

CORRESPONDENCE.

1. DIMĀPUR.

102, *Cheyne Walk, Chelsea,*
London, S.W.

SIR,—A good many years ago one of our members drew my attention to a description of remains at Dimāpur,¹ like those described in Dr. Burton-Brown's paper in your April number (perhaps, in part, the same), and asked me to look out for the like in Western India: this I did, and found pillars of masonry and plaster-work in two places—gates of the Musalman citadels of Bijapur and Sholapur, where they supported chains stretched across the approaches. I think that the chain may still be in use, at least at Sholapur. These pillars were of Dr. Burton-Brown's mushroom-headed type. I have never seen anything like his Y-shaped type in stone. It seems possible, as he suggests, that the form of these mushroom pillars may be due to the influence of Musalman art, though their use be changed in the service of another purpose. It might be worth while to examine the pillars closely for the remains of staples, or chafe-marks of ropes passed round the stalk of the mushroom; and perhaps some Musalman building in Upper India may show the form a little nearer to Dimāpur than the Deccan is.

The fort of Raigarh, in the Kolaba district of Bombay, shows a temple of Mahadeo, built by the thoroughly Hindu

¹ Vide Fergusson's "Indian and Eastern Architecture," p. 309, where he quotes the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, vol. xliii, part i, 1874.

Sivaji Raja in 1662-4, which externally might be taken for a Bijapur Musalman's tomb of the same period. Probably many similar cases could be quoted from different parts of India.

W. F. SINCLAIR (late I.C.S.).

April 22, 1897.

2. "PEDRO TEIXEIRA."

SIR,—I can find out little about the book whose title-page I translate below¹; and nothing about the author, but what is to be found in the book. I think that what I have learnt may be of some novelty and interest to many members; and I hope that some may be able to tell us more.

Pedro Teixeira (as he spells himself) was a Portuguese, of what locality or parentage does not appear; but he was not noble. He was engaged in business, undescribed, but evidently extensive; as his connections were with Goa, Persia and the Gulf, Malacca, Lisbon, Venice, and Antwerp. He does not mention his goods, except a little indigo (apparently used rather as a substitute for currency than as investment), drugs, jewels, and curios.

He had some reading in late Greek and Latin, mentioning, as authorities on Eastern History, "Procopio, Agathio, Genebrardo, Zonaras, and Tornamira," from whom, he says, he could learn little. In Persian he was able to read "Mirkond," and Thurán Shah's "Shahnama" (of Hormuz, a very different work from Firdausi's). He knew Spanish, but, as he says himself, not as a scholar; and he must have had some knowledge of Arabic, and probably of several European languages. In 1600 A.D., being at Malacca, and homeward-bound, he got a chance of a passage

¹ "The Relations of Pedro Teixeira concerning the Origin, Descent, and Succession of the Kings of Persia and of Hormuz; and of a Voyage made by the Author himself, from East India to Italy, by land. Antwerp, Hieronymus Verdussen, 1610 (one vol., small octavo)." I have translated as literally as possible, to avoid clogging your pages with the Spanish, excellent in its own place. There is a somewhat tentative bibliography of the work here in question in the old "Penny Cyclopaedia," with mention of three other Portuguese geographers of the same name, but easily separable from our author.