IV. Account of a large tree in India

Colonel Ironside

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41. To examine the reason of the singular connection observed between mines of salt or salt springs and mountains of gypsum *.

[To be continued.]

IV. *Account of a large Tree in India.* By Colonel
IRONSIDE †.

BY the side of the Ganges, about three miles above the fortrefs of Allahabad, near the small pagoda of a goffair (*fakir*), I saw, on the 21st of November 1777, four trees called *kulberich*; the trunk of one of which appeared of so uncommon a size, that I sent for a string to measure its dimensions, and found the circumference of it to be thirty feet ten inches. Its height is that of a pretty large beech, the rind or bark even, annulated and pulpy; and all the limbs smooth and very large, but rather scant of foliage; those very small branches which bore leaves being in clusters, so that the tree, at some distance, seemed not unlike a stem of the thick species of *coralline*. The leaves are the size of oak leaves, but not sinuated, and of a light though not bright green; the fruit is of the same colour, in shape almost conical like a pine, nine inches long, eleven inches and a half round the most swelling part, and with a soft velvet rind. Not being in blossom at that season, I had no opportunity to observe the flower. The fakir told me that there were only those four within 700 miles of the place; the seeds of them, which are shaped like a kidney bean, and as large as a *caravanfa*, having been sent for by one of the

* And particularly of gypsum coloured by a red argil. To examine also why asphaltis is commonly found in the neighbourhood of salt-pits.

42. To observe the different efflorescence of the different salts formed on the rocks and the surface of the earth, in order to determine their nature.

43. To note also the nature, the abundance, and what may be discovered in regard to the origin of mineral waters: to determine the temperature of them. C.

† From the *Oriental Collections*, Vol. I.

emperors, and sown there. The groves and fashion of the ground, as well as the fruit-trees, and a large stone wall about them, indicate the place to have been once a garden, and it is called to this time *Bejum-ke Baug*, or the *Queen's Garden*.

On my arrival at Patna, on the 2d of January 1778, I luckily met with a gentleman named Kerr, celebrated for his skill in botanical researches, who told me that the above-mentioned tree was of the species classed in the Linnæan system under the name of *Adansonia*, a description of which is to be found in the sixth edition of his *Genera Plantarum*, printed at Stockholm 1764, p. 352.

V. *Account of a Banian Tree in the Province of Babar.*

By Colonel IRONSIDE.*

NEAR *Manjee*, a small town at the confluence of the *Devab* (or *Gogra*) and the *Ganges*, about twenty miles west of the city of Patna, there is a remarkably large tree, called a *bur* or *banian tree*, which has the quality of extending its branches, in a horizontal direction, to a considerable distance from its stem; and of then dropping leafless fibres, or scions, to the ground, which there catch hold of the earth, take root, embody, grow thick, and serve either to support the protracted branches, or, by a farther vegetation, to compose a second trunk. From these branches other arms again spring out, fall down, enter the ground, grow up again, and constitute a third stem, and so on. From the opposite pretty high bank of the *Ganges*, and at the distance of near eight miles, we perceived this tree of a pyramidal shape, with an easy spreading slope from its summit to the extremity of its lower branches, and mistook it at first for a small hill: we had no quadrant to measure its height; but the middle or principal stem is considerably higher, I think, than the highest elm, or other tree, I ever saw in England. The fol-

* From the *Oriental Collections*, Vol. I.