

count of which may have been received from Noah himself, and preserved in the Chinese histories.

The flood alluded to, by the above named historian, did not, it is true, overflow the whole earth, but it was such as that the waters did not return to their usual channels for a long time ; " the misery of mankind was extreme ; the beasts and serpents were very numerous ;" being driven together by the pursuit of the waters, and also " storms and cold" had greatly increased. Chin-sang collected the wandering men to unite against the wild beasts, to dress their skins for clothing, and to weave their fur into webs and caps. This emperor was venerated for these benefits, and began a SHI, or dynasty, that lasted 350 years."

All this would suit very well to the character of Nimrod, whom we are much inclined to think the Chinese historians point out, instead of any king before the era of the flood of Noah.

But to the research of this highly gifted antiquarian, Rafinesque, we are greatly indebted in one important respect : It is well known that persons in the learned world have greatly admired the boasted antiquity of the Chinese nations, who, by their records, make the earth much older than does Moses. But this philosopher on this subject writes as follows : " The two words, *Ki* and *Shi*, translated *period* and *dynasty*, or family, are of some importance. As they now stand translated, they would make the world very old ; since no less than ten *Ki*, or periods, are enumerated, (we are in the 10th ;) wherein 232 SHI, or dynasties of emperors, are said to have ruled in China, during a course of 276,480 years before Christ, at the lowest computation ; and 96,962,220 before Christ, at the highest ; with many intermediary calculations, by various authors.

But if *Ki*, he says, may also mean a *dynasty*, or division, or people, as it appears to do in some instances, and SHI, an *age*, or a *tribe*, or reign, the whole preposterous computation will prove false, or be easily reduced to agree with those of the Hindoos, Persians and Egyptians ;" and come within the age of the earth as given in the Scriptures.

If the central region of Asia may have been exempted from that flood, we may then safely inquire, whether other parts of the globe may not also have been exempt ; where men and animals were preserved ; and thus the account of the Ark, in which, as related