



other excavations. Beyond this cave is an area exposed to the sky, round which are excavated a number of small and
* 45 unequal-sized cells: the entrance to * most of them is choked up by thick entangled bushes, through which I was not inclined to attempt a passage, their external appearance promising but little in their favour. On the wall of one of those less difficult of access is a large figure seated on a bench, with two attending figures carved in alto-relievo like the design (marked No. 1, drawing No. 2) at Kennery, which I suppose to represent Boudha, but it is much defaced.

MONTPEZIR CAVE.

About two miles north-by-west from the caves of Magatanic is Montpezir, where stand the ruins of a Catholic monastery built by the Jesuits in the sixteenth century. This monastery covers a large extent of ground, was built with great solidity, and, if any judgment may be formed from what remains, the chapel appears to have been elegantly finished, the mouldings, ornaments, and images of wood now lying scattered about the place being very curiously and handsomely carved. Below the monastery, on the eastern side of the hill, is excavated an ancient Hindoo temple, which was afterwards converted to the use of the monastery—for what purpose it would be now difficult to ascertain. Its walls and pillars were by the Portuguese covered with a thick coat of plaster, which has proved the means of preserving the few mutilated remains of sculpture that their bigotry had spared. In a recess on the left hand as you enter (*vide a* in the ground-plan) is the painting of a saint, still fresh, on the wall: opposite to this are now visible (the plaster having been removed) the relics of a fine piece of sculpture (*vide* No. 1, drawing No. 5) representing, as it appears to me, a nuptial ceremony;—a female figure leaning on her attendants seems advancing towards the hero of the piece, who is of gigantic stature and has six arms; in one corner is a musician playing on the tom-tom, and above are a host of celestial attendants, amongst which the three-headed Brahma, Vishnu riding on Garoode with the lotus in his hand, and Ganesa with his usual attributes, are at once discovered. This and the sa-



ered *cobra de capelle* on his right, at once point out Sieva as the leading figure; and it is doubtless meant to represent his marriage with Parwuttee, like that at Ellora in the Doomar Leyna, described by Sir Charles Mallet in the *Asiatic Researches*.

The only figures besides these * at present freed from * 46 the plaster are in the cave marked (c) in the ground-plan, which was in November 1805 so filled with mud as to be inaccessible. The pillars are of the order of Elephanta (*vide* No. 2, drawing No. 4); the form and dimensions of the caves will be best seen by the ground-plan, which is drawn on a scale, though the measurements are not very accurately taken. I cannot quit this place without remarking that there is perhaps no spot in the world where the Catholic and Heathen imagery come so closely in contact as here,—where a Portuguese monastery has a temple of the Hindoos for its foundation, and where the exploits of their God of Terror are sculptured on one side, and the form of a meek Christian saint painted on the other.

KENERY CAVES.

About nine miles east-south-east from Montpezir are the more celebrated caves of Kenery, called by Hamilton and some of its earlier visitors the City of Canorin. As there is no regular road † to them from Montpezir, it was necessary to clear a path as we proceeded, the whole of this part of the island being covered with a thick and almost impenetrable jungle: this prevented us from seeing much of the surrounding country; yet at times, as we descended into the gullies down which the torrents rush in the rainy season, the scenery, though still confined, was extremely wild and picturesque. The ascent to the hill, in the sides of which the caves are excavated, is tolerably gradual until within a few hundred yards of the southernmost, when the path becomes steep and rugged, and so closely shaded with

† The caves of Kenery are perfectly accessible from the main road leading from Bombay to Tannah, the principal town of Salsette. From Montpezir if Mr. Salt had had more leisure he would probably have gone to Gorabunder, the northern point of the island, from which place to Tannah it is usual to go in boats along a narrow channel bordered by scenes of singular beauty. [There is a direct road through Bhandup, on the G. I. P. R. line.—Ed.]