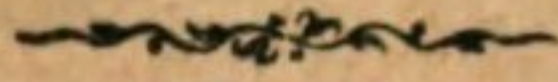


P R E F A C E.



The present work is the first edition, and first translation of one of the most important works of the Brâhmaṇa literature. The text has been prepared from three manuscripts, two of which are in my own possession. The third was a copy made by a Pandit from another manuscript. This copy was sent to the press, and corrected from the two other manuscripts. Besides I used the text which is in Sâyaṇa's Commentary on the work, in the copy belonging to the Sanscrit library of the Poona College. Though it would not have been difficult for me to procure ten manuscripts of the text, I saw nowhere any need for it. For those two which were purchased from priestly families, with whom the learning by heart of the Rigveda was hereditary for many centuries, proved so correct, that there was no need for comparing a larger number. Actual difference of readings can be hardly spoken of. For the text of the Brâhmaṇam is as well preserved as that of the Saṁhitâ.

In order to facilitate the reading of the text, I have introduced the European method of punctuation. One of my manuscripts has regular stops, marked with vertical strokes in red ink above the line; they do not, however, point out the end of sentences and phrases, but only the place where the repeater of the Brâhmaṇam used to stop, when called to some house to read it.