

**A MANIPURI GRAMMAR,
VOCABULARY, AND PHRASE BOOK: TO
WHICH ARE ADDED SOME MANIPURI
PROVERBS AND SPECIMENS OF
MANIPURI CORRESPONDENCE**

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A Manipuri Grammar, Vocabulary, and Phrase Book: To Which Are Added Some Manipuri Proverbs and Specimens of Manipuri Correspondence by A. J. Primrose

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A. J. PRIMROSE

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AND

SPECIMENS OF MANIPURI CORRESPONDENCE.

BY

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PREFACE.

THIS little book will, I hope, supply a want which has been much felt ever since our annexation of Upper Burma. The only land route to Upper Burma from Assam and Bengal is through Manipur. The journey through Manipur occupies about a fortnight. Hardly any Manipuri knows any language but his own, so officers travelling through find great difficulty in getting at the different stages the supplies which they are in want of, owing to their inability to make themselves understood by the Manipuri officials. Manipur is now the headquarters of an Assam regiment, and in all probability it will remain for some time to come a Military Station, owing to the healthiness of its climate, as well as to its admirable strategical position in the event of any outbreak on the frontier. The above reasons have made a knowledge of Manipuri of greater importance than in former years. With the object of assisting in the study of Manipuri, I have prepared a Grammar, Vocabulary, and Phrase Book of the language.

A note on the Manipuri Grammar was published by the late Mr. Damant in the Asiatic Society Journal, Part I., Vol. XLIV., 1875. This note gives in few words a clear statement of all the more important features of the Grammar. I have not hesitated to make free use of this note in the preparation of my Grammar.

In the vocabulary section, I have arranged the nouns under different headings, such as relationship, trades, &c., which is I think a simpler plan than jumbling up in alphabetical order a number of words having no connection with each other. The English phrases I have copied from Mrs. Cutter's Assamese Phrase Book. I have added at the end of the book a few Manipuri proverbs, and also a few specimens of letters in Manipuri in order to give an idea of the style of address adopted in such compositions.

In the preparation of this book I have been assisted by my head-clerk, Russic Laul Coondoo, and by my Burmese Interpreter, Purander Sing, who both deserve my best thanks.

A. J. PRIMROSE,

Political Agent.

MANIPUR :

August 1887.

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NOTE ON VOCABULARY AND PHRASE BOOK.

IN the transliteration of the Manipuri words and sentences from the Bengali into the Roman character, the vowel sounds are represented as follows:—Short *a* is pronounced as *a* in *company*, long *â* as *a* in *father*; *e* unmarked as *e* in *then*, *ê* has the sound of *ai* in *aim*, or *ey* in *they*; *i* unmarked is pronounced as *i* in *in*, *î* as in *machine*; *o* unmarked as in *pot*, *ô* as in *bone*; *u* unmarked as in *bull*, *û* as *oo* in *moon*.