

to old practices, old rules etc. Yet such a simple phrase as वृद्धव्यवहार* has been misunderstood and become the subject of great discussion.

21. It has been pointed out to me by Professor Max-Müller and my friend Mr. R. C. Dutt that I have not been always very precise in referring to authorities. I thank them heartily for the suggestion and have tried to act up to it. It will be seen that not only in small books like the *Raghuvaṃśa* but also in the biggest works as the *Mahābhārata* I have latterly often given the most precise references. But it will be remembered that it is most difficult to do so in prose literature although I had often to refer to it and about many Calcutta editions, where no attention is paid to numbering the verses. In medical works, the subjects are very clearly marked and it is unnecessary to refer to them precisely. So in some other cases.

22. I have now the pleasant duty to thank warmly my friends and critics, who have encouraged the continuance and publication of this work. Knowledge for itself is so little valued in this country—there is such wide-spread abject deference to the language of our rulers—the sphere of such action is so limited—there is so little communication and sympathy between the different parts of India, that I cannot too highly express my obligations for such encouragement and advice.

GOALPARA

Oct. 27, 1878

A B.

* Max Müller. Preface to *Rg-Veda*, vol. vi., p. xxix.