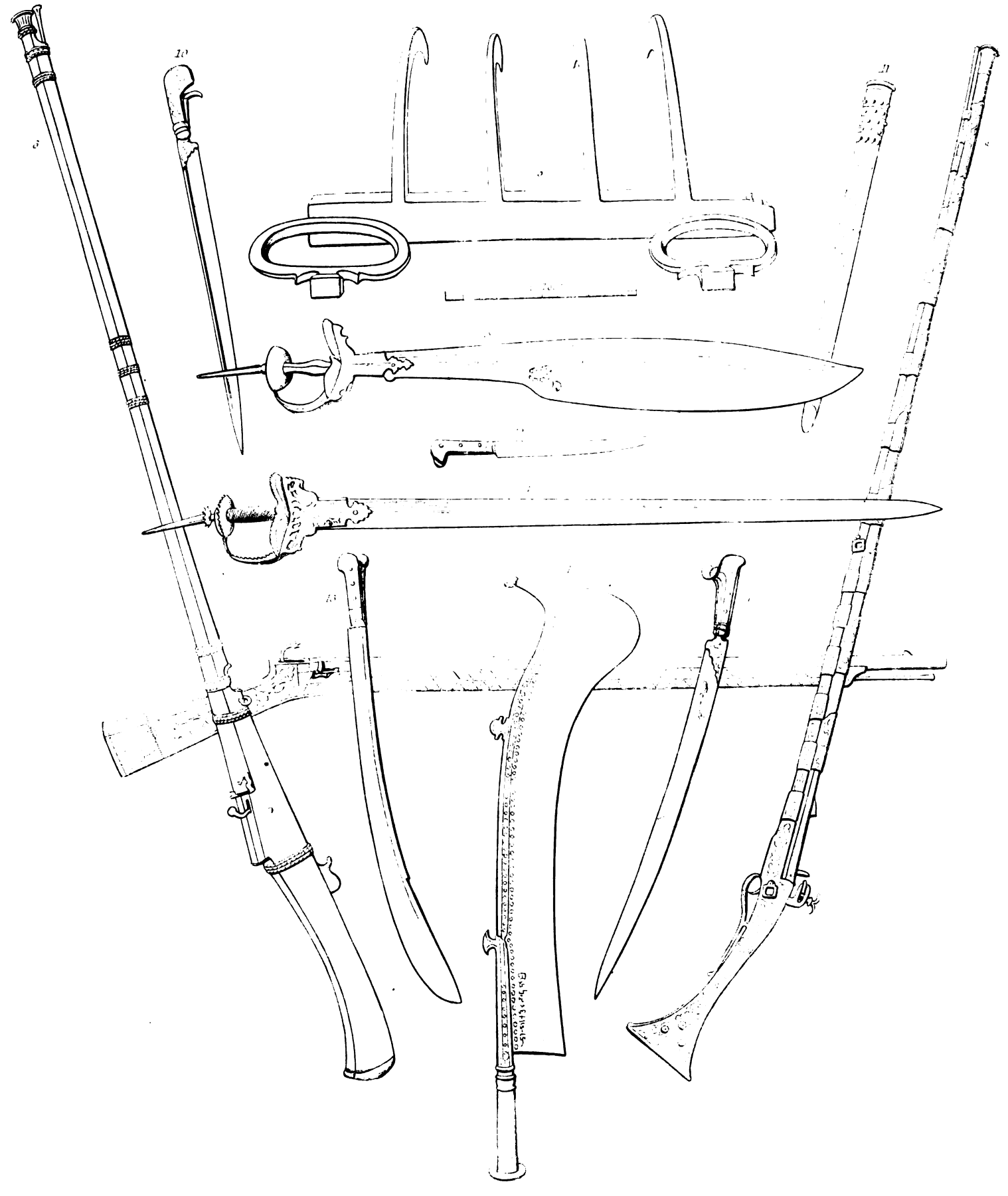


PLATE CXLII.

INDIAN AND ALBANIAN WEAPONS.

THE Albanians are Greeks who have been converted to the Mahometan creed, and who inhabit that part of Turkey which borders the gulph of Venice. The troops they supply to the Sultan are termed Arnauts.

FIG. 1.—A beheading instrument mounted with brass and with a handle of horn, having upon it a Bengaleze inscription.

FIG. 2.—The inscription of its full size, which seems to be merely the maker's name.

FIG. 3.—Another wholly of steel from the Carnatic, with inscriptions apparently in Sanscrit.

FIG. 4.—A straight sword from the same part of India, the hilt as well as the blade being of steel.

FIG. 5.—The wag-nuk or tiger's claw, a secret weapon invented by the Hindoo Sewajee in 1659, with which kind of instrument and a dagger he destroyed the Mohammedan Abdoollah Cawn, the general of the Bejapoor government.

FIG. 6.—A match-lock gun with a green stock from Sind, presented by Sir Molyneux Nepean, Bart.

FIG. 7.—Another, the stock of which is inlaid with mother o' pearl and ivory. Uncertain from whence.

FIG. 8.—An Albanian fire-lock gun, the stock much ornamented with brass and small pieces of red carnelian. The barrel is damasked, and was probably made at Daghistan in the Caucasus.

FIG. 9.—An Albanian yatagan or sword, mounted with ivory and silver.

FIG. 10.—An Albanian yatagan, mounted with brass.

FIG. 11.—The sheath covered with the same metal embossed with scroll-work.

FIG. 12.—An Albanian dagger, presented by T. Crofton Croker, Esq. Two are sometimes worn in one sheath.

FIG. 13.—An Albanian sword with a Turkish blade, the hilt of ivory and silver.



FIGURE AND PLATE OF ISLAMIC METALWORK

PLATE CXLIII.

POMMEL AND CHAPES OF THREE INDIAN SCYMITARS.

THE Asiatic sword blades, which exhibit the oriental damask, are made of what in India is termed Woutz, and in Turkey Taban, and they are proved to be genuine when they admit of being written upon with a piece of fine gold. This substance is cast steel more fixed with carbon than that of Europe, and which exhibits a crystallization of two distinct combinations of iron and carbon by means of being refrigerated. The blade, whose sheath is terminated by the chape No. 4, is a fine specimen of this kind.

FIG. 1.—The pommel of an Indian scymitar, ornamented with inlaid gold. The moveable piece at top is to hold two pendant pieces of silk about five or six inches long, worked with gold thread.

FIG. 2.—The chape of a scymitar sheath which belonged to Tippoo Saib.

FIG. 3.—Tiger stripe of inlaid gold on the blade of the scymitar, inscribed Shamshir Khaus, Tippoo Sultaun: "The particularly favourite sword of the Sultan Tippoo." All along the back of the blade are passages in gold from the Koran, and on the side the tiger, the mark of Tippoo's empire.

FIG. 4.—Chape of the scymitar sheath of a Rajah of the Polygars, being that worn by the figure in Plate CXXXVII.

