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ART. XII.—Notes on Dhammapada, with Special Reference to the Question of Nirvana. By R. C. CHILDERS, late of the Ceylon Civil Service.

I have given in the following pages some of the results of a careful study of the text of Dhammapada, rendered necessary by the preparation of a Páli Dictionary. In endeavouring to elucidate some of the obscure or difficult points of this important text, I have given prominence to a few passages enabling me to test the theory of Nirvâna which I propounded last year in the columns of a periodical. Verse 203. Jighaccháparamá rogá, sankhárá paramá dukhá,

Etam ñatvá yathábhútam nibbánam paramam sukham.

The sense of this verse is, "As hunger is worse than any disease, so existence is worse than any pain; to him who has realized this truth extinction is the greatest bliss." If any proof is wanted that the author of Dhammapada believed Nirvâna to be the annihilation of being, it is surely here. When he says in the same breath that existence is the acme of suffering, and that Nirvana is consequently the highest bliss, it follows logically and inevitably that Nirvana must be the cessation of existence. Nirvana must here be taken as Anupadhiceshanirvana. Sankhárá (in the plural) is used almost in the sense of "organic life." The comment says, "the five Skandhas," which amounts very much to the same thing; for the Skandhas are the attribute of every organized being, however low in the scale of animal life. Compare the expression sabbe sankhatásankhatadhammá, "all things organized and unorganized," or "all things animate and inanimate," which includes, of course, the whole realm of creation. I take this opportunity of re-stating the theory of Nirvana which I published in the July and October numbers of Trübner's Record for 1870; and I may observe that my

theory meets, as far as I know, all the difficulties of the question, and holds good in every instance in which I have tested it.

Nirvâna means extinction or annihilation. It is the ultimate goal of Buddhism, the supreme reward of the highest spiritual development, the summum bonum to which the follower of Câkyamuni is taught to look. What, then, is this Nirvâna or extinction which is the reward of virtuous action? It is twofold—Upadhiceshanirvana, or the extinction of human passion; and Anupadhiçeshanirvâna, or the annihilation of There are eight progressive stages of sanctification, called the Four Paths and the Four Fruitions:1 the last and highest of these stages is called Arhattvaphala, or "full fruition of final sanctification," and this is Upadhiçeshanirvâna, or, as it is also called, Kleçaparinirvâna. Arhatship or Arhattvaphala is admittedly a state of the highest happiness and perfection, and its identity with Upadhiçeshanirvâna, or, as it is more generally called, simply Nirvâna, cannot be too strongly insisted upon, since it accounts for the frequency with which Nirvana is spoken of as a state of bliss. then, is one of the Nirvanas, the other is Anupadhiceshanirvâna or Skandhaparinirvâna,2 which it is impossible to explain as anything but absolute annihilation. The Arhat, or being who has attained final sanctification,3 though wholly free from human passion, and possessed of superhuman faculties, is still a man, and liable, like all other men, to death. Nor is his life necessarily prolonged beyond that of his fellows; Çâkyamuni himself, the Great Arhat, died at an age not exceeding the common lot of humanity. But the Arhat, alone of men, when he dies ceases to exist. The oil in the lamp of life is burnt out, the seed of existence is withered, he enters the vast portals of Nothingness and Void, and entering vanishes from creation,—he has attained to Skandhaparinirvâna, the annihilation of the elements of being. I have said that Nirvana is twofold; but is it not also one? for Skandhaparinirvana is

In Páli Cattdro Magga and Cattári phaláni.
 Generally called simply Nirvâṇa.
 Arhattvaphala or Kleçapariṇirvâṇa.

the necessary complement of Klecaparinirvana, as the latter is Without Arhatship there can be no cessation of the former. of existence,1 just as there can be no Arhatship that does not terminate in extinction. Viewed, therefore, from a distance as it were, as the goal of the pious Buddhist, Nirvana is one; it is a brief period of the highest bliss on earth, ending in eternal death. It may here be objected-Must not great confusion be created by using one and the same term for two things so different as "bliss" and "annihilation"? I reply that in reality there is no such confusion, since the context will readily determine whether, by the word Nirvana, Upadhiçesha or Anupadhicesha Nirvâna is intended. And in a vast proportion of instances the term embraces both Nirvânas. a sentence as "Nirvâna is the reward of a virtuous life," it is clear that both Nirvânas are meant, since they are inseparably connected, and the one involves the other as a necessary consequence. There are, however, occasions when one of the Nirvânas is distinctly alluded to, and then the context determines which of them is meant. Thus in verse 89 the word loke specifies Upadhiçeshanirvâna, while in the verse we have been considering Anupadhiceshanirvâna is clearly indicated by the use of the word sankhará.

