

**A HANDBOOK OF SANSKRIT LITERATURE;
WITH APPENDICES DESCRIPTIVE OF THE
MYTHOLOGY, CASTES, AND RELIGIOUS
SECTS OF THE HINDUS, INTENDED ESPECIALLY
FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE INDIA CIVIL
SERVICE, AND MISSIONARIES TO INDIA**

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A handbook of Sanskrit literature; with appendices descriptive of the mythology, castes, and religious sects of the Hindus, intended especially for candidates for the India Civil Service, and Missionaries to India by George Small

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J. Keller

HANDBOOK OF SANSKRIT LITERATURE.

PREFACE.

IN the composition of this Handbook the Editor disclaims all originality. "Composition," indeed, is hardly an applicable term in the case, except in the *literal* sense of the word, that is, inasmuch as it has consisted in a "placing together" of materials already in existence, products of the genius and researches of other and far abler men. The work may more properly be designated a *compilation*; and the only merit that the author can rightfully lay claim to is that of care and diligence in the selection and arrangement of the subject-matter: the only merit that complimentary critics can attribute (if deemed due) being that of judiciousness, exhibited in the manner in which this has been done.

He does not profess to be a *manufacturer*, but simply a *merchant* (or retailer) of literature, who knowing from experience the state of the market as regards "demand,"

endeavours, to the best of his ability, to provide the proper "supply." Contrary, however, to mercantile custom in general, instead of "buying at the cheapest market and selling at the dearest," the Editor has sought for "profit" (the reader's, if not his own) by getting his materials from the most authentic sources available—even though the most expensive—in order that he may retail them on far cheaper terms, as well as in a much more handy form, to his reading customers.

The principal of these authorities—some of which works are now difficult to be procured from being out of print—may here be mentioned, though generally acknowledged in the body of the treatise. The book to which the Editor has, perhaps, been most largely indebted, is the learned and voluminous work "On the History, Literature, etc., of the Hindoos," by the late Rev. W. Ward, of Serampore. Next to that he would mention the more modern, but equally learned work, by Professor Max Müller, the "History of Ancient Sanskrit Literature." His chief other authorities have been Sir William Jones, H. T. Colebrooke, Esq., and Professor H. H. Wilson, from whose valuable contributions to the "Journal of the Asiatic Society," as well as separately published works, he has freely and largely quoted. To these he would

add the "Historical Sketch of Sanskrit Literature," by Professor Adelung, as translated from the German by Mr. Talboys; the prize essay, by the late Dr. Ballantyne, on "Christianity as contrasted with Hindú Philosophy," and various other treatises, by the same author, on the "Philosophical Systems of the Hindús; "Lectures on Indian Epic Poetry," and other works, by Professor Monier Williams, of Oxford; "India and the Hindoos," by the Rev. F. de W. Ward, Missionary at Madras; and lastly, but very especially, the editor would acknowledge his indebtedness to the valuable little work of a very similar character with the present, but now out of print, entitled the "Missionary's Vade Mecum," by the Rev. T. Phillips, formerly missionary at Muttra.

The Editor's principal object in the preparation of this Handbook has been the supply of a desideratum, long felt both by himself and his pupils—those of them, especially, who were candidates for H.M. Civil Service in India—viz., a work in a condensed form, and at a moderate price, from which might be obtained such a general acquaintance with Sanskrit Literature as would enable them to answer the questions on that subject likely to be set at the competitive and subsequent examinations.

The importance of the study of Sanskrit, even on merely philological grounds, as the parent of the other classical languages (of the Áryan family), as well as on account of the richness and variety of its own literature, is now becoming increasingly felt and acknowledged, not only on the European continent (where so much more attention has hitherto been paid to it), but even in England; which forms an additional reason for hoping that a volume like the present will be hailed, in spite of all its imperfections, as a useful work of reference, or text-book.

If, in any humble degree, it should prove an incentive to the study of that venerable and highly polished language, and a handy-guide to those entering on its study, the Editor will feel that the trouble he has taken in the preparation of this little volume has not been in vain.

24, WELLINGTON STREET, STRAND,
June, 1866.

For the assistance of those readers who may not be already familiar with the Sanskrit character, though, in *general*, the Roman equivalents have been used throughout the work, the Deva Nágari Alphabet, and most useful compound letters, are here appended:

