

**A TAMIL HAND-BOOK: OR FULL
INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMON
DIALECT OF THAT LANGUAGE, ON
THE PLAN OF OLLENDORF AND
ARNOLD. IN THREE PARTS, PART I**

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A Tamil Hand-Book: Or Full Introduction to the Common Dialect of That Language, on the Plan of Ollendorf and Arnold. In Three Parts, Part I by G. U. Pope

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G. U. POPE

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A
H A N D - B O O K
OF THE ORDINARY DIALECT OF THE
T A M I L L A N G U A G E,
IN THREE PARTS.

P A R T I.

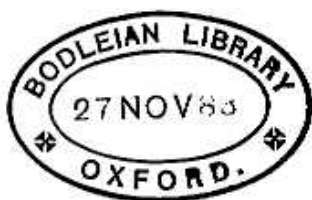
- (I.) INTRODUCTION :
1. HISTORY OF THE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.
2. ORTHOGRAPHY, PRONUNCIATION.
- (II.) GRAMMATICAL LESSONS, VOCABULARIES, AND EXERCISES,
§§ 1-274.
- (III.) GENERAL INDEX.

BY
THE REV. G. U. POPE, D.D.

LONDON:
W. H. ALLEN & CO., 13 WATERLOO PLACE,
PALL MALL. S.W.
PUBLISHERS TO THE INDIA OFFICE.

1883.

S. Lang Draw. $\frac{3}{1}$



PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

No apology is necessary for offering to the Tamil student a book which has long been wanted. In regard to the imperfections which detract from its value, the writer can only say, he has done what he could. He has tried to state the **FACTS** of this noble language succinctly and clearly. The examples, with few exceptions, have been selected from books in universal use in the Tamil country. Should a second edition be published, these examples will be considerably increased in number.

No work can remove from the elements of a language like Tamil all that may embarrass the learner. There are difficulties in it which must be met bravely; but there are, certainly, none which a very moderate degree of attention will not enable anyone, however unpractised in such studies, to overcome.

The following hints may be of use to those who use this book:—

1. Do not proceed too quickly. An entirely new language requires great accuracy in the mastering of its elements.
2. Write down everything from the very beginning. Read always with pen, or pencil, in hand.
3. Read aloud all the exercises with a Tamil teacher; and be very careful in ascertaining the correctness of what you have written.
4. At first, whenever you meet with a new word, look for it in the Vocabulary, and decline or conjugate it in full.
5. Begin to talk—though with stammering lips—as soon as possible—the very first day. Never speak English to a native if you can help it. Why say “salt,” when you can say “உப்பு”? Do not be afraid of making mistakes.
6. Be very careful in noting down differences in idiom, between Tamil and your own language. If you hear much Christian or Cutcherry Tamil, beware of thinking all you hear to be really Tamil. Try to cultivate a Tamil ear, so as to detect an unidiomatic expression, as you would a false note in music. You should *understand* all you hear: you need not *use* any expression that is not good Tamil.

PREFACE.

This little work has been written with a deep feeling of the vast importance of the acquisition by ALL who sojourn in the land, of the language of the people among whom they dwell. Two hours a day for a year will enable most people to converse freely on ordinary topics with those around them.

It is proposed in due time to publish a second part* in which the poetry of the language will be illustrated.

The author would scarcely have ventured to publish, in this country, a book requiring such peculiar attention to accuracy in type and arrangement, had he not been zealously seconded by Mr. P. R. HUNT, the able superintendent of the American Mission Press, to whose efforts to improve Tamil typography all who use the language are indebted.

The earnest wish and prayer of the writer is that his efforts may tend, in however small a degree, to facilitate free intercourse between Hindûs and their brethren from the West, and so aid in the impartation to the former, of all that God has bestowed upon the latter.

TANJORE MISSION HOUSE,

October 5th, 1855.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THE work has been entirely re-written and greatly enlarged. A key has been published and can be had at the printer's. This will be of great use, if consulted prudently.

The author has to offer his sincere acknowledgements to many kind friends for very valuable suggestions.

OOTACAMUND GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

March, 1859.

* See Tamil Poetical Anthology and Third Grammar.

PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION.

