

estimates rests upon so erratic a test as the growth of the seed of the Gunjá creeper (*Abrus precatorius*), under the varied incidents of soil and climate. Nevertheless this small compact grain, checked in early times by other products of nature, is seen to have had the remarkable faculty of securing a uniform average throughout the entire continent of India, which only came to be disturbed when monarchs, like Shír Sháh and Akbar, in their vanity, raised the weight of the coinage without any reference to the number of *ratis* inherited from Hindú sources as the *given* standard, officially recognized in the old, but altogether disregarded and left undefined in the reformed Muhammadan mintages.

I may as well take this opportunity of disposing of the other technical questions bearing upon the general subject; and, without recapitulating the investigations elsewhere given at large,<sup>1</sup> I may state generally, that I understand the *rati* to have been 175 grains, the 100-*rati* piece—reproduced in the ordinary Dehli *tankah*—175 grains. The Rájput *jital*, composed of mixed silver and copper, preserved in the early Dehli currencies of the Muslims, is  $\frac{1}{4}$  in value of the 175-grain silver coin; but the number of *jitals* in any given composite piece was dependent upon the proportional amount of the silver added to the ruling copper basis. The *káni*, like the *jital*, is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the *tankah*; but the *káni* is found to be the practical as well as the theoretical divisor, applicable alike to land and other measures, preserving its more special identity in the southern peninsula. Both terms have now been found in conjunction on a single piece of Metropolitan fabric, where the *jital* is authoritatively declared to be of the value of *one káni*.<sup>2</sup> In more advanced days under the Patháns, immense quantities of pieces were coined to meet the current exchange answering to  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the *tankah*; and under Muhammad Tughlak, amid other useful breaks in the too-uniform descending scale of the small change, a new division was introduced, in the form

<sup>1</sup> Numismatic Chronicle (N.S.), iv., p. 40, et seqq. J.R.A.S. (N.S.) II., pp. 150, 166, 168. Chronicles of the Pathán Kings of Dehli, pp. 161, 262.

<sup>2</sup> Pathán Chronicles, coin No. 207, p. 252. See also pp. 218, 219.