

split. This stone has been used for all the Topes and other buildings where mere hardness and durability were required; but for the colonnades and sculptured gateways a fine-grained white sandstone was brought from the Udayagiri hill, three miles and a half to the northward.

3. The group of Topes at Sánchi is represented in Plate IV. The Topes are numbered from 1 to 11, and the other objects are described in the plan. Of these the most remarkable is a large stone bowl, now lying on a small mound between the two principal Topes. The interior dimensions of the bowl are—diameter, $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet; depth, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet. The thickness at top is 6 inches, at bottom 18 inches. The size of this bowl agrees so closely with that of the golden vessel,* in which Asoka despatched the “cutting” of the great Bo-tree to Ceylon, that it seems highly probable the Sánchi bowl must once have held a sacred tree. Indeed I feel inclined to go even farther, for I suspect that this bowl once held the holy nettle which Buddha himself had bitten off and planted. But this depends upon the identification of *Sánchi* with the *Shá-chi* of Fa Hian, a point which I will now examine.

4. On leaving *Ki-jao-i*, or Kanoj, Fa Hian proceeded about twenty miles to the opposite bank of the Ganges; and from thence, he says, “ten *yojans* to

* *Mahavanso*, pp. 111, 112. Asoka's vase was nine cubits in circumference, three cubits in diameter, five cubits in depth, and eight fingers (*atthangula*) in thickness.