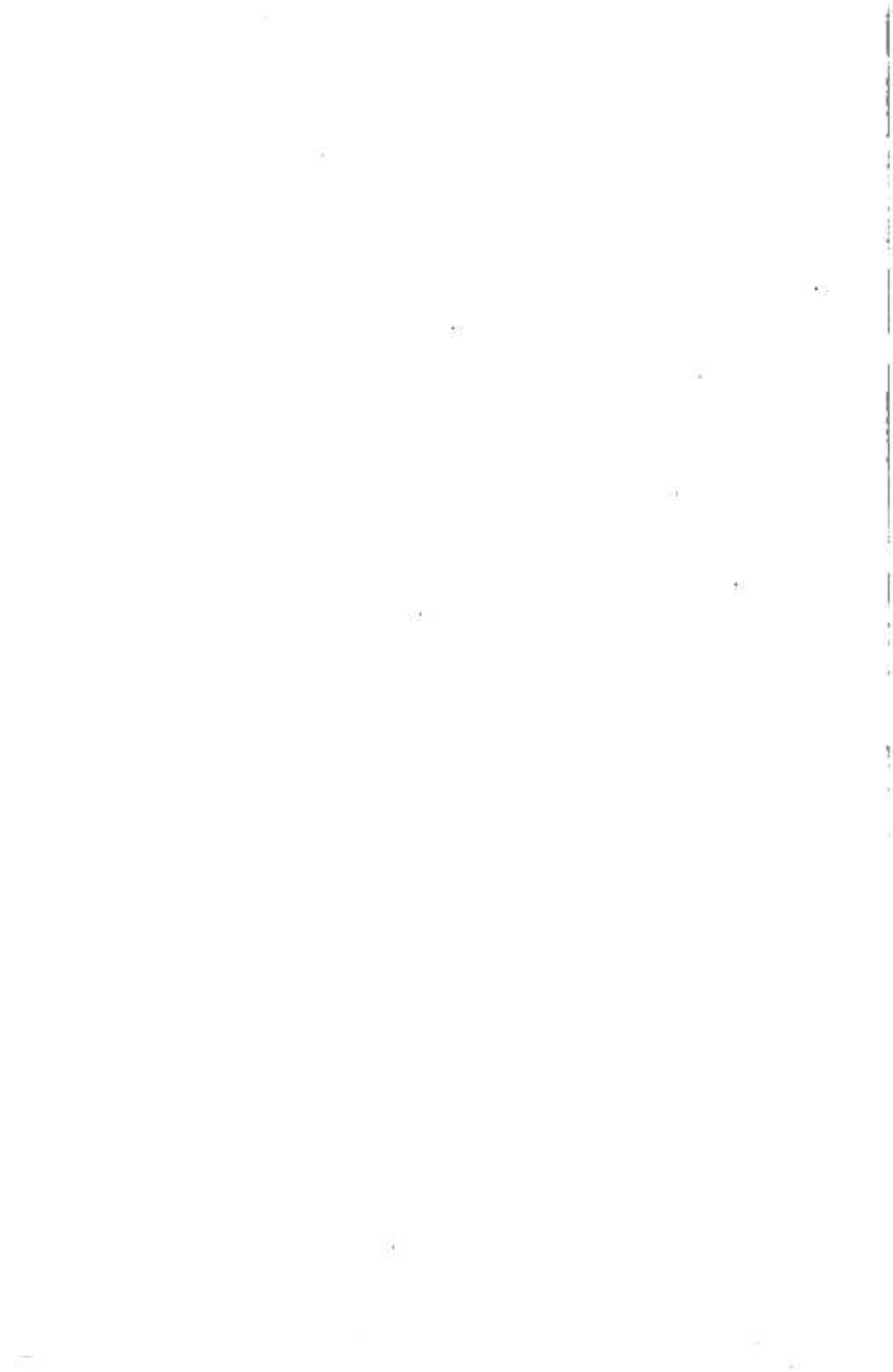
THIS Hand-book has been thoroughly revised, and changes introduced, the result of many years' experience. It is now a specimen of Tamil printing executed in England with surprising accuracy. It is issued in three parts, which can be had separately. The Third Part contains what, it is believed, will be found to be a sufficient dictionary for the majority of students. No word is found there which has not been tested by the author's own experience. The key will form a reading-book by itself, and has notes on analysis.

Notes on the *சுரை* have been added.

The author would fain hope that his humble efforts may be permanently useful to those who study a language which will repay anyone who will thoroughly master it.

To the able co-operation of Mr. F. Pincott it is owing that this work has been issued in England with such neatness and accuracy.

135, BURY NEW ROAD,
HIGHER BROUGHTON, MANCHESTER.
June, 1883.



A TAMIL HAND-BOOK.

INTRODUCTION.

§ I. OF THE TAMIL LANGUAGE IN GENERAL.

1. The Tamil (தமிழ் from Sans. Dravīḍa) is the vernacular speech of about ten millions of people, inhabiting the great plain of the Carnatic. The limits within which it prevails are thus defined in the Nannūl (a standard native grammar): "The eastern boundary is the eastern sea (the Bay of Bengal), the southern boundary is Cape Comorin, the western boundary is the west sea, the northern boundary is Vengadam (or Tripety, a town about 80 miles N.W. of Madras, nearly on the same parallel with Pulicat)." Here the western boundary from Comorin [கும்ரி] to Trivandrum [திருவந்தப்புரம்] is correctly stated, but from Trivandrum northward the Tamil country is confined to the eastern side of the Ghāts. The Tamil region thus includes a portion of south Travancore, the entire Zillahs of Tinevelly, Madura (including the dominions of the Tondiman Rāja), Trichinopoly, Coimbatore, a great part of Salem and of North Arcot, with the whole of South Arcot and Chingleput. North Ceylon also is a Tamil Colony. Tamil communities are to be found in most of the British cantonments in the Dekkan.

2. The principal languages cognate to Tamil are the Telugu, the Kanarese, and the Malayālam.

The Telugu is bounded north by the Uriya (beginning with the district of Ganjam), on the north-west by Marāṭhī, on the south-west by Kanarese, and on the south by Tamil. It differs from the Tamil more widely than do the other cognate dialects.