

AN ILLUSTRATED
HANDBOOK OF INDIAN ARMS;

BEING A

CLASSIFIED AND DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE
OF THE ARMS EXHIBITED AT THE
INDIA MUSEUM:

WITH

AN INTRODUCTORY SKETCH OF THE MILITARY
HISTORY OF INDIA,

BY

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On the wide basket-hilt of a Khándá in the Egerton Collection, which probably belonged to a Rajah in Central India, are etched in gold lines, in a refined and spirited style, combats between a tiger and a buffalo with wide branching horns, antelopes and deer pursued by dogs, crocodiles rising from the water, rocks, trees of various kinds, and buildings. The swords and daggers represented in the coloured plates III. and VI. afford splendid illustrations of the various styles and modes of ornamentation used in India. No. 3 (Plate III.), represents a Khándá belonging to a Rajah, richly mounted in gold and red velvet. In the sword shown in No. 4, the whole surface of the hilt and of the blade is covered with figures in relief, traced in gold. In No. 5, the hilt is in silver, enamelled with blue and green floral decorations in relief. The hilt of the tulwar, shown in No. 6, is covered with flowers damascened in gold in relief, and No. 7 represents a "Pulouar" with a hilt of a characteristic outline, and with drooping quillons, also damascened in gold, with blade of large grained Indian damask.¹ Equally instructive are the three daggers, Nos. 5-7, shown in Plate VI., with finely worked hilts in jade and ivory.

The success with which the traditional modes of Indian decoration were applied to matchlocks, appears from the illustrations contained in Plate IV., though no mere outline drawing can reproduce the effect of the gold and silver damascening, of the inlaid ivory and other decorative material employed.

In all Indian arms, whatever material for decoration is used, it is always subsidiary to the general effect. The use of jewels in the ornamentation of arms has been pointed out by Dr. Birdwood as peculiar to the Eastern artist; chips of stones of little value according to European ideas, are made to serve as a brilliant vehicle for colour, unsurpassed in richness of effect by any of the carefully cut gems of European lapidaries.

Besides the differences of geographical position and ethnological influences, there is a distinction arising from their religion between the Hindu and Mahomedan arms, as the decoration of the Sunis in India is generally confined to inscriptions and floral ornaments,² but in Persia, among the Shiahhs, the same objection to figures does not exist.

Iranic or Persian.

There are four periods of Persian art, into which, from the examples handed down to us, it may be divided. The *first* dates from an early period after the Arab invasion, and the effects of which we can judge by its influence on Arab art on the one side, and on Russian art on the other, of which the helmets and coats of mail in early Russian armour, as early as the 13th and 14th centuries, bear marked traces, and which the intercourse between the two countries renders most probable. The *second* dates from the beginning of the 16th century, and probably culminated in the time of Abbas the Great and his immediate successors. The character of this work will be more fully alluded to (*see* Fig. 34). The *third* period appears to date from the middle of the 17th to the middle of the 18th century, and includes the rule of Nadir

¹ Cf. Rockstuhl, Vol. ii., Pl. CLXXVII.

² A strict Mahomedan like Sultan Firoz Shah forbade the use of sword belts, and quivers ornamented with jewels, which it had been the custom to wear, and ordered the fittings of his arms to be made of bone.—Elliot, "History," Vol. III., p. 382.

Shah. The suit of armour illustrated in Plate V. may be regarded as typical of the work of this period. (Rockstühl, Vol. I., Pl. XXXIII.)

The helmet is divided into sixteen compartments, eight of which contain Arabic inscriptions in cartouches; in the other eight, combats between animals are represented.

The inscriptions on the cartouches are:—"Abbás, slave of 'Alí, the work of Faiz-ullah." On the porte-aigrettes, "O thou who accomplishest prayers, Sovereign and dispenser of favours. In the year 1146 of the Hegira (or 1734)." On the plaques of the cuirass, damascened in gold are verses 256, 257, 258, and 259 of the second Súrah of the Koran.

The coat of mail has each link strengthened by a cross rivet.

The shield is of rhinoceros horn, lacquered in brilliant colours with outlines in gold, on a white ground, and the ornament on the outer border and centre is on a green ground. The six bosses are enamelled. It may be Persian or made in Sind.

But the degree of magnificence attained by the work of this period may be best judged by some of the presents sent from time to time by the Shahs of Persia to the Czars of Russia, and deposited at Zarkoe-Selo, which also contains the ornamental swords and horse trappings presented during the present century by the Khans of Bokhara and Khiva.

In Plates III. and VI. are shown some swords and daggers sent by the Shahs of Persia to the Russian sovereigns in the 17th and 18th centuries. The hilts of two of the daggers (Figs. 1, 2, Plate VI.), are in walrus horn, with borders of emeralds and rubies, and large turquoises set in relief on the flat top of the handle; the sheaths of one in gold, chiselled in relief with ogee medallions and floral patterns, of the other in massive gold with chevron pattern, terminating in tassel-shaped end. The third is only 8 inches long, covered, both hilt and sheath, with rich geometrical patterns in rubies, emeralds, and pearls. The fourth is 10½ inches long, the hilt and sheath alike in gold, with white, blue, green, and rose-coloured enamels representing birds, gazelles, &c., with delicate floral ornament.¹

In Plate III.,² two Persian swords are represented. Fig. 1 is a Khorassan blade, the hilt and mounts ornamented with blue, green, and white enamel, and inlaid with diamonds, rubies, and emeralds. The scabbard is in leather stamped in relief (17th century). The sword represented in Fig. 2, has an ivory hilt, the pommel and quillons of which terminate in heads of horses. The belt is fastened with two clasps representing animals in white, blue, green, and red enamels. The blade of black Khorassan is the work of Asad Ullah, and contains besides the name of "Abbás."

The *fourth* and last period commences after the overthrow of the Sefavian Dynasty by the Afghans in the last century; in it the work is of a more florid character and inferior in execution. The geometrical cartouches containing quotations from the Koran are more liberally distributed over the surface, and figures of men and horses in hunting or battle scenes are carved in low relief, and less boldly than in ancient work.

Their ornaments are not usually grotesque, though a not uncommon form of the pear-shaped helmet is one which represents a man's face with two horns

¹ Plate LXX., Vol. III., Z. S.

² Plate XVI., Vol. III., Z. S.

and ears in relief on the front; to match it, the shield has a raised face between the bosses; a very ancient variety of mace terminates in a cow's head and horns.

The Lion and the Sun, the tiger leaping on the gazelle or antelope are still, as they always have been, their favourite subjects. The ivory handle of their daggers are generally richly carved, and the hilts of both swords and daggers are frequently shaped like the head of a horse, or bull, or a ram, following in this the custom of the ancient Assyrians.¹

The most valuable swords are those which have been made by celebrated armourers like Asad Ullah and his pupil, Zamán of Ispahan, and such is the esteem in which the fine varieties of watering are held, that they are frequently without any ornament except the inscription of the maker's name, or that of the owner, if he be of distinguished birth, or a verse from the Koran. The maker signed his name, and sometimes associated with it that of his sovereign, such as Abbás the Great, who is thus described, "Abbás, the Slave of the King of the Elect," *i.e.*, 'Ali.² There are also marks on blades which were taken by different makers, such as a flower vase, umbrella, &c. It was not, however, the best sword that was most adorned. A sword was sent by the King of Cabul to the Governor-General, which had once belonged to Tamerlane, and had been taken from Ispahan by the Afghans; it had no ornament except some gold about the hilt, and an embossed gilt sheathing about 6 or 7 inches up the scabbard.

The use of talismanic signs on arms is frequent. The square enclosing four letters, or even numbers, 2, 4, 6, 8,³ in Arabic, thus,

4	2
8	6

 which, in

addition to the name of the maker is frequently found on sword blades, is called Bedouh. Some people say that the word Bedouh was the name of an ancient merchant of Arabia, who, having by his piety obtained the blessing of the Deity, was always prosperous. This figure has long been considered as a talisman in the East, engraved on seals as well as on arms; it is used especially to seal letters sent long distances across land and sea, so as to place them under the protection of the guardian angel. In the language of symbolism, the square itself was the emblem of divinity. The equality of its sides represents the immortality, and the right angles the strength of the deity.

Sometimes the whole of the blade is inscribed with large letters in relief containing quotations from the Koran, as is one in the Egerton Collection; more frequently a short inscription in gold is introduced, such as "Assistance comes from God, and the victory is at hand; announce this good news to the believers." Another passage frequently found on standards and arms, is

¹ Layard, Vol. II., p. 299.

