

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## I. TORRES STRAITS LANGUAGES.

*Grand Hotel, Thursday Island,  
Torres Straits.*

*Nov. 8, 1898.*

MY DEAR SIR,—As you will see by above address, I acceded to Professor Haddon's request that I should accompany the Cambridge Anthropological Expedition to Torres Straits. Leave was granted me from my school studies. We have been enabled to make a very interesting study of the natives of the Torres Straits Islands, and of the Hood Bay, Port Moresby, and Yule Island natives in New Guinea. You will be interested to know of the philological material which I have been able to gather:—

1. Grammar and Vocabulary of the Murray Island language.
2. Grammar and Vocabulary of Mabuiag and other dialects of Western Torres Straits.
3. Grammatical notes of :
  - (a) Hula and Keapara (Hood Bay).
  - (b) Sinangoro (inland from Kapakapa) and Aloma (east of Hood Bay).
  - (c) Cloudy Bay.
  - (d) Grammar of Nara or Pokan language (east of Hall Sound).
  - (e) Roro (Yule Island), Mekeo (St. Joseph River).
  - (f) Kiwai (Fly River).

- (g) Note on language of Cape York tribe (North Queensland).  
 (h) Grammatical note on Koitapu language (Port Moresby).

I find that there is a great advantage in making inquiries as to language on the spot, and have received much help from missionaries.

SYDNEY H. RAY.

## 2. PĀLI MSS. IN NEPAL.

*Kathmandu, Jan. 1, 1899.*

DEAR DAVIDS,—You will be interested, and doubtless also other Pāli scholars, to hear that I have found in the Maharāja's library here, in a bundle of unrecognized fragments, three palm-leaves in Gupta character, evidently from a large book, and containing an index to some Pāli suttas, and giving the beginning of each sutta in Pāli. Of course, I have no Pāli reference-books here, and cannot say whether the leaves were at the end of a MS. of one of the Nikāyas; but I have photographed them, so we can work this point out at leisure. But it is satisfactory to find that in this country, which one considered hitherto exclusively Mahāyānist, the Hīnayāna literature was known in early times. It is only another proof (if proof were needed) to show how absurd it is to call the Hīnayāna 'Southern,' and to identify Pāli literature exclusively with Ceylon, Burma, and the South. In the same bundle were some fragments of a Sanskrit Buddhist work written in a character hitherto only known in Central Asia, and called by Hörnle 'Central Asian Nagari.'—Yours truly,

C. BENDALL.

## 3. BUDDHIST SCULPTURES FROM TAKHT-Ī-BAHĀĪ.

The two panels of carved stone represented by the accompanying photographs were found, after the Malakhand expedition of 1897, in the ruins of Takht-ī-Bahāī, an ancient fortified city which is situated in the Yusufzai country near