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[PART 2d.]

LITERARY DEPARTMENT.



THE GIPSIES.

We cannot, in this place, exhibit that chain of evidence by which the Hindoo origin of the Gipsies has been established almost beyond a doubt by the learned Grellmann. It appeared perfectly satisfactory to Sir William Jones, who, in the Gipsy vocabulary published by the German writer, discovered a great number of pure Sanscrit words. The Gipsies who have remained in India are at present known under the Persian name of Bazighurs, "players, or actors," and are divided into seven castes, whose uncouth denominations it is unnecessary to repeat, as they all resemble each other, intermarry, and profess to be descended from the same family. They have now become nominal converts to Islamism, but are said to regard as their tutelary divinity the celebrated musician Tansine, who flourished in

the time of Achar. Their notions of morals and religion they principally derive from the songs of Kubeer, a poet, by trade a weaver, who was contemporary with Sher Shab, the Cromwell of Indian history. Kubeer was a Sufi of the most exalted sentiments and of benevolence unbounded. His poems, which are still universally esteemed, inculcate the purest morality, good-will, and hospitality towards all men; and breathe so fine a spirit of toleration that both Hindoos and Musulmans contend for the honour of his having been born of their nation. The Bazighurs have, therefore, it must be acknowledged, an excellent moral instructor; and if they are not more rigid cultivators of honesty than their brethren of Europe, the fault must rest with themselves. Be this as it may, the stanzas of the bard are