

## THE CITY OF KHAJURAHO.

That Khajuraho was once a large city is attested by the extent of its ruins which cover an area of about eight square miles. Its old name, as given in the inscriptions, was *Sri Kharjuravahaka*. The bard Chand in his *Prithiviraja Rasisa* calls it *Khajurapura* or *Khajjimpura*. Tradition ascribes the origin of the name to two golden Khajur trees (date palms), with which one of the city gates was ornamented, but it was more probably due to the abundance of palm trees in the neighbourhood.

The earliest mention of the place is by Abu Rihan, who accompanied Mahmud of Ghazni in his campaign against Kalanjar in 1022 A.D., and speaks of it as the capital of Jijhoti. The next mention is by Ibn Batuta, who visited it about 1335 A.D., during Muhammad Shah Tughlaq's reign and calls it "Kajura," adding that "there is a lake about a mile in length and round this lake are temples in which are idols. At this place resides a tribe of *Jogis* with long and matted hair. Their colour inclines to yellow, which arises from their fasting. Many of the Moslems of these parts attend on them and learn magic from them."

The earliest mention of the province of Jejahuti, which corresponded with the modern district of Bundelkhand, is by the Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tshang, who was travelling in India between 629 and 645 A.D. He does not mention any chief town but calls the country Chih-chi-to. He refers to the fertility of the country and says that the bulk of the people were not Buddhists; that though there were many dozens of monasteries there were but a few brethren, while there were twelve temples with a thousand Brahmans attached to them. The king himself was a Brahman but a firm believer in Buddhism.

The opinion is expressed by Mr. Vincent Smith that Eran near Saugor, and not Khajuraho, may have been the capital of Jejakabhukti