

periods, and by different authors, and not less extravagant in their fictions than the great poems. It has been imagined that, in some of these writings, events and names of men bearing some resemblance to those spoken of by the Greeks and Latins, might be discovered; and it is chiefly from these resemblances of names that Mr Wilfort has attempted to extract from the Pouranas a kind of concordance with our ancient chronology of the west; a concordance which, in every line, betrays the hypothetical nature of its basis, and which, moreover, can only be admitted by absolutely rejecting the dates given in the Pouranas themselves*.

The list of kings which the Indian pundits or doctors pretend to have compiled according to these Pouranas, are nothing but mere catalogues without any details, or adorned with absurd ones, like those of the Chaldeans and Egyptians, and like those which Trithemus and Saxo Grammaticus have made up for the northern nations †.

* See the elaborate Memoir of Mr Wilfort, on the chronology of the kings of Magadha, and the Indian emperors, and on the epochs of Vicramaditya or Bikeradjit, and Salivahanna, in the Calcutta Memoirs, vol. ix. p. 82. 8vo. edit.

† See Sir William Jones on the chronology of the Hindoos, Calcutta Memoirs, vol. ii. p. 111. See also Wilfort