

APPENDIX I

SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF ANUNDORAM BOROOAH

Introductory: The latter half of the nineteenth century witnessed a glorious band of workers in the field of Sanskrit research in India. This gifted brotherhood included among its members the late R. C. Dutta, Raja Rajendralal Mitra, Swami Dayananda Saraswati, Pandit Indrajī Bhavani, Sir Ramkrishna Gopal Bhandarkar and Anundoram Borooah. The last, by dint of his earnestness of purpose and his life-long devotion to the cause of Sanskrit scholarship, has won an imperishable name in the annals of Indian Sanskrit research. Thirty-five or forty years ago, no Indian *savant's* name had excited greater admiration and applause than Borooah's and this feeling was rightly echoed in the *Lahore Tribune* of those days,—“Sri Borooah's Sanskrit scholarship is as profound and accurate as it is extensive. We are proud of him as a nation, and we earnestly hope that our brightest youths may follow his noble though very arduous path.”

Borooah was a member of the Indian Civil Service, and was for some years in charge of a heavy district in Bengal. The scope of his work and the range of his scholastic investigations which he strenuously carried on in the midst of his busy official duties show him, to quote Prof. Cecil Bendall's words in the *Trubner's Record*, 1889, “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”.

Borooah is a fine flower of western culture. The profound erudition of the oriental scholar combined with the critical spirit of the west, imparted to Borooah's works a peculiar value and lustre. As the greatest intellectual representative of the “benighted province of Assam”, Borooah is the glory of the Assamese; and Assam has not produced a greater man during the space of ninety-five years that she has come under British rule. His name has been an example and an inspiration to thousands of the youths of Assam.

Life: Anundoram Borooah, B.A., I.C.S., Barrister-at-Law, was born in May, 1850, at North Gauhati in the district of Kamrup, Assam. This Kamrup forms at present only a fragment of the greater Kamrupa Empire of yore, hallowed by the names of Narakasur, Bhagadatta, Bana, Bhaskara Varma, Naranarayan, Pratap Singha Swargadeo and Rudra Singha Swargadeo among her kings; Jongal Balahu, Cilarai and Lachit Bar Phukon among her heroes and soldiers; Usha, Rukmini, Behula, Joymati and Phuleswari Barkuanri among her women; Dak, Sankar Deva, Madhava Deva, Purusottam Vidyabagish and Anundoram Dhekial Phukon among her saints and literateurs; and Momai Tamooli Barborooah and Rajmantri Purnananda Buragohain among her ministers and statesmen. Anundoram belonged to the well-known Majindar Borooah family of Assam. His father, an Assamese gentleman of the older type, was for some years a *Sadar Amin*, a post equivalent to a modern Deputy Magistrateship.

Through the efforts of his learned father, Anundoram was initiated into the vast potentialities of the *Deva Bhasha* even during his childhood. With the help of an erudite Sanskrit Pandit who was appointed to teach him Sanskrit, Anundoram mastered and got by heart the whole of the immortal lexicon *Amarakosha* before he was fourteen, at which age he also passed the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University. He read for the first Arts Examination in the Presidency College of Calcutta, and there he had as his teachers the great educationists, Mahamahopadhyaya Mohesh Chandra Nyayaratna, C.I.E. in Sanskrit, and Sir (then Sri) Gurudas Banerji in Mathematics. Borooah had as his class-mates the late R. C. Dutt, I.C.S., B. L. Gupta, I.C.S., and Kartick Chandra Mitra, M.A., P.R.S. and as his contemporary college friends the Right Honourable Syed