



MAGATHANA.

The caves at Mâgâthâṇâ were also Buddhist,¹ but small and so dilapidated as not to merit much attention. They are excavated in the lower district of the island, and even in the hot season they stand in pools of water. In the back of the hall of the principal cave is a large figure of Buddha, squatted in the *Jñyâna Mudra*, or attitude of abstraction, and above his shoulders are other smaller images in the same attitude. The other walls of this shrine or recess have also been sculptured with numerous figures of Buddha on the lotus throne upheld by Nâgâ figures, &c. Over the arched entrance to it is a fine *torâṇa* or ornamental frieze between two *makara* heads. This frieze is continued in compartments to the right and left along the side walls, and in one panel is a dâgoba in bas-relief with traces of two worshipping figures beside it. The pillars are of the style of Cave VII. at Ajaṇṭâ.

¹ Strangely enough Dr. Wilson describes them as Brahmanical.