In conclusion I wish to add that the much contested word Parinirvâna means "the attainment of Nirvâna," or simply Nirvâna. Like Nirvâna it is twofold, Kleçaparinirvâna, "attainment of the extinction of human passion," and Skandhaparinirvâna, "attainment of the annihilation of the elements of being." When the Parinirvâna of an Arhat is spoken of, it may be translated "death"; for in the case of an Arhat, death and the attainment of Nirvâna are simultaneous. The word Mahâparinirvâna merely means the death of Buddha.

Verse 89. Te loke parinibbutá, "they attain Nirvâṇa in this world"; that is they attain Upadhiçeshanirvâṇa or Arhatship, which is compatible with existence. Parinibbuta (pari+nis+vṛita) is always used for the part. perf. pass. of parinibbáti, "to attain Nirvâṇa." The regular p.p.p. would be parinibbána,

¹ I mean, of course, on this earth, since, for instance, an Anâgâmin attains Skandhaparinirvâna from one of the Brahma heavens.

but there is a confusion in Páli between the compounds nirvá and nirvri, so much so that nibbuti (nirvriti) means both happiness (or tranquillity) and annihilation.1 It is well known that this sort of confusion is frequent in Páli. An important reason against the use of parinibbána as the p.p.p. of parinibbáti is that it would be readily mistaken for the noun parinibbána. When used of an Arhat parinibbuta may be translated "having died," e.g. Lokanáthe dasabale sattáhaparinibbute, "when the world's protector endowed with the ten forces had been dead seven days." 2

Verse 153. Anekajátisamsáram sandhávissam anibbisam Gahakárakam gavesanto dukkhá játi punappunam.

"I have run through the revolution of countless births, seeking the Architect of this dwelling and finding him not, grievous is repeated birth." Fausböll takes sandhávissam as a conditional,3 but the sense imperatively requires an aorist, and Mr. Trenckner pointed out to me some time ago that sandhávissam in this place is a true aorist, the Sanskrit aorist in -isham. The third persons sing. and plur. of this aorist occur pretty frequently in Páli, and end in -isi and -isum 4 respectively. The doubled s has many analogies in Páli. The learned Sthavira Dhammarama of Yatramullé has favoured me with a long extract from Culla Saddaníti, in which the author, misled by the doubled s, calls sandhávissam "a future in a past sense" (atitatthe bhavissanti hoti), and cites a passage from the Tripitaka book Vimánavatthu containing an analogous example. The passage is as follows:-

> Cátuddasim pañcadasim yáva pakkhassa atthami Pátiháriyapakkhañ ca atthangasusamáhitam Uposatham upavasissam sadá silesu samvutá.5

Here Culla Saddaníti remarks, Imissá Vimánavatthupáliyá attham samvannentehi "upavasissan ti upavasim atitatthe hi idam anágatavacanan ti vuttan" ti saccam vuttam, "the com-

See Abhidhánappadípiká, v. 1015.

² Mahávamsa, p. 11. 3 In Pali the 1st pers. fut. atmane, and the 1st pers. cond. (parassa and atmane) both end in issam. In the cond. the augment may be dropped, so that sandhdvissam might be a future or a conditional.

4 Sanskrit 12 (for ishit), and ishub.

⁵ Compare Dh. p. 404.

mentators upon this passage of Vimanavatthu observe with truth that upavasissam is for upavasim, for here the future is used in a past sense."

Verse 166. Attadattham paratthena bahuná pi na hápaye Attadattham abhinnáya sadatthapasuto siyá.

