

**PRINCE ALBERT.
SELECTIONS FROM THE
PRIZE TRANSLATION
OF A GUJARATI POEM**

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Prince Albert. Selections from the prize translation of a Gujarati poem by Muncherjee Cawasjee & W. H. Hamilton

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MUNCHERJEE CAWASJEE & W. H. HAMILTON

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OF A GUJARATI POEM**



*"Prince Albert is his honoured name,
In manliness and wisdom he has no competitor."*

LOMBAY,

PRINTED AT THE EDUCATION SOCIETY'S PRESS, DYCELLA.

PK
1859
C31p

PREFACE.

THE TRANSLATION, from which the following Selections are taken, was finished in November 1864; and was that to which a prize, offered in April of that year, for the best translation of the whole of Munsookh's Gujarati Poem on Prince Albert, was awarded. The original poem is a very long one; and its translation is probably twice or thrice as long as the whole of these Selections. For a variety of reasons, which need not here be enumerated, the publication of the translation was delayed; and even now it has been thought better to publish, at first, these Selections only, rather than, at once, the whole Translation.

The original poem has been largely read by the Gujarati-speaking portion of the Native community of this Presidency; and it has been thought that the presentation in English dress, to English readers, of Native ideas regarding several European institutions, such as are treated of in the poem, will be neither uninteresting nor unprofitable.

With regard to the Translation, it may be remarked that the aim of the translator was,

above all things, to give a *true* translation. He did not seek to alter anything, or make use of language any where which should convey a meaning differing by even a shade from what he conceived to be the meaning of the author. Of course he does not presume to think that he always succeeded in rendering the exact thoughts of the author into English : it was, however, his constant effort to do so.

The style of the Translation is, in most places, ordinary prose ; and in others a kind of rhythmical prose, supposed by the translator to be not altogether unlike the style of the Poetical Books in the English Bible, and of the well-known poems of Ossian. It is only Songs and Hymns, in the original poem, which have been rendered in this style.

Selections from the Translation, such as it is, are now for the first time submitted to the public.

W. H. HAMILTON.

Bombay, 1st January 1870.

SELECTIONS

FROM

THE TRANSLATION OF A POEM ON

PRINCE ALBERT.



The Name of God.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, the Great and the Ancient, who is wiser than the wisest, who in his essence is merciful. In the name of God, the light of holiness, who maketh the bright day and the dark night. In the name of God, whose being is infinite, before whom the heavens are, as it were, but a pinch of dust; who brought existence out of non-existence, and made innumerable happy worlds to revolve; from whose dominion nothing is exempted; by whose providential care none is neglected. I will remember Him here in the beginning of my work; for every beginning made with His remembrance

is blessed. By Him the ground of the heart is illuminated; He bloweth upon it the pure air of love; He poureth upon it the living water of knowledge. By Him a pen is made fruitful as a branch, a book resplendent as a beautiful garden, and words to bloom as odoriferous roses. With that remembrance alone will I fill the cup of my heart, and will sing new and entertaining stories.

