

the others are a spurious addition. In any case I shall be grateful for information throwing light upon this work or its alleged author.

My account of those MSS. that are not strictly poetical must be deferred to some future occasion.—Yours sincerely,

REYNOLD A. NICHOLSON.

6. THE AUTHOR OF THE SĀSANAVAMSA.

June 14, 1899.

DEAR SIR,—Feeling that it would be of interest to hear something of the author of a modern Pali work from one of his contemporaries in the Buddhist community, I wrote, a short time ago, to the Venerable Subhūti, of Waskaduwa, asking him some questions about the author of the *Sāsana-vam̐sa*. He has not only replied most kindly, giving me a few particulars and mentioning his own relations with Paññāsāmi, but also sends me a copy of a letter written by the Burmese *rājaguru* himself to Ceylon, on the occasion of a visit of certain Singhalese monks and others to Mandalay, in the year 1862.

Of Paññāsāmi Subhūti writes as follows:—

“The venerable priest was known by the name of Rājaguru Paññāsāmi. He lived at a monastery called ‘Sahassarodhārāma’ in the neighbourhood of Mandalay about thirty-five years ago. The friendly feelings that existed between him and me and the pleasant correspondence we then carried on are still fresh in my memory. ‘Sāsana-vam̐sa’ was compiled in 1864, and the sad death of its author occurred several years later. He was also the author of many other works, the last of which was ‘Saddanītiṭikā,’ which his death unfortunately rendered him unable to complete. He was a pure Burmese, and does not at all belong to the Singhalese nationality, nor did he ever visit Ceylon. ‘Sāsana-vam̐sa’ was compiled at the request of the High Priest Sumaṅgala, the Principal of the Vidyodaya College, and Saraṇaṅkara Indāsabha Waraṇānasāmi, the

late High Priest of Rāmaññanikāya in Ceylon, who, it appears, are mentioned in the book.”

I add below a transcript of Paññāsāmi's Pali letter.

MABEL BODE.

Namo tassa bhagavato arahato sammāsambuddhassa.

Pahitam idam aditthasahāyabhūtassa sabrahmacārino Dhammālakāra-Sirisumanatissattherassa Paññāsāmisirikavidhajamahādhammarājādhirājagurūti laddhalañcena therenā ti datthabbaṃ.

Tumbhākaṃ hi sissā Dhammadassī Silakkhandho ti dve bhikkhū Saraṇaṃkaro Dhammapālo Sumaṅgalo cā ti tayo sāmaṇerā tayo upāsakā kaliyuge bāvisādhike dvisate sahasse ca sampatte ambhākaṃ Marammaṇḍale Tambadīparaṭṭhe Ratanāpuṇṇaṃ nāma imaṃ mahārājadhāniṃ sampattā te ca chekena ācariyena dammitā viya assā chekassa ācariyassa guṇaṃ pakāsento saṃgharājavarassa vihāre āgantukadhammaṃ avikopentā nisīdiṃsu. Mayā yeva saddhiṃ te ca sabbe rājantepuraṃ pavisitvā dhammarājassa santike kathāsallāpaṃ pavattayiṃsu. Tadāpi mahādhammarājā tesam yeva Saraṇaṃkarādīnaṃ kathāsallāpaṃ sutvā ativiya pamodi. Ekasmiṃ ca samaye te sāmaṇerā upasampadaṃ labhituṃ icchāma. Bhikkhū ca pubbe gahitasikkhaṃ kammavācā dosena saṃkiliṭṭhanti maññitvā tam apanetvā puna sikkhaṃ gaṇhituṃ icchāmāti vadanti. Atha mahādhammarājā saṃgharājassa ārāme viṣuṃ gāmasimāyaṃ upasampadaṃ gaṇhāpesi saṃgharājena upajjhāyena. Tato pacchā pi te udakukkhepasimāyaṃ puna sikkhaṃ gaṇhitukāmā ahesuṃ. Tadāhaṃ vanakaṭṭhanāyakenāmaccena ekena anuggahaṃ kārāpetvā Erāvatiyaṃ nāma nadiyaṃ saha Paññājoti-Ñānaratanehi te Saraṇaṃkarālayo puna sikkhaṃ labhāpesiṃ. Mayañ ca yathāsantiṃ yathābalaṃ mahussāhena sithiladhanitaniggaḥitavimuttādikaṃ uccāraṇavidhiṃ aviruddhaṃ katvā kammavācaṃ vācetvā parisuddhopasampadabhūmiṃ āropayimbā. Te ca saṃgharājassa santike

gandham uggāhetvā tumbehi dinnovādānurūpaṃ yeva nisīdanti. Athāparam pi vattabbaṃ atthi. Taṃ idāni paccārocissāmi. Taṃ suṇātha manasikarotha. Kathaṃ. Tumbehi imaṃ Jambudīpaṃ Marammaratṭhaṃ Ratanāpuṇṇānagaram āgantukāmā hutvā pubbe ceva idāni ca mahādhhammarājassa anumatiyā āgantum icchāmāti vuttaṃ.

Tam ahaṃ mahādhhammarājassa ārocemi. Atha so evaṃ vadati: sādhu bhante ahaṃ aṅgalissānaṃ ārocissāmi. Sukhena idhāgamanatthāya tvam pana bhante asukā asukā nāma therā ānituṃ yuttāti niyamaṃ karohīti. Mahādhhammarājena vuttattā Dhammālaṃkāra Sirisumanatissādayo katipayatherā ānituṃ yuttāti. Tesam tesam nāmaṃ likhitvā aṅgalissānam amaccānaṃ santikaṃ pesesi. Sace ete therā Jambudīpaṃ āgantum iccheyyūṃ sukhen' eva āgantum kāraṇam dethāti tasmā ettha īdisā pavatti daṭṭhabbāti.

Idaṃ kaliyuge tevīsādhike dvisate sahasse ca sampatte māghamāsassa kālapakkhadāsamiyaṃ sūrajjavāre Laṃkādiṇe Gādenagare Paramānandavīhāre nisinnassa aditṭhasahāyassa Dhammālaṃkāra - Sirisumanattherassa santikaṃ pahitaṃ Jambudīpe Marammamaṇḍale Tambadīparaṭṭhe Ratanāpuṇṇanagarassa puratthimadisābhāge Sahassorodhārāme dhaññādhivāsabhūte mahādhhammaraññā kārapite nivāsina Paññāsāmisirikavidhajamahādhhammarājādhīrajagurūti la-ddhalañcena therenāti daṭṭhabbaṃ.

Tumhākañcathāya pāṇiyabhājanam vedamayaṃ ekañ ca khuddakakaraṇḍakam Saraṇaṃkarādīnam hatthe niyyādemi.

To the Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society.