I think the meaning of this verse is, "Let him not forego his own spiritual good for the sake of another man's, however great; when he has discerned his own spiritual good, let him devote himself thereto." This is, I think, in accordance with the comment, and makes the sentiment one to which no exception can be taken, even from a Christian point of view. Attha is constantly used in Páli in the sense of spiritual good, and this very word sadattha (sva-artha) is used at page 12 of Turnour's Mahávamsa, where Arhatship or spiritual perfection is intended. The words are:—

Sve sannipáto, \bar{A} nanda ; sekhena gamana \bar{m} tahi \bar{m}

Na yuttan te; sadatthe tvam appamatto tato bhava. "To-morrow, Knanda, is the convocation, it is not right that thou shouldst attend it while yet imperfect, strive earnestly therefore for thy spiritual good."

Verse 32. Appamádarato bhikkhu pamáde bhayadassivá Abhabbo parihánaya nibbánass' eva santike.

The meaning of parihána here is "falling away," "falling off," "retrogression." The comment says, "A priest who is in this state is not liable to fall away either from the state of tranquillity and contemplation, or from the Four Paths and their fruition: if he has attained them, he cannot lose them; if he has not yet attained them, he cannot fail to do so." Compare the passage at Dham. p. 254, where Godhika Thera is said to have attained the first Jhána and then fallen away from it: the expressions used are, "samádhikam cetovimuttim phusitvá tato pariháyi," "chakkhattum jhánam nibbattetvá parihino," "jháná parihino." I would render the whole verse "The recluse who delights in diligence, who sees danger in sloth, is not liable to fall away from holiness, but is close upon

¹ Compare also Dham. verse 364, Dhammam anussaram bhikkhu saddhamma na parihdyati, the recluse who remembers the Law will never fall away from true religion.

the attainment of Nirvâṇa." That is to say, his salvation is assured, nothing can prevent its accomplishment. Nibbána here means kleçapariṇirvâṇa or Arhatship (see the comment).

Verse 55. Candanam tagaram vá pi uppalam atha vassiki Etesam gandhajátánam silagandho anuttaro.

The meaning of the second hemistych is, "The perfume of virtue (síla) far surpasses the perfume of these spices." There is a confusion in the construction, as the literal rendering would be, "Of these sorts of perfumes (gandhajátáni), the perfume of virtue is the best." I do not see how síla can be taken as anything but the Sanskrit çíla; the commentator takes it so, and the analogy of the preceding and following verses requires it.

Verse 71. Na hi pápam katam kammam sajjukhiram va muccati Duham tam bálam anveti bhasmácchanno va pávako.

The word muccati, in Páli, when applied to milk, means "to curdle," literally, "to be got rid of," I suppose because, in the process of curdling, the milk in great measure disappears and is replaced by curds. The Sthavira Subhúti informs me that the true version of the comment is, Sajjukhiran ti tankhanam yeva dhenuyá thanehi dhovitvá gahitakhiram, na muccatiti na parinamati na pakatibhávam jahati na dadhibhavam ápajjati, "Sajjukhíra means milk just drawn from the previously washed udder of the cow; na muccati means that it does not change, does not leave its original state, does not turn into curds." This explanation makes sajju not an independent word qualifying the sentence na hi pápam katam kammam muccati, but the first part of a compound word sajjukhira, meaning "new milk." It is a satisfactory solution of the difficulty, and the sense of the whole verse would be, "As newly drawn milk will not curdle for a long while, as fire covered by ashes goes on smouldering for a long while, so it takes a long while to get rid of the consequences of an evil action." Of course in a translation the play upon the two meanings of muccati is lost, and the simile is deprived of most of its force. It is worthy of notice than in the Simhalese Prakrit mid, the equivalent of muc, means, according to Clough, "to loosen, to release," and also "to congeal, to coagulate."

Verse 252. Sudassam vajjam aññesam attano pana duddasam Paresam hi so vajjáni opunáti yathá bhusam Attano pana chádeti kalim va kitavá satho.