² Rockstuhl, Pl. 92, No. 6, represents a Persian sword with the Bedouh and inscription, "The assistance of God and approaching victory." "The brave hero of fights, 1740;" then three Persian verses. "A spring of water arrested in its course is the sword of the Emir Kamrân," further, "The blade, even in its sheath is terrible. It is a dragon hid in its cavern." Then follows the signature of the maker, "The work of Prahim, of Meshed."

³ The uneven numbers are unlucky. Reinaud, Monuments Musulmans, pp. 243, 307.

“ Assuredly we have given you a glorious victory ; God has pardoned your sins, both past and future, so as to fulfil his favour to you, direct you in the right way, and aid you with a mighty help.” These are the words that Mahomet uttered when he entered Mecca in triumph. The attributes of God, “ O sublime ! O Grand ! ” or the words, “ God be our succour,” are also found engraved.

The use of these legends dates from the time of Mahomet, who was accustomed to inscribe on his swords quotations from the Koran, and recommended his followers to do the same to ensure success. Mahomedans are also in the habit of having their arms blessed. The invocations to Mahomet and to Ali, according to the prominence accorded to either, denote the sect of the owner, whether Suni or Shiite. The Sunis, after the invocations to God and Mahomet, add the ten blessed followers or companions of the prophet. The Shiites inscribe the name of Mahomet, Fatima, and the twelve Imams.¹

I have alluded to the points of difference between Iranic and Hindi styles, but there are many points of resemblance in Aryan art, whether in India or in Persia, that may fairly be compared with Gothic ; there is the same versatility and conventional treatment of floral ornaments. In those countries, at the best period, the same high standard of pure floral decoration was reached, corresponding to the style of ornament in the “ decorated ” period of the 14th century in France and England. Persian art for the last 150 years has more of the character of the “ late decorated ” or “ flamboyant ” style in French architecture, or that of Rosslyn chapel in Scotland, while in India, till the last 30 or 40 years, art has not declined or deteriorated in the same way, except as will be hereafter mentioned. It differs from Turanian art as much as Gothic does from Runic or Celtic art. It uses freely the quatrefoil in diaper, and the chevron,² as decoration for upright surfaces, such as the head of a spear or the handle of a sword hilt. It wreathes the upright handle of an axe or mace and the barrel of a gun with diagonal patterns, and carpets the ground of its surface with a floral diaper. It is an art from which inspiration for designs may be drawn suitable to the present eclectic age ; and there is no floral ornament which can vie in richness with it as covering every available surface with an appropriate and graceful design. In the drawing of animal forms alone it fails, and compared with the best European art in metal it falls far short of the high standard reached by Cellini and the school of Augsburg, which, combined with their rich arabesque patterns, a knowledge of and a power of drawing the human form, never attained by the Hindoos or any Orientals since the palmy days of Greece.

At the present time there is fear that the art of India, in seeking to find

¹ In the Zarkoe-Seloe Collection (Catalogue p. 231,) there is a Persian shield of transparent rhinoceros hide, ornamented with a border of gilt flowers, and inscriptions in “ naskhi ” or Arabic round letters repeated four times in the bosses on the face. The inscriptions are taken from the Koran, and are used by the Mahomedans as a charm against the Evil eye, as Mahomet is said to have struck blind a magician with these words at the inspiration of the Archangel Gabriel.—Koran, Sûrah 68, verses 51, 42.

² The chevron is also used in Egyptian, and the quatrefoil in Chinese art.

stocks of guns are lacquered and often painted with sporting scenes, nautch girls and animals coloured and gilt. In the Prince of Wales's Collection there is a gun with a stock of ebony inlaid with ivory carved in relief with rams, antelopes and goats butting at one another, tigers and elephants fighting, cranes and bustards. In the Windsor Collection there is a matchlock the stock of which is painted with gilt flowers and birds on a white ground.

Lac.—In an ancient Khándá in the E. Collection a pattern is chiselled in relief on the blade, and the interstices filled up with red lac, forming the background. Lac is also employed for colouring the lettering in the sacrificial axes and Koras of Nepal (Nos. 350–352).

Tortoise Shell.—The handle and scabbard of a Cingalese sword (formerly in Sir E. Tennents' possession, now in the author's) is richly carved, the handle with a grotesque dragon head overshadowing the seated figure of Buddha, and the scabbard with rich floral arabesque. A similar specimen is at South Kensington.

Papier Mâché.—This material is in common use in the Punjab, and in part of the Presidency of Bombay, for making shields, which are richly lacquered with the varnish obtained from *Rhus Vernix*, a shrub from which it exudes like gum.¹ The shield No. 448, from Bikanír, Rájpútáná, is an unique specimen of work with raised flowers gilt in the Japanese style.

Leather.—The leather sword straps in Sind are richly embroidered. A leather quiver from the Bhil country in the Amherst Collection is covered with coarse woollen embroidery. In Persia the scabbards are ornamented with embossed patterns on leather. That most prized is "shagreen."² It is made from the hide of a donkey's back, dyed green, and roughened by means a grain called "Castria," black, hard, and rather larger than mustard seed. In India rhinoceros, elephant, and sámbar hides are used for shields. In Kach the hides are boiled so as to make them transparent, and they are then gilt and painted, and in the Meyrick Collection there was a suit of armour made of rhinoceros hide, painted and covered with quotations from the Koran in gilt letters. In the Prince of Wales's Collection there is a suit of armour, presented by the Maharajah of Datiah, made entirely of the horny scales of the Indian pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*), ornamented with gold, turquoises, and garnets encrusted on it.³

Velvet is used for covering the scabbard. One belonging to a Khándá in the E. Collection (Fig. 14), is red on one side and green on the other, and a rich floral pattern with border is embroidered on each in silver and gold thread respectively. The powder flasks and bullet cases are likewise embroidered in the same material. Velvet, padded and studded with brass nails called "Jazerant" work,⁴ is sometimes used in combination with leather for armour, as in No. 573. Horse trappings are also frequently made of it. The umbrella taken from Bandula, now in Lord Amherst's possession, is a fine specimen of this work in geometrical patterns.

¹ See Digby Wyatt's "Industrial Arts," quoted by Lieutenant Cole.—"Cat.," South Kensington.

² Shagreen or Chagrin comes from the Persian "Saghrí" which means back.—"Chardin," Vol. III. p. 112. *Voyages en Perse.*

³ "Hand book, Indian Court, 1878."—Dr. Birdwood.

⁴ *Archæo. Journal*, XIV., 345.

232. DAGGERS, a pair; the blades contained in one sheath. *Toungchoo, Burmah.* L. 11 in.; L. of blade 7 in. (7320.-'69.)

233. SWORD OR KNIFE; short broad blade; teak-wood hilt and scabbard, the former mounted and inlaid with brass. *Burmah.* L. 18½ in.; L. of blade 10½ in. (Fig. 19, No. 233.) (12001.-'72.)

234. *SWORD OR KNIFE; "Dhá;" long ivory handle ornamented with conventional dragon forms carved in high relief; sheath enriched with chased and embossed silver mounts. *Rangoon.* L. 18 in. (8701.-'55.)

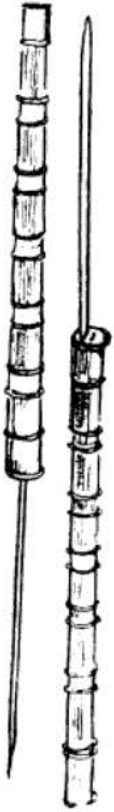


Fig. 22.—Burmese Sword (Amherst Coll.)

235, 236. *SWORDS OR KNIVES; hilts of ivory and ebony, carved in high relief; wooden sheaths, silver mounted. *Rangoon.* L. 14 to 18 in.; W. 2½ in. (7424.-'55.)

237. *SWORD OR KNIFE; "Dhá;" slightly incurved blade; ivory hilt, curved in continuation of the blade, and covered with figures carved in high relief; wooden sheath, silver mounted. *Burmah.* L. 17½ in. (1426.-'67.)

238. *SWORD; "Dhá;" broad blade of soft steel; long handle of ivory, carved in high relief with figures and foliage; sheath plated with gold. Presented to Lord Dalhousie by the King of Ava. *Burmah.* L. 2 ft. 6 in.; W. of blade 2 in. (8704.-'55.)

239. *SWORD; "Dhá;" narrow blade of soft steel; long hilt curved in continuation of the blade, thickly encrusted with uncut rubies mounted in pure gold; gold tassel attached; sheath plated with gold, encircled by ten bands of uncut rubies. Presented to Lord Dalhousie by the King of Ava. *Burmah.* L. 3 ft. 2 in. (8678.-'55.)

