

BUDDHIST RECORDS OF THE WESTERN WORLD.

TA-T'ANG-SI-YU-KI.

*Records of the Western World*¹ (compiled during) the Great T'ang² dynasty (A.D. 618-907); translated by Imperial command by Hiuen Tsiang,³ a Doctor of the three Piṭakas, and edited by Pien Ki, a Shaman of the Ta-tsung-chi Temple.

PREFACE.⁴

WHEN of yore *the precious hair-circle*⁵ shed forth its flood of light, the sweet dew was poured upon the great thousand (*worlds*),⁶ *the golden mirror*⁷ displayed its brightness, and a fragrant wind was spread over the earth; then it was known that he had appeared in the three worlds⁸

¹ The "Western World." This expression denotes generally the countries west of China. Mr. Mayers, in his note on Chang K'ien (*Reader's Manual*, No. 18), confines the meaning to Turkistân.

² That is, during the reign of T'ai Tsung (Chêng Kwan) of the Great T'ang dynasty, A.D. 646.

³ Hiuen Tsiang: in spelling Chinese names, the method of Dr. Wells Williams in his *Tonic Dictionary* has been generally followed. See note 10.

⁴ This preface was written by Chang Yueh, who flourished as minister of state under T'ang Hsuan Tsung (A.D. 713-756). He is called Tchang-choue by Stan. Julien. It is written in the usual ornate style of such compositions. I have mostly followed Julien's rendering

and refer the reader to his explanatory notes for fuller information.

⁵ This phrase designates one of the thirty-two marks (viz. the *úrma*) which characterise a great man, and which were recognised on the Buddha. See Burnouf, *Lotus de la Bonne Loi*, pp. 30, 543, 553, and 616; *Introd. Buddh.* (2d ed.), p. 308; Foucaux, *Lalita Vistara*, p. 286; Beal, *Fo-sho-hing-tsan-king*, I. i. 83, 84, 114, &c.; Hodgson, *Essays* (Serampore edit.), p. 129, or (Lond. 1874) pt. i. p. 90; Hardy, *Manual of Buddhism* (2d ed.), p. 150, &c.

⁶ Julien explains this as "the great chiliocosm," and refers to Remusat, *Melang. Post.*, p. 94.

⁷ The moon.

⁸ Buddha had appeared in the world of desires (*Kâmadhâtu*), the