"The faults of others are easily seen, our own are difficult to see; a man winnows his neighbour's faults like chaff, his own he keeps out of sight as the fradulent gambler hides his loaded dice." Fausböll translates yathá bhusam, "as much as possible," taking it as a compound word, the equivalent of which would be yathábhriçam in Sanskrit. But bhusa in Páli means also "chaff," and the use of opunáti almost positively demands that yathá bhusam should be translated "like chaff." The commentator takes this view in the most decided and unmistakable manner, for he says bhusam opunanto viya opunáti, "winnows them like one winnowing chaff." The force and beauty of the metaphor is obvious enough.

Verse 257. I do not see how dhammassa gutto can be rendered "custos legis," since gutta (gupta) is used only in a passive sense. I would translate the passage, "The wise man who is guarded by justice (or by the Law) is called just." A man guarded by justice would of course mean a man whose actions or words are directed by a sense of justice. The comment says dhammagutto dhammarakkhito, which can only mean "guarded by dhamma, kept by dhamma."

Verse 272. Dhammáráma informs me that the true reading of the last line is bhikkhu vissása' m'ápádi appatto ásavakkhayam, or rejecting sandhi bhikkhu vissásam má ápádi appatto ásavakkhayam, "priest, be not confident as long as thou hast not attained the extinction of desire:"

Verse 283. Vanam chindatha má rukkham vanato jáyati bhayam

Chetvá vanañ ca vanathañ ca nibbáná hotha bhikkhave. "Cut down the whole forest, not the tree, danger comes out of the forest; when ye have cut down both the forest and its undergrowth, then shall ye be free from passion." Half the force of this passage is lost in a translation, from the impossibility of rendering the play on the two meanings of vana. It is doubtful whether nibbáná or nibbaná (nis+vana) be the right reading. Vána² means "desire" in Páli as well as '1 See Abhidhánappadípiká, 453: it is the Sanskrit busa. 2 Abhidhán, 163.

vana, and nibbána would not be a participle, but an adjective meaning "free from vána or lust."

Verse 344. Subhúti informs me that the true reading is nibbanatho, and the first line means, "he who having got rid of desire hankers again for desire." The readings of Fausböll's three manuscripts are nibbanatho, nibbanato, and nibbanato.¹ Mr. Fausböll now agrees with me in thinking that the two last are obvious copyists' errors.

Verse 289. Nibbánagamanam maggam khippam eva visodhaye. This is an instance of Nibbána, meaning both Nirvânas. (See my remarks at p. 221).

Verse 331. Tutihi sukhá yá itaritarena, "A blessed thing is joy, whatever be the cause." Itaritura in Páli does not mean "mutual," but "any whatever." Thus in the text of one of the Buddhist classifications we have Idh' ávuso bhikkhu santuttho hoti itaritarena civarena, "contented with whatever robes he is presented with," that is, whether they be of fine or of coarse material. In this verse káranena might be supplied after yá itaritarena. The comment says parittena vá vipulena vá, "caused by a small or a great matter." Any one who has seen a child in ecstasies of delight over the veriest trifle will agree that "a blessed thing is joy, whatever be the cause."

Verse 369. Chetvá rágañ ca dosañ ca tato nibbánam ehisi. "When thou hast rooted out lust and hate then shalt thou go to Nirvâṇa." Here Skandhapariṇirvâṇa or Anupadhiçeshaṇirvâṇa is intended, for he who has rooted out râga and dvesha is the Arhat (vitarága), who "afterwards" (tato, or, as the comment says, aparabháge, viz., at the end of the few years he has to live), attains the annihilation of being. The comment distinctly specifies this Nirvâṇa to be Anupadhiçeshanirvâṇa: the words are rágadosabandhanáni chinditvá arahattaṃ patto tato aparabháge anupadhisesanibbánaṃ ehisti attho, "having severed the bonds of lust and hate and attained Arhatship, thereafter thou shalt go to Nirvâṇa." It will be observed that the Páli equivalent of upadhiçesha is upádisesa. This is a compound of sesa (çesha) with upádi, a masculine noun formed from the root dà "to take" with â and upa. Upádi

¹ See Dham, p. 466.