Note.—The Burmese sword is of a cutlass shape, and varies in size; when small, it is used as a dagger; in Ligoré, the blade is double, the long handle of each forming the sheath of the other. (Fig. 22.)—(Amherst Collection.)

240. SWORD; "Dhá;" slightly curved blade; brass mounted wooden handle equal in length to the blade, and curved in continuation of its curve; wooden scabbard. *Burmah.* L. 3 ft. to 3 ft. 4 in.; L. of blade, 20½ in. (8824.-'55.)

241. SWORD; "Dhá;" similar to No. 240; hilt bound with cane. *Burmah.* L. 3 ft.; L. of blade 22 in. (Fig. 19, No. 241.) (12555.-'69.)

242. SWORD; "Dhá;" curved blade, square blunt end; cutlass handle; brass mounts. *Burmah.* L. 3 ft.; L. of blade, 19 in. (Fig. 19, No. 242.) (7370.-'67.)

243. SWORD; "Dhá;" hilt mounted with brass. *Burmah.* L. 2 ft. 6½ in.; L. of blade, 19 in. ('69)

244-246. SWORDS; "Dhá;" slightly curved blades with blunt ends; long hilts continuing the curve of blades. Used both for fighting and domestic purposes. *Burmah.* L. 2 ft. 3 in. to 2 ft. 6 in.; L. of blade, 19 in. (7370.-'67.)

247. SWORD; "Dhá;" slightly curved blade of soft steel; long handle and black wood sheath, plated with silver. *Burmah.* L. 3 ft. in. (7423.-'67.)

248. SWORD; "Dhá;" soft steel blade; hilt of wood bound with cane. *Burmah.* L. 2 ft. 7 in.; L. of blade, 18½ in. (12586.-'69.)

249. *SWORD; "Dhá;" slightly incurved blade; ivory handle, carved in high relief; wooden sheath, silver mounted. *Rangoon, Burmah.* L. 2 ft. 2 in.

250. SWORD; "Dhá;" straight blade; pistol-shaped hilt covered with sharkskin; wooden sheath, mounted with silver. *Burmah.* L. 2 ft. 3 in.; Bl. 20 in. (Fig. 19, No. 250.) (7425.)

251. SWORD; "Dhá;" long straight blade; handle of ebony; sheath covered with sharkskin and plated with silver. *Burmah.*

252. SWORD OR KNIFE; "Dhá;" slightly curved blade; long ivory handle, covered with geometrical ornament in black and white. *Siam.* L. 21 in.; L. of blade, 13 in. (Fig. 19, No. 252.) ('69.)

253. MATCHLOCKS (2); iron barrels with brass mounts; rudely constructed. Made by the Karens. *Burmah.* L. 4 ft. 10 in.

254. AMMUNITION POUCH AND PRIMING HORN; painted red and black. Made by the Gyeikos. *Burmah.* (7355.-'67.)

255. QUICK MATCH; in a case, the latter painted red and black. Used by the Gyeikos. *Burmah.* (6748.-'67.)

256, 257. SHIELDS; of buffalo-hide, oblong in shape; the upper halves thickly studded with conical brass bosses, the lower covered with tufts of long black hair. The bosses or discs are attached by means of cords knotted at the back. *Arakan.* L. 2 ft.; W. 18 in. (8780.-'55.)

Cf. in the Christy Collection two shields of the Sherdus in North Arakan, the one with a dozen brass disks belonged to the Chief, the other with one large brass disk to the second chief; their followers had plain shields.

258. SMALL SHIELD; of rhinoceros-hide; strongly projecting umbo; ornamented with concentric circles. *Burmah.* Diam. 11 in. (12551.-'69.)

259 T. SUIT OF ARMOUR; mixed plate and quilted, resembling central Indian work. Worn by the Burmese General Maha Bandula at the battle of Donabyu (1825), at which he was slain.

See Z. S. Cat., Pl. xiii, for a very similar suit, described there as having been worn by Sikh chiefs at the court of the Great Mogul at the end of the 17th century.

- 334. SWORD**; "Kattí Talwár;" curved blade; steel hilt, with a spike projecting from the pommel. *Nepal*. L. 3 ft. 2 in.; W. 1½ in. (8795.-'55.)
- 335. DAGGER**; "Katár Bánk;" slightly curved blade, grooved on both sides, the grooves once filled with seed pearls; silver-plated hilt, embossed with floral decoration. *Nepal*. L. 15½ in.; W. 1½ in. (Pl. IX., No. 335.) (8811.)
- 336. DAGGER**; small curved blade; agate hilt. *Nepal*. L. 10 in. (Pl. IX., No. 336.) ('55.)
- 337. *SMALL DAGGER**; generally worn with a "Kukri," of which it is a miniature copy. *Nepal*.
- 338. DAGGER**; "Chilannu;" flamboyant blade of Damascus steel, deeply channelled; the hilt covered with simple geometrical ornaments, embossed and silver-gilt. *Nepal*. L. 15 in.; W. 2 in. (Pl. IX., No. 338.) (8801.-'55.)
- 339. DAGGER**; curved blade, thickened at the point, and ribbed; steel hilt, with knuckle-guard. *Nepal*. L. 14 in. (Pl. IX., No. 339.) (8792.)
- 340. DAGGER**; "Katár;" forked blade, embossed; hilt shaped like the letter H. *Nepal*. L. 14½ in. (Pl. IX., No. 340.) (8790.-'55.)
- 341. *DAGGER**; "Katár;" fluted blade, with waved edges; a rib, damascened in gold, runs up the centre from the hilt; hilt and side-guards with conventional foliage in perforated and damascened work. *Nepal*. (8791.-'55.)
- 342.* DAGGER**; "Katár;" short, broad, nearly triangular blade, strongly ribbed, much thickened at the point; hilt and side guards damascened with gold. *Nepal*. L. 9 in. (8802.)
- 343.* DAGGER**; curved two-edged blade, damascened with gold near the hilt; hilt of curious shape, of steel damascened with gold; velvet sheath, with gold-damascened steel mounts. *Nepal* (?). (8534.)
- 344. DAGGER**; "Jamdhar Katári;" plain steel blade; the hilt similar in shape to that of the preceding example; bears traces of gilding. *Nepal*. L. 13½ in. (Pl. IX., No. 344.) (8803.-'55.)
- 345. DAGGER**; "Jamdhar Katári." *Nepal*. L. 14½ in. (Pl. IX., No. 345.) (8806.-'55.)
- 346.* DAGGER OR HUNTING KNIFE**; "Peshkabz;" pointed one-edged blade; broad, straight back, to which the edge gradually slopes; hilt of rock crystal. *Nepal*. Presented by the late Sir Jung Bahadur. (8707.-'55.)
- 347. KNIFE**; straight blade; ivory hilt, the pommel carved with conventional dragon head. *Nepal*. L. 14½ in.; W. 1½ in. (8813.-'55.)
- 348. KNIFE**; abruptly curved, grooved blade; silvered hilt. *Nepal*. L. 11 in. (Pl. IX., No. 348.)
- 349. ELEPHANT GOAD**; "Áukus;" embossed steel hilt. *Nepal*. (Pl. IX., No. 349.) (8800.-'55.)
- 350, 351. SWORDS OR AXES**; "Rám dá'o;" broad, heavy, incurved blades, ornamented along the back with scroll patterns, and each bearing a representation of the human eye incised in the steel, and coloured; chequered ebony handles, with brass mounts. *Nepal*. L. 2 ft. 3½ in. and 2 ft. 5 in.; L. of blades, 19 and 20 in.; W. of blade, 2½ in. to 4 in. (Pl. IX., No. 350.) (11908.-'72.)
- 352. SACRIFICIAL AXE**; "Rám dá'o" or "Kharga;" broad, heavy, massive blade, terminating in a kind of axe-like projection, and bearing scroll ornaments, inscriptions, and the Buddhist emblem of the human eye incised in the steel, and coloured; chequered ebony handle, brass mounted. Used chiefly in the sacrifice of goats and buffaloes. *Nepal*. L. 2 ft. 7 in.; L. of blade, 23 in.; W. 3 in. to 5 in. (Pl. IX., No. 352.) (9150.-'74.)
- One in the E. Collection, formerly in the Meyrick Collection, has an inscription in ancient Hindi which, from the character of its writing, must be more than 200 years old.
- The use of the sacrificial axe is thus described in the sanguinary chapter translated from the "Calica Purana," by W. C. Blaquiére (Asiatic Researches, Vol. II., p. 1059):—"With regard to the sacrifices to the goddess 'Chandrea and other gods, the sacrificer is directed to use a 'Chandra-basa,' or 'Catra,' two sorts of axes, as 'the best made, a hatchet or knife, or saw or a sangul,' as the second best, and the third with a hoe, 'Bhaloc,' or sort of spade, as the inferior mode.
- "Exclusive of these weapons, no other of the spear or arrow kind ought ever to be used in performing a sacrifice, as the offering is not accepted by the god.
- "The 'Khanna,' or axe, being invoked by the text called 'Calatrya Mantra, Calatzi (the goddess of darkness) herself presides over the axe uplifted for the destruction of the sacrificer's enemies.
- The animals to be sacrificed are birds, tortoises, fish, buffaloes, wild bulls, he-goats, ichneumon, wild boars, rhinoceros, antelope, gnuas, reindeer, lion, and tiger."
- 353. BAYONET-SWORD**; "Sangin;" attached as a bayonet to the muzzle of a gun. *Nepal*. L. 21 in. (8719.-'55.)
- In the Windsor collection there is a small State axe, with short bayonet introduced at the head.
- 345. MATCHLOCK**; octagonal barrel; ebony stock, with brass mounts; short butt. *Nepal*. L. 5 ft. 7 in. (12536.)
- 355. MATCHLOCK**; heavy octagonal Damascus barrel, inlaid with silver, attached to the stock by broad bands of embossed silver plate; stock of ebony, inlaid with brass ornaments. *Nepal*. L. 5 ft. 11 in. (Pl. IX., No. 355.) (8891.-'50.)
- 356. POWDER-FLASK**; "Batwál túmbi;" (powder-gourd), of leather, embroidered with coloured thread and strips of porcupine quill. *Nepal*. (8726.-'55.)
- 357. POUCH**; leather, embroidered with strips of coloured quills in pine pattern. *Nepal*. (8731.-'55.)
- 358. POWDER-FLASK**; black leather. *Nepal*. (8732.-'55.)
- 359. HUNTING BELT, WITH POUCHES (4)**; black leather embroidered with silk; one of the pouches contains a shot flask. *Nepal*. ('55.)
- 360. HELMET**; "Tóp;" hemispherical, of polished steel, surmounted by a plume-holder, and fringed with padded lappets of Chinese brocaded silk. *Nepal*. H. 6¼ in. (8648.-'55.)

