

To these Figures are assigned the planets, the days of the week, and the quarters of the compass. In addition, to each of them are attributed many qualities and powers. By this machinery the geomancer professes to be able to predict what will happen under any problem propounded to him. Divination in this method is still a living thing in the East, works on it are constantly issuing from the Indian press; and it is not altogether dead even in England. There were professors of it at Bristol as late as 1818, the first Lord Lytton believed in and practised it, and a treatise on it was published in London only fourteen years ago.

WILLIAM IRVINE.

18th July, 1903.

8. THE SAHASRĀM, RŪPNĀTH, ETC., EDICT OF AŚŌKA.

DEAR PROFESSOR RHYS DAVIDS,—As you know, I have had under consideration the Sahasrām, Rūpnāth, etc., edict of Aśōka. And I have arrived at the real meaning of it.

The edict is dated, not only in the 256th year (expired) after the death of Buddha, but also “somewhat more than *thirty-eight* years” after the *abhisheka* of Aśōka.

One result is obvious at once: $256 - 38 = 218$; and the record thus endorses, and carries back to the time of Aśōka, the Southern tradition as to the number of years that elapsed from the death of Buddha to the *abhisheka* of Aśōka.

But I further gather from this record that, early in the thirty-third year after his *abhisheka*, Aśōka abdicated, and went to spend the remainder of his days in religious retirement; and that this edict was a valedictory address, issued by him when he felt that his end was near.

As my article on the subject cannot be issued in the October number of the Journal, then perhaps you will kindly find room for this announcement.—Yours sincerely,

J. F. FLEET.

23rd August, 1903.