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is closely allied with upádána, the more regularly formed derivative of upa-a-pa, and is used to designate the Five This word is interesting because it is one of the Skandhas. forms which give evidence that the Pali or southern recension of the Buddhist scriptures is the original one, and that the oldest Sanskrit texts of Northern Buddhism are translations from it, possibly made some time after the Páli text of the Tripitaka had been settled. Upádi is one of the unclassical forms which abound in Páli, and restore to it so much of the wealth it loses from assimilation and other causes. syllable di must be formed from Dâ, on the analogy of dhi from DHA. I imagine, then, that the translators of the Páli religious texts into Sanskrit, meeting with this word, and unable to make anything of it, replaced it by the nearest approach they could find to it in classical Sanskrit, viz., Upadhi.1 Other instances might be adduced; thus the word phásuvihára occurs frequently in the Páli Tripitaka with the meaning of "life of ease or happiness." Phásu is a Páli neuter noun, meaning "comfort, ease, happiness," the etymology of which I have failed to discover. The author of Saddharmapundarika,2 meeting with the word phásu, took it for the equivalent of sparça, and rendered the compound phásuvihára by sukhasparcavihâratâ, "life of agreeable contacts." But phásu can really have nothing to do with sparça, first because its meaning and use are totally distinct from those of sparça,3 and secondly because the regularly formed equivalent of sparça, namely phassa, is in constant use in Páli in the sense of "touch" or "contact." Again, the Páli word páramitá, "perfection," is formed by adding the suffix tá to párami, an anomalously formed derivative of parama. The author of Saddharmapundarîka probably found the form párami very puzzling, for he almost entirely ignores it, and employs the longer form paramita, which he takes to be a

Upadhi is used also in Páli in a metaphysical sense, the four Upadhis being the Skandhas, the Kamagunas, Kleça, and Abhisamskara.
 Lotus, p. 425-7.
 For instance, phdsugamanam, "pleasant journey," phdsukam thdnam, "comfortable quarters." Besides phdsu is properly an adjective, see Abhidhan. p. 15,

Intr. p. 464. Parami is a feminine noun, the plur. is paramiyo.

compound of para and ita, like paragata. The circumstance that parami is much more frequently used in Pali than paramita, is almost conclusive against this derivation. Again, the well-known Pali word uposatha is simply a contracted form of upavasatha, but the o in the second syllable evidently misled the Sanskrit translators, for the North Buddhist equivalent is uposhadha, which seems to be a sort of compromise between the Pali form uposatha and the Sanskrit part. perf. pass. uposhita.

Verse 295. Mátaram pitaram hantvá rájáno dve ca sotthiye

Veyyagghapañcamam hantvá anigho yáti bráhmano.

"The true brahmin goes scatheless though he have killed father and mother, and two holy kings, and an eminent man besides."

It is a remarkable fact that Çâkyamuni, though never remiss in declaiming against the errors of the Brahmins, adopted the word bráhmaṇa, with all its sanctity and prestige, into his own system, but made it a denomination of the Arhat, or devout Buddhist who has attained to final sanctification. Buddha even applied the epithet to himself in a *Udánagáthá*, "hymn of joy," he uttered after his attainment of omniscence.

Yadá have pátubhavanti dhammá Ātápino jháyino bráhmanassa Ath' assa kankhá 'v' apayanti sabbá Yato pajánáti sahetudhammam.

"When the Truth is made manifest to the striving, the meditating brahmin, then his doubts all flee away when he knows existing things and their causes." The Brahmanavagga of Dhammapada tells us that the true Brahmin is not he who is born of Brahmin parents, but the man in whom passion is destroyed—khinasavam arahantam tam aham brumibrahmanam. But to return to our verse: Fausböll thinks the sentiment it conveys inconsistent with Buddhist doctrine, though quite in accordance with the Brahminical system. This, however, is on the assumption that the word brahmana is taken in its natural sense, whereas we have seen that it may perfectly mean an Arhat, and the comment says nikkilesa, which is the ¹ See Burn. Intr. p. 464; Lotus, p. 544.

same thing. In my judgment this verse is intended to express in a forcible manner the Buddhist doctrine that the Arhat cannot commit a serious sin. It is as much as saying, "An Arhat cannot commit sin, but were he to commit even sins so dreadful as parricide and murder he would be scatheless," that is, as Dr. Max Müller has observed, if he does commit these crimes, it must be by accident, so that no guilt would rest upon him. Veyyaggha is a derivative of vyaggha, and means, I think, "an eminent man," literally, "a tigerish man."