- 421.* MATCHLOCK; "Toradár;" fine damascus barrel attached to the stock by strips of leather; butt straight and slender, of ebony inlaid with coloured ivory. *Jaipur*. L. 5 ft. 9 in. (8626.-'55.)
- 422.* MATCHLOCK; "Toradár;" fine damascus barrel attached to the stock by strips of leather; straight butt of ebony, inlaid with coloured ivory. Presented by the Rajah of *Jaipur*. L. 5 ft. 8 in. (Pl. IV., No. 422.) (8622.-'55.)
- 423.* MATCHLOCK; "Toradár;" damascus barrel with inlaid gold enrichments at the breech and muzzle, the latter shaped like a tiger's head; stock slender and straight, lacquered with floral arabesques in gold on a green ground, and attached to the barrel by silver wire bands; butt capped with ivory. *Karauli, Rajputana*. L. 5 ft. (8631.-'55.)
- 424.* MATCHLOCK; "Toradár;" barrel damascened with gold at the muzzle and breech; tiger-head muzzle; stock decorated throughout with lacquered arabesques in gold, on a black ground, and strengthened by side plates of steel, richly damascened; butt straight and slender, capped with ivory. *Gwalior*. L. 5 ft. 7 in. (Pl. IV., No. 424.) (8666.-'55.)
425. MATCHLOCK; "Toradár;" wire twist barrel; brass and ivory mounts. Taken at *Lucknow*. L. 5 ft. 9 in. (8861.-'60.)
426. MATCHLOCK-REVOLVER; with five chambers; plain barrel; touch-hole covered by sliding plates; trigger bird-shaped; very old. Taken at *Lucknow*. L. 5 ft. 6 in.; Barrel 3 ft. 6 in. (8860.-'60.)
- Cl. from Z. S. Collection, No. 330.—Hindoo gun; 4-chambered revolver.
427. MATCHLOCK BARREL or wall piece; large stubb-twist barrel, damascened with silver. *Oude*. L. 3 ft. 1 in. (Pl. IV., No. 427.) (8759.-'67.)
- 428.* MATCHLOCK ACCOUTREMENTS; "Kamr;" consisting of pouches and a priming horn attached to a belt, all covered with velvet embroidered with gold and floss silk. *Udaipur*. (8695.-'55.)
429. MATCHLOCK ACCOUTREMENTS; "Kamr;" consisting of various pouches, powder horns, &c., attached to a belt, all covered with velvet, richly embroidered with gold and floss silk. *Udaipur*. (8694.-'55.)
- 430.* MATCHLOCK ACCOUTREMENTS; "Kamr;" consisting of pouches, powder horn, and priming horn (Singra), attached to a belt, all covered with crimson velvet, and embroidered with gold and floss silk. *Udaipur*. (8687.-'55.)
- 431.* MATCHLOCK ACCOUTREMENTS; "Kamr;" consisting of four pouches and a powder horn, attached to a belt of green velvet, embroidered with gold, and studded with little silver bosses. *Mahomedan. Tonk*. ('72.)
- 432.* POWDER FLASK; buffalo horn; inlaid with ivory. *Kotah Rajputana*. (6551.-'67.)
- 433.* POWDER FLASK; inlaid with the shells of the pearly nautilus. *Bundelkhand*. (6548.-'67.)
434. PARRYING SHIELD; "Márú," "Mádú," or "Singautá" (Cl. Tayler Collection, South Kensington Museum); consisting of a pair of black buck antelope horns tipped with steel, and united at their butt ends, where they are held. Used by Bhils and Hindu Fakirs. Taken at *Lucknow*. L. 2 ft. 11 in. (8748.-'70.)
- SHIELDS are generally made of steel, sambar-skin, buffalo, nyshau, elephant, and rhinoceros hide, which is most prized. The latter is sometimes painted, figured with silver leaf, and varnished, with bosses lightly ornamented with gold. Men of high rank, chiefly Brahmins, who have an objection to wearing any kind of leather, use a shield, "Dhal bafta," made of forty or fifty folds of silk, painted red and ornamented. (No. 52 in the Codrington Collection was made at Jeyapore in Rajputana, in the time of Tipoo.) The raw rhinoceros hides are ornamented with silver or gilt bosses, crescents, and stars.
435. PARRYING SHIELD; "Márú;" of antelope horns tipped with steel. Similar to the preceding specimen. *Malwa*. L. 2 ft. 10 in. (7356.-'67.)
436. SHIELD; "Dhál;" circular and convex; covered with a kind of coarse embroidery in coloured cotton (blue, yellow, and white), the design being of a geometrical nature; four brass bosses. *Oude*. Diam. 10 in. (8779.)
437. SHIELD; "Dhál;" buffalo hide, with four steel bosses: circular and convex. *Agra*. (8614.-'55.)
438. SHIELD; "Dhál;" papier mâché, lacquered and gilt with floral ornaments on a light red background; bosses of white metal. *Karauli*. Diam. 17 in. (8784.)
439. SHIELD; "Dhál" with recurved edge. Of rhinoceros hide ornamented with four bosses, and a crescent of perforated copper, showing traces of gilding. *Jodhpur*. Diam. 20 in. (8607.-'55.)
440. SHIELD; "Dhál;" with recurved edge; of rhinoceros hide ornamented with four bosses of perforated steel damascened with gold. *Jodhpur*. Diam. 17 in. (8613.-'51.)
- 441.* SHIELD; "Dhál;" of rhinoceros hide ornamented with four massive gold bosses, and with silk and gold tassels attached. *Jodhpur*. Diam. 23 in. (8612.-'55.)
442. SHIELD; "Dhál" buffalo hide, with four perforated steel bosses. *Jodhpur*. Diam. 2 ft. (8811.-'55.)
443. SHIELD; "Dhál;" with recurved edge; of rhinoceros hide decorated with four flower-shaped bosses of gold. *Jodhpur*. Diam. 23 in. (8733.-'55.)
444. SHIELD; "Dhál;" of buffalo hide, black, with four bosses. *Jodhpur*. Diam. 2 ft.
445. SHIELD; "Dhál;" of buffalo hide, with four perforated steel bosses. *Jodhpur*. Diam. 2 ft. (8609.-'55.)
- 446.* SHIELD; "Dhál;" stained buffalo hide, with four floriated gilt bosses. *Jodhpur*. Diam. 23 in.
- 447.* SHIELD; "Dhál;" made from the prepared hide of the river porpoise (*Platanista gangetica*.) Semi-translucent, of a warm orange tint. The centre is occupied by a closely-foliated rosette painted in gold, surrounded by four curious

