

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF LOPHBURI.

[Through the courtesy of H. R. H. Prince Damrong we are enabled to reprint a translation of the pamphlet on "Lophburi", which was issued by the Prince in 1905, and in which all historical information available was collected.

By reproducing this account it is hoped that, quite apart from its intrinsic value, it will form a fitting introduction to Mr. Giblin's paper, which it expands in that part dealing with the history of Lophburi.]

Lophburi was formerly called Lavo and in the annals of the North it is related that it was founded by King Kalavarnadis or the Black Tissa of Taksila in the Buddhist era 1011 (Ch. E. 468). In the history of Chama Deviwongs giving the history of Haribhunjai it is related that when Muang Haribhunjai (the present Muang Nakhon Lamphun of Monthon Phayab) was built in B. E. 1200 (Ch. E. 654) people asked for Nang Chama Devi the daughter of Phya Chakr (or Emperor of Muang Lavo) to govern Muang Haribhunjai as chief.

If we compare these traditions with archaeological objects still preserved in Lophburi, it may be accepted that Muang Lavo was founded by a chief of a Khom people who established the city about 1400 years ago and it became the capital of the Kings who were Sovereigns of the princes established in the Menam Chao Phya Valley up to the Menam Khong in the North until about B. E. 1500 (Ch. E. 957). Then for some reasons not yet known the power of these Khom Kings gradually got less, and King Sri Dharmatraipitok the "Thai" came down from Chieng Sen and brought the whole of the southern country under his rule and he appointed his son, Chao Kraisararaja, Prince of Lavo. Since that time the Kings governed from either Ayodhya or Lavo as capital for about one hundred years until King Chand Joti governed in Lavo. He altered the name of the capital into Lophburi and he had to abandon the territory up to Monthon Phayab to Chao Anuruddha and to acknowledge the Sovereignty of Bhukam (Burma). After the death of King Anuruddha the princes of these parts became heads of independent states again in Phayab and Sukhothai, and Muang Lophburi most likely became at that time also independent, as it is stated in the Annals of the North that Phra Naresr the son of King Anuruddha went unsuccessfully to war with Phra Narayana the King of Lophburi. There were most likely a number of Kings governing for several generations. It is however stated in the Annals of the North that there was constant warfare, and

the country was deserted or became dependent on some power. When King Uthong founded Sri Ayodhdhya with the intention of extending his dominions he appointed his son Ramesuen governor of Lophburi, a "Vice-Royal City", and it became an important city as of old in B. E. 1894 (Ch. E. 1351).

Krung Ayodhdhya however became more powerful and its dominions extended and Vice-Royal cities were established at Muang San, Jainad and finally at Pitsanulok. Muang Lophburi became then a provincial town near the capital to which the Kings repaired for pleasure. In the B. E. 2200 (Ch. E. 1657) the King Narayana made Lophburi his residence during the hot and cold season, but it was only kept as such up to the death of King Narayana, as his successors abandoned it and lived at Ayodhdhya only.

The city of Lophburi was in ruins for 150 years up to the reign of His Majesty Phra Chom Klao, who had the wish to establish a Royal Residence there. The old palaces were completely ruined, and only one hall the Chandravisal could be restored. His Majesty had therefore buildings re-erected for his own residence; and he restored the walls and gates, and constructed other buildings, which are kept up to the present time.
