

APPENDIX I.

SANSKRIT PROSODY.

Introduction.

The earliest and most important work in Sanskrit prosody is the Pingala-chhandas-sāstra, attributed to the sage Pingala, which consists of Sūtras distributed over eight books. The Agni Purāṇa also gives a complete system of prosody founded apparently on Pingala's. Several other original treatises have likewise been composed by various authors, such as the Srutabodha, Vāṇibhāṣaṇa, Vṛitta-darpana, Vṛitta-ratnākara, Vṛitta-kaumudī, Chhandomanjarī &c. In the following pages the Chhandomanjarī and Vṛitta-ratnākara have been chiefly drawn upon, Vedic as well as Prākṛita metres have been ignored in this Appendix.

Sanskrit composition may be in the form of गद्य 'prose' or पद्य 'verse' or poetry expressed in the form of stanzas.

A stanza or *padya* is a combination of four *pādas* or quarters, which are regulated either by the number of syllables (अक्षर), or by the number of syllabic instants (मात्रा).

A पद्य is a वृत्त or जाति.

A वृत्त is a stanza the metre of which is regulated by the number and position of syllables in each Pāda or quarter. A जाति is a stanza the metre of which is regulated by the number of syllabic instants in each quarter.

Vṛittas are divided into three classes :—समवृत्त in which the Pādas or quarters composing the stanza are all similar; अर्धसमवृत्त in which the alternate quarters are similar; and विषमवृत्त in which the quarters are all dissimilar.

A syllable is as much of a word as can be pronounced at once, that is, a vowel with or without one or more consonants.

A syllable is लघु 'short' or गुरु 'long', according as its vowel is 'short' or 'long'. The vowels अ, इ, उ, ऋ, and ए are short; and आ, ई, ऊ, ऋ, ए, ऐ, ओ, and

औ are long. But a short vowel becomes long in prosody when it is followed by an *Anusvāra* or *Visarga*, or by a conjunct consonant; as the vowel अ in गंध or गः. (The consonants ण & न्ह, as also ञ, & ण, are said to be exceptions, before which the vowel may be short by a sort of poetical license; e. g. in Ku. 7. 11. or Si. 10.60, where, however, emendations have been proposed by critics to render the metre conformable to the general laws of prosody). So also the last syllable of a *pāda* is either long or short, according to the exigence of the metre, whatever be its natural length.

सानुस्वारश्च दीर्घश्च विसर्गश्च गुरुर्भवेत् ।
वर्णः संयोगपूर्वश्च तथा पादांतगोऽपि वा ॥

In metres regulated by the number of syllabic instants, one instant or Mātrā is allotted to a short vowel, and two to a long one.

For the purpose of scanning metres regulated by the number of syllables, writers on prosody have devised eight 'Ganas' or syllabic feet, each consisting of three syllables, and distinguished from one another by particular syllables being short or long. They are given in the following verse :—

मन्त्रिगुरुत्रिलघुश्च नकारो
भादिगुरुः पुनरादिलघुर्गुः ।
जो गुरुमध्यगतो रलमध्यः
सोऽस्तगुरुः कथितोऽस्तलघुस्तः ॥

आदिमध्यावसानेषु यरता यांति लाघवम् ।
भजसा गौरवं यांति मनौ तु गुरुलाघवम् ॥

Expressed in symbols (the symbol — denoting a short syllable, and — a long one), the different Ganas may be represented as follows :—

| | | |
|---|-------|-------------------|
| य | — — — | (Bacchius) |
| र | — — — | (Amphimacer) |
| त | — — — | (Anti-bacchius) |
| भ | — — — | (Dactylus) |
| ज | — — — | (Amphibrachys) |
| ल | — — — | (Anapaestus) |
| म | — — — | (Molossus) |
| न | — — — | (Tribachys) |