THE INDIAN MUSE IN ENGLISH GARB

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BEHRAMJI MERWANJI MALABARI

THE INDIAN MUSE IN ENGLISH GARB

Trieste

THE

INDIAN MUSE

IN

ENGLISH GARB.

BY

BEHRAMJI MERWANJI MALABARI,

AUTHOR OF

NITI-VINOD

OR

PLEASURES OF MORALITY.

Bombay

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1876.

1457

To Professor Monier Williams
with the author's most respectful
compliments.
23rd Dec. 76.

To

MISS MARY CARPENTER,

RED LODGE HOUSE, BRISTOL.

MADAM,

It is close upon a year, since I obtained your kind permission to dedictae my English verses to you. I do it now with mingled feelings of pride and pleasure. If I did not do so before, it was because of my desire to make it presentable to a lady of your wide sympathies—one who has made such glad sacrifices for her sisters of India. The harvest of your labour of love, Madam, dwells in your own heart: my utmost effort has been to strew that heart with a string of feeble songs. But such as it is, you are most welcome to it; and to all that a grateful heart can feel for the well-wisher of his country.

Yours, Madam,

With respectful admiration,

B. M. MALABARI.

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PREFACE.

The writer of these lines commenced the study of English, about eleven years ago, under very trying circumstances—want of means and of clever, conscientious teachers. With the latter difficulty, he struggled on for about two years and a half; and then with almost a self-acquired knowledge of the elements, joined the Surat Mission School, under the superintendence of the late Rev. William Dixon, a very worthy gentleman from Belfast, and a scholar of brilliant promise. It was here, that some time after, the author began to attract notice by his predilection for English literature. Though he belonged to a lower class, special arrangements were made for him to join his seniors, whenever a lecture on Shakspeare was expected; and as a return for the concession, he was required to explain the more difficult lines to those who could not follow the lecturer. It was very flattering, indeed, to an Indian of fourteen summers, to interpret lines of the Myriad-minded to men double his age; but he suspects his pupils spared the poor boy any very searching tests; or that, perhaps Heaven had spared those gentlemen the inconvenience of a critical or appreciative taste.

After a course of two years and six months here, the author was found qualified to present himself at the University Entrance Examination. And here ceased all the systematic education of which he can boast. His pride too was effectually humbled at this stage. Three times he failed at the Examination; and scraped through it the fourth time, by the barest chance. The reason, though not far to seek, need not be disclosed here, as it hardly interests the readers.