

my humble acquirements, conscious alike of the poverty of intellectual gifts which are necessary for its execution and of the inability to devote uninterrupted and long-continued attention which is essential for its success. And I can assure my readers that I should have gladly left it to those, who add profound knowledge of Sanskrit to high philological attainments and have successfully used their powers in the highest intellectual achievements. But, unfortunately, Sanskrit researches seem yet to attract but very few scholars, and I know of none who is employing or is about to employ his abilities in the elucidation of this branch of study. It is, therefore, with some reluctance that I am devoting my leisure hours in the compilation of this work, neither intending nor pretending to produce a comprehensive work, but with a view to remove some of the difficulties in the way of this very interesting language and to make it approach the level of the classics of the West. The work is expected to be complete in* three volumes of not less than 600 pages each and I now present the first volume with the hope that, in the absence of any other work of the kind, it may be of some use to the students of the most copious, most refined, most philosophical language of the world—students whose number is everyday increasing and every day spreading all over the civilized world.

3. I may now explain the plan of my work. For the purpose of my dictionary, English words naturally fall under three classes: (1) those for which there are exact or very near equivalents, in Sanskrit; (2) those for which there are no equivalents, but the phrases in which they occur and the ideas conveyed by them are represented by different modes of expression; and (3) those which have evolved from new discoveries in science and thought and for which there are no equivalents or equivalent modes of expression.

4. With respect to the words of the first class, the principle I have kept in view is to give only the nearest Sanskrit equivalents for the English words. To do otherwise would be to swell the list of the pseudo-synonymous terms without giving the reader any insight into their real senses and disabling him from using them in their proper places. I have also tried to exclude all pedantic words which seldom occur except in the Sanskrit vocabularies. When I have retained them, I have marked them as 'rare' or annexed a letter A to shew that they are principally to be found in the vocabularies like the *Amarakoṣa*. I hope it will enable the reader to have firmer grasp over the more useful terms.

5. The task of selection is, however, not so easy as may appear at first sight. There are Sanskrit words which are etymological equivalents of English words, but are practically very seldom, if ever, used in the strict etymological sense. Take, for instance, the word सोदर. It is etymologically equivalent to *uterine* and now that Anglicisms are fast entering into our vernaculars, even some of our countrymen do not hesitate to use the word as an equivalent of *uterine*. Little do they think that the social condition of our women differed and differ from the social condition of Western women and our ancestors meant by सोदर *not only of the same womb but by the same father also*. The second marriage of a Hindu woman was quite abnormal and rare in the days of classical Sanskrit and we have a quite different expression for it. Kalluka, for instance, uses अन्यपितृज, i.e. "born of a different father" to indicate this relation and I have little doubt that my readers will agree with me in thinking that it is in complete accordance with the ideas of our ancestors.

6. Then there are what I may term accidental equivalents, that is, words which do not represent the real sense of the English words, but are practically used for them in a limited sense

*The size of the work will be much larger than I expected in March 1876. I am sorry I have in consequence to raise the price of the work and to publish it in three instead of two volumes. I also regret the delay in its appearance owing to causes which I need not allude to. But I hope the second volume will be more punctually out by the beginning and the third by the end of the next year.