- 537, 538.** SABRES; "Farang Katti"; channelled blades; steel hilts; red leather scabbards. L. 3 ft. 1 in. *Vizianagram*. (7316.-'67.)
- 539, 540.** SABRES; "'Abbási"; deeply curved blades; steel hilts; scabbards of red leather. L. 3 ft., and 3 ft. 2 in. *Vizianagram*. (7349.-'67.)
- Cf. from Codrington Collection.—"'Abbási;" scimitar of superior steel; handle of ivory and iron inlaid with gold, said to have been invented by Abbas the Great. This steel is exceedingly hard and brittle and gives a severe cut. Made at Khorassan. Worn by Persians and Moguls of high rank.
- "'Abbási;" handle of elephant's head pattern gilt.
- Do.; handle and mounting of copper deeply carved and gilt.
- Do.; nearly straight (Poonah). Time of Hyder Ali.
- Cf. sword which belonged to Holkar, now at Windsor. The scabbard and hilt is inlaid with rubies, pearls and emeralds.
- Another similar to it was presented by Holkar to Sir John Malcolm, after the battle of Mahidpur, and is now in the possession of General Malcolm.
- 541, 542.** SABRE BLADES; one of native, the other of English manufacture, the latter bearing the Hon. E. I. Co.'s mark, and the date 1823 inlaid in gold. *Deccan*. L. 2 ft. 11 in., and 3 ft. 1 in.
- 543.** *MATCHLOCK; "Toradár;" fine wire-twist barrel damascened at the mouth and breech with gold enrichments. Stock slightly curved of red wood. Capped with ebony and strengthened with side plates of steel richly damascened with gold ornaments. *Indore*. L. 5 ft. 10 in. (8660.-'55.)
- 544.** *MATCHLOCK; "Toradár;" barrel decorated throughout its entire length with panels in damascening. Stock slightly curved, of red wood and ebony ornamented with repoussé and perforated silver work, and attached to the barrels by bands of the same. *Indore*. (Pl. IV., No. 544). (8657.-'55.)
- 545.** *MATCHLOCK; "Toradár;" barrel richly ornamented throughout with floral damascenings in gold. Stock of red wood; butt slightly curved, mounted with ebony and silver. *Indore*. L. 5 ft. 3 in. (8665.-'55.)
- 546.** *MATCHLOCK REVOLVER-GUN; four chambers. The barrel and chambers ornamented throughout with floral damascenings in silver, bearing here and there traces of gilding. Heavy wooden stock; a supply of match cord is wound round the butt. *Indore*. Presented by Sir Robert Hamilton. L. 5 ft. 10 in. (Pl. IV., No. 546).
- 547.** MATCHLOCK; "Toradár;" watered steel barrel damascened with gold at the breech and terminating in a spirally-twisted muzzle. Stock of dark wood capped and mounted with ivory. (8862.)
- 548.** MATCHLOCK; "Toradár;" octagonal barrel damascened in gold and silver, particularly at the breech and muzzle, and attached to the stock by bands of steel perforated and silvered. Stock of red wood, capped and mounted with ivory. *Indore*. L. 5 ft. 11 in. (11715.-'67.)
- 549.** MATCHLOCK; "Toradár;" bright steel barrel with minutely grained surface, bell-shaped muzzle. Stock slightly curved, of polished red wood and ebony. *Bareilly*. L. 6 ft. (8670.-'55.)
- 550.*** MATCHLOCK; "Toradár;" octagonal barrel attached to the stock by numerous silver bands. Stock, similar to that of Kurg gun, No. 138, of a kind of jackwood (*Artocarpus sp.*) studded with small silver bosses. *Belgaum*. L. 5 ft. (8658.-'55.)
- 551 T.** MATCHLOCK; barrel 7 feet long. Fired from a rest. Left trophy. *Oude*. (258.)
- 552.*** MATCHLOCK; "Toradár;" square barrel with square bore, the sides damascened in gold, throughout their entire length with running scroll and other ornaments. Stock capped with iron, and mounted with chased silver. *Mahratta*. L. 5 ft. 7½ in. (Pl. IV., No. 552). (51.)
- One in the E. Collection has a square barrel with circular bore.
- 553.*** MATCHLOCK ACCOUTREMENTS; consisting of a massive silver-plated belt studded with bosses, to which are suspended powder and priming horns, both ornamented with chased silver mounts. *Haidarabad, Deccan*. Worn only by Arabs in the service of the Nizam. (7428, 7429.)
- 554.*** MATCHLOCK ACCOUTREMENTS; leather plated with richly embossed silver set with cornelians. *Haidarabad, Deccan*. Used by Arabs in the service of the Nizam. (7333.-'55.)
- 555.*** ACCOUTREMENTS; consisting of pouch attached to belt of green velvet embroidered with gold thread.
- 556.*** GUN ACCOUTREMENTS; "Kamr basta," consisting of powder-horn, various pouches, hunting-knife, &c., all attached to a leather belt covered with gold-embroidered velvet. *Savant-wari*. Worn by the Sirdars of the Deccan. (8640.-'55.)
- 557.*** PARRYING SHIELD; "Sainti;" consisting of a ringed shaft of steel, 22 inches in length, which is held in the middle; the grip is protected by a padded basket of steel, from the centre of which projects a small dagger. *Vizianagram*. (Pl. X., No. 557.) (8452.-'55.)
- This weapon was introduced into Spain by the Arabs, an example of it is found in the Armeria Real de Madrid, dating from the 15th century.
- 558.** SHIELDS (2); "Dhál;" circular and convex; black rhinoceros hide, with four perforated steel bosses. *Indore*. Diam. 2 ft. (7324.-'67.)
- 559 T.** SHIELD; black buffalo hide, with gilt bosses. *Indore*.
- 560.** SHIELD; black rhinoceros hide, with four iron bosses. Diam. 18 in.
- 561, 562.** SHIELDS; "Dhál;" circular and convex; prepared rhinoceros hide of a light-brown tinge and semi-transparent surface, ornamented with a centre and border of painted gilt enrichments, the central rosette surrounded by four floriated gilt bosses. *Haidarabad, Deccan*. Diam. 18 in. (8785.-'58.)
- 563.** HELMET; "Tóp;" of damascus steel, embossed and parcel-gilt. It consists of a recurved pointed cap of steel springing from a circlet of conventional gilt leaves. The front is occupied by a sliding nose-guard, which is prolonged under the chin, flanked by a pair of port-

"The moon has reached a pitch which the effort of man's imagination cannot reach."

"There is not a spot in the regions of East and West which an order sent from you does not reach."

"There is not a day when in a thousand ways eloquent poets do not bring you the tribute of their praises."

"There is not a man sufficiently versed in the science of algebra to commemorate all your virtues."—Zarkoc-Selo Catalogue, p. 313.

Shield of Bahádur Shah. This is remarkable, for the inside as well as the outside is damascened in gold. The Suni crescent engraved on it shows it was made for a Mahomedan. It has a long inscription in Hindustani to this effect:—

"You are a Nawab whose power is heavenly, and whose escort is the sun. To Arabia and Persia your power extends. You are the lion of the desert on the field of battle. When Rustam comes, the falcon swims like a fox. God has exalted you; you have conquered the terrestrial globe, and for shame the earth has become the arid soil of Sham (*i.e.* Syria). Such goodwill has befallen the world that the lion has become as the shepherd, or like the kid. The torch of the sun is above the firmament. Your hand scattering good absorbs the dawn's light. But I ask you, if you are pleased with me, who is in your service, cast a little look upon me from your throne."—p. 327.

696. SHIELD; "Dhál;" of Damascus steel, richly damascened in gold. The ornaments are, at the centre, a conventional representation of the sun surrounded by four bosses; at the circumference, a deep border of floriated scroll-work. The shield bears, in addition, an Arabic inscription inlaid in gold. *Lahore*. Diam. 15 in. (8691.-'55.)

697.* SHIELD; "Dhál;" of blueish steel, chiselled in low relief and damascened with gold. A rosette of floriated ornaments, surrounded by four hemispherical bosses encrusted with diamonds, occupies the centre. The body of the shield is covered with outline arabesques chiselled in low-relief and gilt, while the inter-linear spaces are filled in with birds, beasts, and other subjects damascened in gold. *Lahore*. Presented by H.H. the Maharajah Suchet Sing. Diam. 18 in. (8616.-'50.)

