

3. Prof. Cecil Bendall M.A., Keeper of Oriental Books, British Museum, London, in *The Trubner's Record*, No. 245, 1889, recorded:

"I have been asked to contribute a notice of the life of Anundoram Vaduya (Borooah). His death is announced in the *Indian Magazine* for March, as having been caused by fever and paralysis, but I cannot hear of any obituary notices by his friends, such as might have been expected to appear in the Indian Press. I understand that he died as long ago as the beginning of January last. Pending fuller information from such quarters, I venture to subjoin the few facts of his life that I have been able to ascertain together with some notice of the useful works by which his name will be long remembered among Sanskritists.

"The deceased scholar was born in 1850, being the second son of Gargaram Vaduya and his wife Durlabheswari, of Gauhati (Gawhatty) in Assam. Of his family and caste I have no means at hand of ascertaining any further facts, though I think that his caste-name is not uncommon in Assam. I may here note in passing that my transcription of his name is taken from the Nagari title-page of his edition of the Mahaviracharita, where his name appears as वडुया।

"I have never heard the name pronounced by an Assami, but probably 'Borooah' is as misleading as 'Oude' and the other popular spellings to which the average resident in India clings with such tenacity. He was educated at Presidency College, Calcutta, and graduated B.A. at the Calcutta University in 1869.

"Proceeding to England as a candidate for the Civil Service, for which he was selected in 1870, he matriculated at the London University in the same year, and entered as a student of the middle Temple, and in 1872 was called to the Bar. He revisited England at least once, for I met him in London about 1884. His manner with strangers at least was very reserved and retiring.

"Of his career as a civilian, which he commenced in Bengal in 1872, I have little or nothing to say. At the time of his death he was Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Jessore.\* But I cannot forbear to remark that his life gives us all an example, whether in government service or out of it, to show that a mass of routine work need not crush out literary activity when a man is really in earnest. As a rule the Civil Service of India has done little for the literature and science of the country, the exceptions to this being chiefly men in the Educational Department. But certainly, Anundoram Vaduya's twelve well-spent years of service\* show him to have been a kindred spirit with administrators like Colebrooke and Burnell among the illustrious dead, and the small band of living workers like Grierson, Fleet and R. C. Temple. Vaduya's first work appeared in May, 1877, and from its Preface we find that it was commenced about 1873 and announced in March 1876. This was his 'Practical English-Sanskrit Dictionary', a most original and truly practical work. Not content with commencing with such a *magnum opus* as a dictionary, he added to its second and third volumes two new and original works, viz. his 'Higher Sanskrit Grammar' and a list of Sanskrit geographical names, illustrated by a valuable prefatory essay. Both are thoroughly original works, and rather suffer by being united with the Dictionary; the latter is I believe still a unique contribution to Indian research, though only a small one, the great value of the former (now published separately) may be seen from the frequent references to it in Dr. J. S. Speijer's recent work on the same subject.

"In the same year, 1877, appeared the edition of Bhababhuti's Mahaviracharita already referred to in passing, which was followed in 1878 by the essay on Bhababhuti intended to have formed a part of the same book. A third work was completed by Vaduya in 1877, and appeared

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\*Sri Borooah was at the time of his death Offg. District Magistrate and Collector, Noakhali. He had then completed 16 years of service.