

These lists are far from corresponding ; none of them supposes a history, or registers, or records ; the very basis on which they rest may have been purely imagined by the poets from whose works they have been extracted. One of the pundits who furnished Mr Wilfort with them, acknowledged that he had arbitrarily filled up the spaces between the celebrated kings with imaginary names \*, and avowed that his predecessors had done the same. If this be true of the lists obtained by the English at the present day, how should it not be so of those given by Abou-Fazel, as extracts from the annals of Cachmere †, and which, besides, full of fables as they are, do not extend farther back than 4300 years, of which more than 1200 are occupied with names of princes whose reigns, in as far as regards their duration, remain undetermined.

Even the era, accordingly, from which the Indians count their years at the present day, which commences fifty-seven years before Christ, and

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on the same subject, *Ibid.* vol. v. p. 241. and the lists which he gives in his essay cited above, vol. ix. p. 116.

\* Wilfort, *Calcutta Mem.* 8vo. vol. ix. p. 133.

† In the *Ayeen-Acbery*, vol. ii. p. 138. of the English transl. See also Heeren, *Commerce of the Ancients*, vol. i. part ii. p. 329.