698.* SHIELD; "Dhál;" Circular and convex with recurved edge. Of blueish steel damascened with gold. Modern work. Round the centre are grouped four hemispherical, damascened, bosses with perforated edges. The background is covered with a diaper of floral ornaments. Near the centre is fixed a gilt lion or tiger, and on the left of the shield a crescent with perforated margin. *Sialkot, Punjab*. Diam. 18 in. (7361.-'67.)

699. SHIELD; "Dhál;" black buffalo hide, varnished, and ornamented with four bosses of steel damascened with gold. Gold tassel attached, Diam. 21 in. (8602.-'55.)

700. SHIELD; "Dhál;" buffalo hide. Four gilt bosses. *Lahore*. (8593.-'55.)

701. SHIELD; "Dhál;" buffalo hide. Copper bosses. *Punjab*. Diam. 18 in. (12,502.-'69.)

702. SHIELDS. Translucent rhinoceros hide, enriched with painted gold ornaments and four petaloid metal bosses, once gilt.

703.* SUIT OF ARMOUR, consisting of helmet, cuirass, armguards and shield of steel damascened with gold. Worn at the Court of Ranjit Singh. *Lahore*.

1. The helmet (Pl. xiii. No. 703) of the usual hemispherical shape is surmounted by a plume of heron's feathers, and furnished with a sliding

noseguard flanked by aigrettes of coloured feathers and tinsel. The surface is covered with interlacing arabesques, and the base of the helmet is encircled by a band of boldly-designed floriated scroll work, the ornaments being chiselled in low relief and gilt. The nose guard and porte-aigrettes are damascened in the usual manner. Attached is a coif of mail falling in points on the shoulders and composed of brass and copper, the links alternating in the formation of lozenged designs. Depth 4 in. (8585.-'55.)

2. The Cuirass is composed of four plates. (Char aina or the four mirrors.) Each plate is covered with open foliated arabesques damascened in gold, enclosed by a diaper border of quatrefoil lozenges, also in gold. L. 11 in. by 7 in., 10 in. by 6½ in. (8576.-'55.)

3. The arm-guards (Pl. xiii. No. 703) of the usual shape are lined with velvet, and terminate in open gauntlets of chain mail, the links (unrivetted) of steel and brass disposed in a lozenge design. Ornamentation similar in character to that of the other parts of the suit.

4. The shield has been described above (No. 695.)

703A T. HELMET; small, shaped like a Turban with coif of mail; gold-damascened enrichments. *Lahore*. (198.)

Cf. Helmet in the Z. S. Collection (Pl. XIV., Vol. iii.), formed like a low-crowned, broad-brimmed hat, perhaps

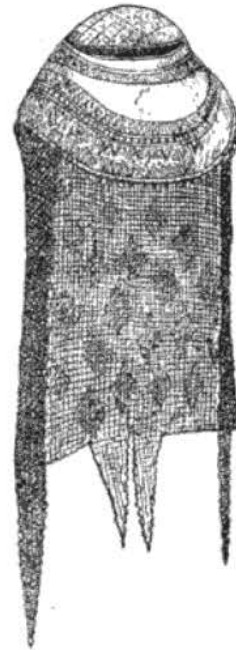


Fig. 33.—Helmet from Lahore, No. 703A T.

copied from the "eisen-hut," used as a military head-dress in the 16th and 17th centuries in France and Germany. It has a chain mail coif, and plume-holder. The steel is of the finest quality, and of a cloudy-yellow colour. The damascened gold work is of 17th century style. The cartouches contain invocations to Ali in Arabic. It probably belonged to a Persian, and was made for him at Delhi.

704.* HELMET; "Tóp;" hemispherical, of steel covered with gold damascenings. It is furnished with a sliding nose-guard, the extremities of which are set with moonstones, and is surmounted by a plume of heron-feathers springing from a porte-aigrette similarly ornamented; from the latter proceed radiating lines dividing the helmet into raised and fluted segments in each of which is set a pear-shaped moonstone. A long coil of mail descends from the base of the helmet falling in points on the shoulders; in the links of which it is composed, steel, brass, and copper alternate in the formation of a lozenge pattern. *Lahore.* (Pl. xiii. No. 704.) (8584.)

705.* SUIT OF CHAIN MAIL consisting of a helmet, coat and pair of trousers. *Lahore.* (8599.)

1. The helmet consists of a long coil of unriveted steel mail falling squarely on the shoulders, and surmounted by a large gilt plume holder. A triangular opening is left for the face, but if required this can be closed by a pointed flap attached, when open, to the plume holder.

2 and 3. The coat and trousers are lined with crimson silk, which trimmed with gold braid forms the collar and facings of the coat. The links are riveted, and are of steel alternating at the borders with links of brass in the formation of a lozenge design.

706.* COAT AND TROUSERS OF MAIL. Presented by the Raja Suchet Sing. *Lahore.*

The coat is composed of extremely fine and light mail covered with green velvet, richly embroidered with gold.

The trousers are made of very large riveted links of steel.

Note.—Cf. with the following examples of chain-armor from the *Cod.* and *Z.S.* Collections:—

"Tóp." Cap of chain and plates; crescent visor; and chain curtain for breast and back.

"Tóp." Scales and chain to match.

"Tóp." With large plates and chain with crescent visor.

"Tóp." With scales and chains for breast and back.

"Tóp." Zirrah buktur." Made of iron chains, plates and five rows of scales. Vandyke pattern (Grey).

"Zirrah buktur." Five rows of scales of scallop pattern.

"Zirrah buktur." Reaching to the waist.

"Zirrah buktur." Coat worn by officers made of very fine perforated scales; scalloped pattern joined with chains.

"Zirrah buktur." Coat of strong chains; two rows plain and one scalloped.

"Zirrah buktur." Three rows scalloped, two plain; fine chain.—*Cod. Coll.*

Coat of chain mail. The body of the coat is formed of large rings of rivetted steel, each bearing the inscription "Allah,

Mohammed, Aly, Fatima, Hussain, Hassan" in Arabic. This has therefore been made for a Shia Mussulman, or follower of Ali. The fastening at the neck is enriched by a heart-shaped pendant of jade encrusted with rubies, and with two hooks in silver gilt, each representing an elephant with eyes of diamonds, the howdahs being of turquoise. Similar pendants hang on each side of the breast.—*Rockstühl Cat. Z. S., Pl. lxvii. p. 255.*

Coat and helm of mail, formed of rings of steel and brass not rivetted, so that the two colours form a design, which they say typifies the mixture of the white waters of the Ganges with the yellow waters of the Jumna, the two sacred rivers. It is, therefore, called "Zirah Kortah Saktou."—*Cat. Z. S., Pl. cxiii.*

707.* CUIRASS AND ARM-GUARDS; steel damascened with gold. *Lahore.* (Pl. xiii. No. 707.) (8578.-'55.)

The Cuirass, in four pieces "Chár áina;" padded and lined with crimson velvet. Each plate is enriched with a broad border, and central cartouche of conventional floriated damascened in gold.

The Arm-guards, lined with velvet, terminating in open gauntlets of brocaded crimson silk.

708.* HELMET AND ARM-GUARDS. *Jind.* The helmet, of steel damascened with gold, is hemispherical, surmounted by a damascened plume-holder from which radiate lines connecting it with a festooned band of damascened ornaments at the base. Sliding nose-guard flanked by aigrettes of tinsel and coloured feathers. Coil of mail, falling in points on the shoulders, the links composing it of steel and brass alternating in the formation of transverse zigzag stripes. (8579.)

The Armguards. Steel damascened with gold, and terminating in an open gauntlet of chain-mail, the links composing which are of brass and steel alternately. Padded and lined with velvet. (8582.-'55.)

709.* COAT OF MAIL; composed of large riveted links, each of which bears an Arabic inscription produced by means of a punch. The links are of steel, with the exception of those at the edges and the ends of the sleeves which are of copper or brass, forming a border two inches in width round the coat. *Punjab.* Presented by Col. S. W. Hamilton. (11,496.-'67.)

Note.—Rockstühl thus describes the dress of a chief of the Mohammedan guard of the Great Mogul (Pl. 91-92.) The steel plates, richly gilt, are worn on a quilted jacket with four flaps which fold down over the legs. The legs are covered with a pantaloon of black quilted silk and studded with gilt nails. The arms, thighs, knees, and shins are further protected by steel plates.

PART II.—SIND.

The Amírs of Sind were under the rule of Afghanistan till they became independent chiefs, but owing to their treacherous behaviour after the Afghan war, they provoked attack. Sir Charles Napier, in the hard-fought battle of Miani, defeated them and their brave Bilúchí troops, and they all, with the exception of Khairpur, who remained faithful to the English rule, were forced to surrender their country to the English in 1843. It is, therefore, before that time that the best specimens of workmanship in arms are to

found such as are mentioned by the writers who visited the courts of the Amírs and saw their splendour.

