

XIV.

DESCRIPTION OF TWO CUFIC COINS.

[Read before the Numismatic Society 27th June, 1839].

BOTH these coins are nearly of the same date, and in a very good state of preservation. They both belong, virtually, but not nominally, to the reign of the same sovereign; viz. the celebrated Bedru-d dín Lúlú, or Lóló, whose name is well known to all who have read the "Thousand and One Days," or Persian Tales translated by Petis de la Croix.

Bedru-d dín, that "Full-moon of the Faith," as his title implies, was Magister Domus to the last of the Atá-Begs, or Turkish Princes of the Arabian 'Irák, who reigned at Márdín or Mósul (Mausil). These Atá-Begs of the Zingí, or negro race, from being preceptors or fathers of their lords (such is the signification of their title), became themselves independent princes; and after the death of Mas 'úd, the last but two of the Atá-Begs of Irak, A. H. 615 (A. D. 1218), his "Maire du Palais," Lúlú (the "Pearl" of great price) reigned in reality, though as Vicegerent of his two sons, Arselán Sháh, and Marmúd, successively, having become, on the death of the latter without issue, A. H. 631 (A. D. 1234), the nominal, as well as the real, possessor of the Sovereign Power at Mósul.

The legends on these coins are as follows:—

I.

A.—*Effigies Principis more Asiatico sedentis et Lunam arcuatam manibus tenentis, stella subter utramque ulnam in area Numi.*

In ora Numi et juxta faciem altro citroque.

ضرب بالموصل بسنة سبع وشرين وستمائة

Dhuriba bi-l Mauṣil, bi-seneh seba' wa-'ashrín wa-sittamiyah
(i. e. Mauṣilæ cusus Anno DCXXVII, A. D. 1230).

B.—*In Area.*

الإمام	El Imám :	i. e. Antistes :
لا إله إلا الله	Lá-Iláh illá-llah!	(Non est) Deus nisi Deus!
محمد رسول الله	Mohammed Resú-lu-llah!	Mohammed (est) Propheta Dei!
المستنصر بالله	El Mostansir-bi-llah.	El Mostansir billah (i. e. Qui quærit opem a Deo)
أمير المؤمنين	Emíru-l Múminín	(est) Imperator Fidelium.

In ora Numi الملك الأشرف ناصر الدنيا والدين

...El Melik el ashraf, Násiru-d-dunyá wa-d-dín
(i. e. Rex Nobilissimus, Auxiliator Sæculi et Fidei).

Násiru-d dín was the distinctive title of the last of the Atá-Begs, *Maḥmúd*, who died A. H. 631 (A. D. 1234).

See Marsden's *Numismata Orientalia*, p. 166, Tab x. No. c.

Adler, *Museum Cuficum Borgianum Pars ii.* (or *Collectio Nova Nummorum Cuficorum*) Tab. iv. No. lxiv., has a coin very like this, bearing date (according to his text, not according to his plate) A. H. DCLIV. (A. D. 1256).

II.

A.—*In Area.*

الإمام	El Imám :	i. e. Antistes .
المستنصر	El Mostansir	(El Mostansir bi-llah
بالله أمير	bi-llah, Emir	(Opem quaerens a Deo)
المؤمنين	el Múminín	Imperator Fidelium.

B.—*In ora.*

الملك الكامل ال... [بدر] الدنيا والدين لولو

El Melik el Kámil el. [Bedru]-d dunyá wa-d-dín Lúlú,
(i. e. Rex Perfectus... Margarita, Luna plena Fidei).

See Marsden, Numism. Orient. p. 168, Tab. x. No. clxxxii.
(clxxxi), where the inscription round the head is incorrectly
deciphered.

Adler, Mus. Cufic. Borg. Pars. i. p. 66, Tab. v. No. xxxiv.

Mus. Cuf. Borg. Pars ii. p. 90. Tab. iv. No. lxiii.

The high preservation of these coins, and the legibility
of their inscriptions greatly enhance their value.

G. C. R.

21st June, 1839.
