

## NOTE E. (SEE PAGE 461.)

ON THE KAMRU OF IBN BATUTA (THE RESIDENCE OF THE  
SHAikh JALALUDDIN), THE BLUE RIVER, AND THE  
CITY OF HABANK.

It has, I believe, been generally assumed that the country of Kamru visited by Ibn Batuta was *Assam*, and that the Blue River by which he returned to the Ganges Delta was the Brahmaputra. And I gather that M. DeFrémery (iv, 215) takes this view.

It appeared to me however when I took up the subject that there was some reason to believe that the district visited was SILHET, and that the river in question was one branch or other of the great Silhet River, the *Barak* or the *Surma*. This was first suggested by the statement in the text that Shaikh Jaláluddin had converted a large number of the inhabitants to the Mahomedan faith; for it is a fact that in Silhet, though so remote from the centres of Mahomedan influence, there is an unusually large proportion of the peasantry who profess that religion. It seemed however probable that if Silhet *were* the site of Jaláluddin's missionary exertions, some trace of his memory would be preserved there. And of this I speedily found indications in two English works, whilst at the same time I forwarded through a valued friend, who had a correspondent at Silhet, some brief queries for answer on the spot.

In the interesting narrative of Robert Lindsay, who was one of the first English residents or collectors of Silhet (*Lives of the Lindsays*, iii, 168), we find that on his first arrival there he was told "that it was customary for the new resident to pay his respects to the shrine of the tutelar saint SHAW JULOLL. Pilgrims of the Islam faith flock to the shrine from every part of India, and I afterwards found that the fanatics attending the tomb were not a little dangerous", etc. An article on Silhet, by Captain Fisher, in the J.A.S. Bengal for 1840 (the exact citation I have unluckily lost), also speaks of Shah Jalál's shrine, and of his being traditionally regarded as the conqueror of the country for the Mahomedans.

Kámrúb, Kámrún, or Kámrú, corrupted from the Sanscrit *Kámarúpa* or Kamrup, was vaguely known to the Arab geographers as the name of a mountainous country between India and China, noted for its production of a valuable aloes-wood (see *Gildemeister*, pp. 70, 191; and *Reinaud*, *Rel. des Voyages*, etc., p. 41). Though the seat of the ancient Hindu Government of Kamrup was probably in Assam, a central district of which still preserves the name, we are informed by Captain Fisher (with no view to such a question as the present) that "it is known that Kamrup extended to the southward as far as the confluence of the Megna with the Brahmaputra" (*i. e.*, to the vicinity of Dacca; *o. c.*, p. 829). He adds that there are still in Silhet some Musalman families who are the descendants of Rajas once under the dynasty of Kamrup, and who were