In the character of their ornament, rather than in their shape, the Sindian arms approach more closely the Persian than the Afghan type. The coloured enamels, the embroidered leather accoutrements, and the chased silver mountings which characterise their swords are of a more decorated style than is usually met with in India.

Postans¹ describes the Sindian arms as being of very superior quality, "particularly the matchlock barrels, which are twisted in the Damascus style. The nobles and chiefs procure many from Persia and Constantinople, but nearly as good can be made in the country. They are overlaid with gold, and very highly finished. The European lock is attached to the Eastern barrel, and our guns and barrels are only prized for this portion of their work. The best of 'Joe Manton' and 'Purdy' guns, of which sufficient to stock a shop have at various times been presented to the Sindian chiefs by the British Government, share this mutilating fate. The Sind matchlock is a heavy, unwieldy arm, the stock much too light for the great weight of the barrel.

"The sword blades are large, curved, very sharp, and well-tempered. The sheath also contains a receptacle for a small knife used for food and other purposes.

"The belts are of leather or cloth, richly embroidered, for which Guzerat has long been famous.² Great taste is also displayed in the manufacture of the pouches, &c. attached to the waist.

"Shields are made from rhinoceros hides, richly embossed with brass or silver. They are carried over the shoulder, or worn strapped between them.

"A great part of the treasure of the Amírs consists in the rubies, diamonds, pearls and emeralds with which their daggers, swords, and matchlocks are adorned. One or two Persian goldsmiths are engaged at court in enamelling and damascening, in which arts they have attained great perfection.

"The Amírs have agents in Persia, Turkey, and Palestine for the purchase of swords and gun barrels,³ and they possess a more valuable collection than is probably to be met with elsewhere. 'I have had in my hand,' says Burnes,⁴ 'a plain unornamented blade which had cost them half a lac of rupees. They estimate swords by their age and watering or temper. One presented to me bears the date 1708, and was valued in Scinde at 2,000 rupees. "Another bore the following inscription:—'Of ancient steel and water, I am the produce of Persia. I am light in appearance, but I am heavy against my enemies. When a brave man wields me with his strength a hundred thousand Hindoos will perish by my edge.'" The verse was written by the Amír's Vizier. The armoury also contains swords worn by Shah Abbas the Great, Nadir Shah, and Ahmed Shah Durrání.

The swords are balanced differently from ours. "I have seen one of the young princes," continues Burnes, "with a single stroke cut a large sheep into two pieces.

"The favourites of the Amírs may be distinguished by gold-mounted swords, which are the highest honorary distinctions conferred by the Hyderabad Durbar. It is contrary to the usage of the court to wear side-arms ornamented with any of the precious metals which are not presented by their Highnesses. For very high services the Amírs sometimes, though rarely, give one of their valuable blades adorned with diamonds."

"The Amírs of Sind show their love of sport by taking the field with hawks, dogs, &c., but they never expose themselves to the sun, but remain under shelter till the deer or hog is forced to come before them to a small tank or well to drink, when they shoot him deliberately, and receive the acclamations of their followers."

There is a peculiar Sindian custom alluded to by Sir H. Elliot, and mentioned in the

¹ Personal Observations in Sind.

² Marco Polo describes the mats in red and blue leather, exquisitely inlaid with figures of birds and beasts, and skilfully embroidered with gold and silver wire.—Book iii. ch. 26.

³ Those not rifled come chiefly from Constantinople. They are of very small bore, and long in the barrel.

⁴ Burnes' Visit to the Court of Scinde.

- 733.* FLINT-LOCK GUN;** "Bandúq Jauhardár;" Damascus barrel of splendid workmanship, with gold enrichments damascened at the mouth and breech, the latter inlaid also with Arabic inscriptions; ebony stock, attached to the barrel by four bands of enamelled gold; butt of the curved Afghan shape, inlaid with medallions and plaques of translucent enamels on gold. *Haidarabad, Sind.* L. 5 ft. 5 in. (Pl. iv. No. 733.) (8674.-'55.)
- 734.* FLINT-LOCK GUN;** "Bandúq Jauhardár;" finely-worked Damascus barrel, with massive gold enrichments at the mouth and breech. Near the latter is an inscription inlaid in gold. Stock of dark wood, curved and very broad at the butt (Afghan shape), inlaid and mounted with plaques of translucent blue and green enamel on silver, and attached to the barrel by four narrow bands of the same. *Haidarabad, Sind.* (8675.-'55.)
- 735.* GUN ACCOUTREMENTS;** "Kamr;" consisting of a silk-embroidered leathern belt, to which are attached bullet-boxes (2), wad-box, powder horn and priming horn of leather and steel enriched with blue and green enamelled silver mounts. *Haidarabad, Sind.* (8686.)
- 736.* RIFLE;** "Bandúq Jauhardár;" Damascus barrel of exquisite workmanship (small bore), damascened with gold at the breech and mouth; tiger-head muzzle set with rubies and emeralds; flint lock; broad, curved butt (Afghan shape) of ebony inlaid with medallions and plaques of gold enamelled in low-relief with flower forms (iris, rose, &c.); stock attached to the barrel by three bands of enamelled gold. Presented by H.H. the Nawab of *Bhawalpur.* L. 4 ft. 10 in. (Pl. iv. No. 736.) (8619.-'55.)
- 737.* RIFLE ACCOUTREMENTS;** "Kamr;" consisting of a powder-flask, patch-box of steel damascened in gold with inscriptions, a priming horn, and various black leather pouches embroidered with silk, all attached to a white cotton kumberband embroidered with gold. *Bhawalpur.* Presented by the Nawab of *Bhawalpur.* (8571.-'55.)
- 738.* FLINT-LOCK GUN;** "Bandúq Jauhardár;" Damascus barrel, inlaid and plated with gold at the muzzle and breech, and bearing an inscription also inlaid in gold; the muzzle set with nine uncut rubies and an emerald, the latter forming the "sight;" rosewood stock, attached to the barrel by three perforated and engraved gold bands; curved and broadly expanding butt, enriched with engraved gold mounts; red leathern belt. *Sind.* L. 5 ft. 4 in. (7496.-'67.)
- 739.* GUN ACCOUTREMENTS;** "Kamr;" consisting of various pouches and a powder-horn, all covered with silk-embroidered velvet, and a priming-horn ornamented with gold lacquer-work. *Jacobabad, Sind.* (6559.-'67.)
- 740.* SHIELD;** "Dhál;" circular and convex; papier-mâché, lacquered and gilt. The body of the shield is blue, with a floral diaper; this is surrounded by a painted border of gold, green, and red on a white ground. The centre is occupied by a rosette of similar character, surrounded by four conical brass bosses. *Ahmedabad.* Diam. 15½ in. (7381.)
- 741.* SHIELD;** "Dhál;" papier-mâché, lacquered and gilt. The body of the shield is a foliated diaper in dark red, surrounded by a border of gold, red, and green, on white. The centre is occupied by a rosette of similar character enclosed by four conical bosses of brass. *Ahmedabad.* Diam. 21 in. (7382.-'67.)
- 742.* SHIELD;** "Dhál;" circular and convex, with recurved edge; prepared rhinoceros-hide, translucent and of a light brown tint. The centre is occupied by a rosette painted in white, gold, green, and red, surrounded by four large copper-gilt bosses, repoussé, chased and jewelled. A fifth boss of different shape ornaments the upper part of the shield, which is encircled by a narrow border similar in character to the rosette at the centre. *Bhúj, Kach.* Diam. 21 in. (Pl. xv. No. 742.) (7380.-'67.)
- 743.* SHIELD;** "Dhál;" prepared rhinoceros-hide, semi-translucent, with dark red diaper ground. The centre is occupied by a closely-foliated rosette painted in gold, surrounded by four ornamental gilt bosses. The outer border is of similar character, on a white ground. Diam. 21 in. (8615.)
- 744.* SHIELD;** "Dhál;" circular and convex, with recurved edge; of prepared deer-skin, translucent and of a yellowish-brown tint. The centre is occupied by a rosette painted in gold, surrounded by four gilt bosses with perforated margins, and a crescent. A border, similar in character to the rosette, surrounds the shield. *Bhúj, Kach.* Diam. 21 in. (8622.-'55.)
- 745. SUIT OF CHAIN AND PLATE ARMOUR;** comprising a helmet, corslet, trousers, arm-guards, and shoes. *Bhúj, Kach.* (Pl. xiv. No. 745.) (8641.-'55.)
1. The helmet is composed of padded chain mail strengthened by wedge-shaped plaques or embossed brass, and is surmounted by a small boss or button of brass. Attached to the base of the helmet is a coil of padded mail, falling squarely on the shoulders, the back of the neck being additionally protected by overlapping plates of brass and steel; a triangular opening is left for the face, but in case of need this opening can be closed by a fragment of the coil (provided with holes for the eyes), which, when raised, is attached by a hook to the upper part of the helmet.
 2. The corslet, a sort of coat with short sleeves, is of riveted chain-mail padded with cotton, and strengthened in front by overlapping scales of brass and steel, and oblong plaques of steel with brass mountings.
 3. The arm-guards are of steel, with brass mounts, and terminate in open gauntlets of chain-mail, wadded with cotton.
 4. The trousers are of riveted chain-mail.
 5. The shoes of wadded leather covered with scalloped scales of brass and steel connected by chain-mail.

