

mental work was regarded as an astonishing achievement by all who were interested in the study of Sanskrit and won the highest praise from eminent scholars, including the great German Sanskritist, Prof Max Müller.

Anundoram was only twenty-three when he had started compiling this great work. He greatly felt the necessity of such a work keeping in view the growing respect for Sanskrit learning in a number of European countries.

The first part of the dictionary was published in 1877. A number of eminent persons got themselves included in the list of buyers of the book even before it was published. Lord Northbrooke, the then Governor General of India, was one of them. In that list also are found from Assam the names of Colonel Sivaram Borah and Colonel Jalnoor Ali Ahmed.

In the preface to the first part of the dictionary, Anundoram had very clearly set forth the plan upon which he would proceed. The English words, according to him, must be classified under three heads while rendering them into Sanskrit. First, the words which have adequate or very near Sanskrit equivalents; secondly, the words having no such adequate equivalents but whose idea and meaning can be expressed in Sanskrit words; and thirdly, the English words which have evolved from new scientific inventions, philosophical thoughts and new ideas but could not be adequately expressed in Sanskrit rendering.

The distinction of Anundoram's dictionary lies in the fact that Anundoram had not only given the adequate Sanskrit equivalent to each English word, but he had also quoted very often the complete Sanskrit sentences, illustrative of the employment of the words, in a bid to express the total meaning of a Sanskrit word in all its aspects. In such a gigantic attempt, he must have been well-versed with all the Sanskrit classics of the kind and the idioms of both Sanskrit and English.

Anundoram had sent the first sixty-four pages of the manuscript to Prof. Max Müller for his comments. Prof. Müller had highly appreciated his endeavour and Anundoram proceeded with great confidence.

The second part of the work was published in 1878 and the third in 1880. In the preface to the second part was incorporated the book, *Higher Sanskrit Grammar*, and in the preface to the third the book, *Ancient Geography of India*. The price of the three parts together was fixed at Rs. 40. But in 1887 he reduced it to Rs. 20 for the benefit of all his readers.

Below we quote some outstanding comments by a number of eminent persons of the time on Anundoram's *Dictionary*.

Lord Northbrooke, Viceroy and Governor General of India, said about the book, "It is of much importance that the study of the learned languages of India should be cultivated by men of education in that country."

Prof. F. Max Müller in a letter to Anundoram said, "Your work is evidently not simply a Sanskrit-English dictionary mechanically inverted, but you have treated each word independently, and by giving the nearest approach to each English word in Sanskrit, you have shown your familiarity with the idioms of both languages. The passages from Sanskrit writers, illustrative of the employment of Sanskrit words, are extremely useful and gives to your work a really scholar-like character".

Prof. Müller had also written in "*The Academy*" of 13th August, 1881, "We heartily congratulate Mr. Anundoram Borooah on the completion of his *English-Sanskrit Dictionary*. We have dwelt on former occasions, when noticing the appearance of his first and second volumes, on the great difficulties of such an undertaking, and we have no hesitation in saying that it would be almost impossible for a European Sanskrit scholar to undertake such a work and carry it