

Archæological Survey of India.

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REPORT  
OF  
A TOUR IN BIHAR AND BENGAL  
IN  
1879-80  
FROM PATNA TO SUNARGAON.

BY  
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"What is aimed at is an accurate description, illustrated by plans, measurements, drawings, or photographs, and by copies of inscriptions, of such remains as most deserve notice, with the history of them so far as it may be traceable, and a record of the traditions that are preserved regarding them."—LORD CANNING.

"What the learned world demand of us in India is to be quite certain of our data, to place the monumental record before them exactly as it now exists, and to interpret it faithfully and literally."—JAMES PRINSEP.

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CALCUTTA:  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING,  
1882.

pieces of glazed tile that I was able to pick up at the foot of the walls, I do not think that the whole could have been glazed. The cornices certainly were so, and perhaps the niches also.

The great dome, as well as the flat roofs of the corners, is entirely covered with trees, which will no doubt eventually destroy the building; but at present the interlaced roots of the pipal trees seem to hold the walls together. The dome itself is scarcely visible amongst the dense foliage. The drawing given by Buchanan is very inaccurate, as the dome is made too high and very much too narrow. Its span is 48 feet, or very nearly two-thirds of 75 feet, the outside square of the building. If we allow a thickness of 5 feet, the outside diameter of the dome will be nearly four-fifths of the outside square, whereas Buchanan's drawing makes it only three-fifths. The pointed appearance of the summit of the dome, as shown by Buchanan, I take to be only the ruins of the old pinnacle.

#### *The Adina Masjid.*

The Great Adina Mosque of Hazrat Pandüa is looked upon by the Bengalis as one of the wonders of the world. But bigness is not grandeur, and the Adina Masjid is little better than a gigantic barn. Outside it is an oblong quadrangle,  $507\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length by  $285\frac{1}{2}$  feet in breadth. Inside it consists of four great cloisters surrounding a court 497 feet in length by 159 feet in breadth. On the west side the cloisters are five aisles in depth, forming the masjid; on the other sides they are only three aisles in depth. In the middle of the west side the cloisters are divided into two wings by a large room which forms the nave of the mosque. This room is 64 feet 4 inches in length and 33 feet  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches in width. On each side it has five archways opening into the five aisles of the cloisters. The roof was a long vault, a simple continuation of the front arch which spanned the whole breadth of the room. Both arch and vault have now fallen down, but the outline of the vaulted roof is distinctly marked against the top of the back wall. The cloisters on all four sides were

Viewed from the outside the back of the masjid, with its feebly marked niches placed high up, recalls the appearance of a great ship with its portholes closed, while the strongly marked line between the lower 12 feet of stone wall and the upper 20 feet of brick wall might be taken for the water line. But the front view of the masjid from the eastern cloisters must have been a complete contrast to the back. It is true that nearly the whole front has fallen down, but many of the pillars still remain, as well as the two piers that supported the great central arch. This arch was 33 feet in span and upwards of 60 feet in height; and on each side it was flanked by a line of 15 arches of 8 feet span, making a grand front of nearly 400 feet in length. I presume that the bare outside view of the vault was screened by a lofty battlemented propylon, which would have given dignity to the whole building.

The back wall of the central vault has the usual *kibla*, or prayer-niche, in the middle, with a pulpit on the north side. The whole of the back wall is very richly decorated, but the carving is shallow, and affords a strange contrast to the deep cutting of some Hindu door-jambs, which are placed horizontally in a single line touching end to end, just below the two lines of Arabic writing, containing sentences from the Korân in ornamental Kufic and Tughra characters. The steps leading up to the pulpit have fallen down, and, on turning over one of the steps I found a line of Hindu sculpture of very fine and bold execution. This stone is 4 feet in length, and apparently formed part of a frieze. The main ornament is a line of circular panels  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter, formed by continuous intersecting lotus stalks. There are five complete panels, and two half-panels which have been cut through. These two contain portions of an elephant and a rhinoceros. In the complete panels there are (1) a cow and calf; (2) human figures broken; (3) a goose; (4) a man and woman, and a crocodile; (5) two elephants. The carving is deep, and the whole has been polished. In the niche itself, the two side pillars which support the cusped arch are also pickings from Hindu temples.