GROUP XI.

N.W. FRONTIER, AFGHANISTAN, PERSIA, CHINA, ETC.

Afghanistan.—The Afghans are divided into a number of tribes, who live in constant feuds with one another, among which the Durránís have gained a predominance over the rest. Their history in the present century is made up of a series of revolutions. They are Mahomedans, and with the exception of some Persian colonists, as Kazilbáshís, belong to the Suni persuasion, and are, therefore, bitterly opposed to the Persians as Shíahs. They have a common origin with the Pat'háns, found all over India, who are of Afghan descent, and serve as mercenaries with the Mahomedan princes of India.¹

The Robillas, who showed themselves to be sturdy combatants in our campaign against them, are descended from an Afghan colony settled in Upper India.

Elphinstone, in his admirable account of his embassy to Cabul, gives the following description of the arms of some of the tribes at the beginning of the century:—

“The *Ghilzáis*, *Turís*, *Shinwáris*, and *Momunds* dwell in Cabul. They wear a curved sabre of the Persian shape, without guard to the hilt, called ‘shumsheer,’ a long knife in the girdle, a spear, and matchlock. For defensive armour some wear quilted jackets, some plate armour or chain mail, others leathern cuirasses. Indian steel is most prized as the material for swords, but the best swords come from Persia and Syria. The Persian short dagger with thick handle is common. Also one about 14 inches long, tapering to a point, with a round handle. When drawn it is of the shape of a small English carving knife.”²

The *Hazáras* are good archers as well as good shots. They use a kettle-drum to call their troops together.

The arms of the *Durránís*, who inhabit Kandahar and Herat, consist generally of a Persian sword and a matchlock; a few among them have firelocks. The villagers carry matchlocks with curved stocks; their ammunition is strapped in cartridge cases across the left breast. Pistols³ are rarely met with except in the possession of the chiefs. A few of the best men have spears, which they put in the rest when they are about to charge. Shields were formerly in use among them, but are now discontinued.

The Durránís never serve as infantry.⁴ Moorcroft, in 1824, described their cavalry as consisting of 1,200 horse. “They moved in three bodies, travelling generally at a quick walk of about 4½ miles an hour. Their baggage was carried on mules or gallo-ways, and their servants rode on the top of the load. The troopers were variously mounted, most of them riding strong active horses. Some were armed with swords and spear heads without shafts; others carried bad pistols stuck in their ‘kummerbunds’ (waist cloths); others, again, carried matchlocks, with the ‘limak’ or crooked stock, or flint locks. The cannon were about four or five-pounders, tolerably well cast, but vilely mounted.”

The arms of the *Populzáis* are described by Lieut. Macartney as consisting of swords, daggers, battle axes, and short matchlocks. Some of the latter have locks like that of a carbine, but are of a larger bore, and some are provided with moveable bayonets.

The *Gholdánis* are armed much in the same way, but have more firelocks and spears.

The *Ghilzáis* use the same arms as the Durránís, with the addition of a small shield.

The Eastern Afghans wear Hindustani swords, shields, leather cuirasses, matchlocks, and often spears.

¹ It was a stipendiary troop of Pathans or Walaitees, which under the ex-Nawab of Tonk was engaged in the murderous fray with Rajputs, which ended in the death of the Thakoor of Lawa.

² Mission to Cabul, p. 271.

³ The pistols made in Daghestan are most prized, but they are imitated in Kashmír so as not to be distinguishable from the originals.

⁴ They held their lands by military tenure, and for every parcel of land demanding the services of a plough, a horseman was to be provided for the service of the State. *Kaye*, Afghanistan, p. 15.

⁵ Moorcroft's Travels, p. 351, 1824.

senting the costume and arms of the Persians in the 17th century. The Khorassan sword appears to be worn on the left and the dagger on the right side. Maces, both pear-shaped and in the shape of a cow's head, and bows and arrows rather than guns are used. The combatants generally wear conical helmets with solid guards over the neck and ears. The horses as well as their riders have a complete covering of plate mail with alternate rows of gold and silver scales. There is in the British Museum a helmet with vambraces, which belonged to Shah 'Abbás, and is inscribed with his name, and which is of splendid workmanship, with floral ornaments chiselled in relief out of the steel. Of the same character and finish of detail is a set of "chár áina" or breast plates which are only equalled by a set at Windsor. (Fig. 34.) Some fine arms have been presented by the Shahs to the Emperors of Russia.¹

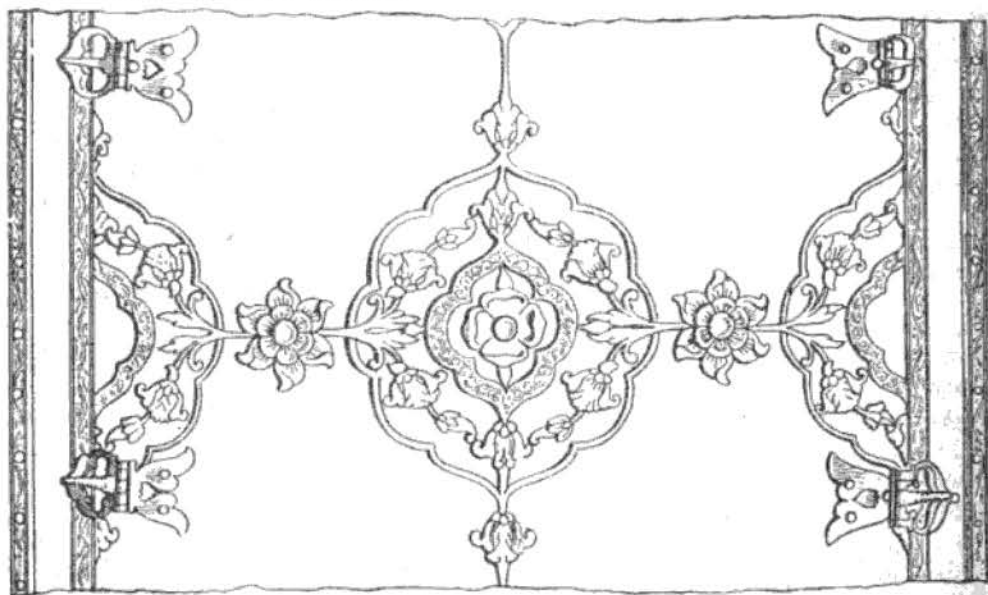


Fig. 34.—Centre of Persian Breastplate at Windsor.

In a coloured native drawing in the author's possession, Nádír Sháh is represented seated on the ground with his sword lying before him; the hilt of the sword is pistol-shaped and encrusted with large rubies and emeralds. From the time of Nádír Sháh or the middle of the last century the work becomes gradually more florid, and quotations from the Koran or verses of Sa'dí are more liberally distributed over the work in geometrical cartouches.

The blades of later Persian dress swords are covered with ornament. One of about the middle of the last century, in the E. collection, is like a Turkish scimitar with scalloped edge, and inlaid with arabesques in gold and silver. Another more modern has alternate bands of inscriptions and natural flowers raised in low relief. Besides the ordinary curved "Shamsher," the Persians use a straight sword with the quillons downwards. One in the E. collection has the Lion and Sun engraved on the blade near the hilt and a raised serpent runs down the middle to the point.

The helmets are of a pear shape and as well as the shields and breastplates (*char aina*) are richly ornamented; and the shields of rhinoceros hide imported from India are frequently transparent and painted with elaborate designs added by the Persians. There is one in the Zarkoe Seloe collection, of wood covered with gold brocade encrusted with silver gilt plaques, and with turquoise studs. The hexagonal boss in the centre is ornamented with jade inlaid with emeralds, turquoises, and carbuncles. The style is of the early part of the 17th century.—(Vide Cat. Z.S. Coll., Vol. iii., Plate iii.)

¹ Vide Chapter on decoration.