

## PREFACE.

THE compilation of a Sanscrit dictionary having been undertaken early after the institution of the College of Fort William, it was at the same time thought advisable to print, in Sanscrit and English, the work which has been chosen for the basis of that compilation; as well for the sake of exhibiting an original authority to which reference will be frequently necessary, as with the view of furnishing an useful vocabulary which might serve until an ampler dictionary could be prepared and published.

The celebrated *Ameracôsha*, or Vocabulary of Sanscrit by AMERA SINHA, is, by the unanimous suffrage of the learned, the best guide to the acceptations of nouns in Sanscrit. The work of PANINI on etymology is rivalled by other grammars, some of which have even obtained the preference in the opinion of the learned of particular provinces: but AMERA'S vocabulary has prevailed wherever the Sanscrit language is cultivated; and the numerous other vocabularies, which remain, are consulted only where AMERA'S is either silent or defective. It has employed the industry of innumerable commentators, while none of the others (with the single exception of HEMACHANDRA'S) have been interpreted even by one annotator. Such decided preference for the *Amerâ côsha*, and the consequent frequency of quotations from it, determined the selection of this as the basis of an alphabetical dictionary, and suggested the expediency of also publishing the original text with an English interpretation.

Like other vocabularies of Sanscrit, that of AMERA is in metre; and a considerable degree of knowledge of the language becomes requisite to discriminate the words from their interpretations; and to separate them from contiguous terms which affect their initials