

**JOURNAL OF THE
PALI TEXT
SOCIETY 1884**

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T. W. RHYS DAVIDS

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PALI TEXT
SOCIETY 1884**

Pali Text Society:

Journal

OF THE

PALI TEXT SOCIETY.

1884.

EDITED BY

T. W. RHYS DAVIDS, PH.D., LL.D.

OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE, BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

PROFESSOR OF PĀLI AND BUDDHIST LITERATURE IN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,
LONDON.

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PĀLI TEXT SOCIETY.

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(With power to add workers to their number.)

This Society has been started in order to render accessible to students the rich stores of the earliest Buddhist literature now lying unedited and practically unused in the various MSS. scattered throughout the University and other Public Libraries of Europe.

The historical importance of these Texts can scarcely be exaggerated, either in respect of their value for the history of folk-lore, or of religion, or of language. It is already certain that they were all put into their present form within a very limited period, probably extending to less than a century and a half (about B.C. 400-250). For that period they have preserved for us a record, quite uncontaminated by filtration through any European mind, of the every-day beliefs and customs of a people nearly related to ourselves, just as they were passing through the first stages of civilization. They are our best authorities for the early history of that interesting system of religion so nearly allied to some of the latest speculations among ourselves, and which has influenced so powerfully, and for so long a time, so great a portion of the human race—the system of religion which we now call Buddhism. The sacred books of the early Buddhists have preserved to us the sole record of the only religious movement in the world's history which bears any close resemblance to early Christianity. In the history of speech they contain unimpeachable evidence of a stage

Journal of the Pali Text Society.

edition of this text of the Sutta Nipāta, consisting of 230 pages more. I should much like to be able to issue 800, or even 1000 pages every year. As the Society pays nothing at all for management, this might, I think, be accomplished if we could obtain 200 subscribers in Europe and America. An incidental advantage of this would be that we could issue whole works, instead of parts of works, each year.

Then, secondly, we cannot conceal from ourselves the facts that some of our subscribers may fall off in years to come. We have already lost by death two good friends in Dr. Muir of Edinburgh, and Dr. Burnell of the Madras Civil Service; and a comparison of this year's list with that of 1882 will show other defections from various other causes. I do hope, therefore, that our members will not neglect to push the claims of our Society among their friends whenever they see a chance of doing so.

Our issues this year are :

1. The Abhidhammattha-saṅgaha.
2. The Tela-kaṭṭhā-gāthā.
3. The Dāṭṭhā-vamsa.
4. The Pañca-gaṭi-dīpana.
5. The Saḅātha-vagga of the Saṃyutta.
6. The Sutta-nipāta.

Besides a very interesting and valuable paper of miscellaneous Notes and Queries by Dr. Morris. This, it will be seen, is a more important list than we have hitherto been able to show for any one year.

As regards the first of these, Professor Childers, who would have welcomed our Society so warmly had he lived, was engaged when he passed away in preparing an edition of the Abhidhammattha-saṅgaha, and had transcribed the first four chapters. Professor Fausböll, into whose hands the MS. had come, was kind enough to allow me the use of it. During the year, Mr. S. P. Da Silva Goonesekara, Muhandiram of the District Court at Mātara in Ceylon, sent to me a transliterated copy of the whole text as found in the Mātara MSS. I was very glad to get this manuscript; for,