

6 BUDDHIST RECORDS OF THE WESTERN WORLD.

cent (*the writers of*) India. The texts being transcribed on palm leaves, he then returned to China.

The Emperor T'ai Tsung, surnamed Wen-wang-ti, who held the golden wheel and was seated royally on the throne, waited with impatience for that eminent man. He summoned him therefore to the green enclosure,³⁰ and, impressed by his past acquirements, he knelt before him in the yellow palace. With his hand he wrote proclamations full of affectionate sentiments; the officers of the interior attended him constantly; condescending to exhibit his illustrious thoughts, he wrote a preface to the sacred doctrine of the *Tripitaka*, consisting of 780 words. The present emperor (Kao Tsung) had composed in the spring pavilion a sacred record consisting of 579 words, in which he sounded to the bottom the stream of deep mystery and expressed himself in lofty utterances. But now, if he (*Hiuen Tsiang*) had not displayed his wisdom in the wood of the cock,³¹ nor scattered his brightness on the peak of the vulture,³² how could he (*the emperor*) have been able to abase his sacred composition in the praise of the ornament of his time?

In virtue of a royal mandate, he (*Hiuen Tsiang*) translated 657 works from the original Sanskrit (*Fan*). Having thoroughly examined the different manners of distant countries, the diverse customs of separate people, the various products of the soil and the class divisions of the people, the regions where the royal calendar is received³³ and where the sounds of moral instruction have come, he has composed in twelve books the *Ta-t'ang-si-yu-ki*. Herein he has collected and written down the most secret principles of the religion of Buddha, couched in language plain and precise. It may be said, indeed, of him, that his works perish not.

³⁰ The green enclosure surrounding the imperial seat or throne.

³¹ The *Kukkuta saṅghārāma* near Pātṇa.

³² The Vulture Peak (*Gr̥dhrakūṭa parvata*), near Rājagriha.

³³ The royal calendar is the work distributed annually throughout the empire, containing all information as to the seasons, &c.—Jul.