Verse 302. I think the comment affords a satisfactory explanation of this difficult verse, "The traveller on the long road of Samsára meets with nothing but pain; painful is the life of the recluse, painful is the life of the householder, painful is association with those who are not our equals: therefore let him travel no more, and so he will not be exposed to suffering." That is, let him obtain Nirvâna, and bring to an end his journey through Samsára. Compare p. 280 of Dhammapada, where it is said that there are two sorts of roads on which a man may be a traveller, kantáraddhá, a road though a difficult country, and vattaddhá, the road through Samsara.

Verse 368. Adhigacche padam santam sankharupasamam sukham.

"He will attain the tranquil, blessed lot, where existence is no more." Here I believe Skandhaparinirvana to be intended, as in the verse which immediately follows, and which we have already considered. From a Buddhist point of view there is really no reason why annihilation should not be spoken of as "blessed," or even as "bliss"; it is a "happy release" from suffering which without it would be endless.

Verse 394. Kin te jaṭáhi dummedha kin te ajinasáṭiyá
Abbhantaram te gahanam báhiram parimajjasi.

"Thou fool, what dost thou with the matted hair, what dost thou with the raiment of skin? thine inward parts are full of wickedness, the outside thou makest clean." Abbhantaram is a noun, and means "inner man," "heart." It is, I think, best to take gahanam as an adjective in agreement with

¹ Abhabbo khindsavo bhikkhu sañcicca panam jivita voropetum, etc.
2 Vritta, "the circle of Samsara"+adhvan.
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abbhantaram, and meaning, choked, filled up, impenetrable from the forest growth of sin; or it might be taken as the noun gahanam, "a forest or jungle," "a thicket." The metaphor is the same as at verse 283, where vana means desire or lust.

Verse 396. Bhovádi náma so hoti, "he is called Arrogant." In the Páli texts bho is a familiar term of address used to inferiors or equals. The compound bhovádin would mean "one who says bho," and the comment on this verse says, Bhovádíti yo pana ámantanádisu bho ti vatvá vicarati, "a man is called Bhovádin who goes about saying Bho when he accosts people or otherwise addresses them." Brahmins not converted to Buddhism are always represented as saying bho Gotama to Buddha, and this address must have greatly jarred upon pious Buddhists, who never spoke to their master but with the highly reverential epithet of Bhante, "Lord." Buddhists therefore in calling Brahmins Bhovádin meant, I suppose, to imply that they were a proud and haughty class, so proud as to address even the Buddha with familiarity if not disrespect.

Verse 339. Subhúti informs me that the right reading is not manápassa vaná, but manápassavaná, "flowing in the channels of pleasure." Manápassavaná is a compound of manápa and savana, and is an adjective in the nom. fem., agreeing with tanhá, understood. The comment is manápesu rúpádisu savati pavattatíti manápassavaná tanhá bhusá balavati hoti.

Verse 341. Subhúti informs me that sarita is, as conjectured by Fausböll, the part. perf. pass. from "sara-gatimhi," viz., sri. The comment should be saritántti anusaritáni payátáni. At verse 345 the comment should be sárattarattá ti sárattá hutra rattá balavarágarattá ti attho.

Verse 129. Upamam is the accusative of the fem. noun upamâ. Attánam upamam katvá exactly conveys the idea, "do as you would be done by." The comment says yathá aham evam aññe pi sattá.

¹ Abhidhan, 536.

² A Tika on Kaccayana, in the India Office, explains bhovddi thus: Bho bho vaditum sitam assati bhovddi, "one whose custom it is to say bho to people is a bhovddi.

See, for instance, Dham. p. 98. From sru, "to flow."