



INSCRIPTION FROM MALAKAND.

R.A.S.

## 2. AN INSCRIPTION FROM THE MALAKHAND PASS.

DEAR SIR,—Thanks to the good offices of our Hon. Secretary, Dr. R. N. Cust, we are able to publish the accompanying reproduction of an inscription, which may possibly prove to be of considerable importance. The original is in the possession of the Rev. Canon Edwards, of Exeter, who thus describes it:—"Inscription on a stone,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in.  $\times$  from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. to 5 in., brought from Malakhand Pass by Captain Fox-Strangways." The inscription is interesting as being a particularly clear, and apparently quite complete, specimen of a class, which has been made known to the world chiefly by the discoveries of Major Deane, and the publications of M. Émile Senart (*Journal Asiatique*, 1895, pp. 332, 504), and Dr. M. A. Stein (*J.A.S.B.*, 1898, p. 1). The language of these inscriptions, and the alphabet in which it is conveyed—particularly tantalizing from its similarity to certain well-known alphabets—have hitherto baffled all attempts at decipherment. There seems to be a consensus among scholars who have studied the matter, that the language will probably prove to be some dialect of Türkī, and Hofrath Dr. Bühler (quoted by Dr. Stein, p. 13) has pointed out that the Turkish inscriptions from the banks of the Orkhon have more than a dozen signs in common with these; but, beyond these generalizations, no advance has been made. It is probable that we may have to wait until either a bilingual inscription is discovered, or some lucky accident gives a clue to this strange puzzle. All that ingenuity can do from an examination of the inscriptions themselves has been done by the scholars above mentioned. In the meantime it is important to publish reproductions of as many specimens as possible.

E. J. RAPSON.

## 3. THE SAMBODHI IN ASOKA'S EIGHTH EDICT.

The Buddhist ideal is a subjective state to be reached, in this world, by going along an eightfold path, so called