

# INTRODUCTION

TO THE

## **Mārcaṇḍeya Purāṇa.**

The Mārcaṇḍeya Purāṇa of which a complete edition is now presented to the public may be considered under two divisions. The first is that in which the Rishi whose name it bears takes scarcely any part, the second is that in which he is the principal speaker. The former comprises the first forty four chapters and extends to page 255, the latter consists of ninety three chapters, from the 45th to the 137th, with which the Purāṇa concludes.

It would appear that this Purāṇa, if indeed it was the work of one person, originally comprised only that portion in which Mārcaṇḍeya is the principal narrator. The section called *Devī-Māhātmya*, contained in what we have called the second division, was probably an interpolation, Mārcaṇḍeya himself scarcely appearing in it. And the first division was afterwards prefixed with a view to introduce certain extraordinary characters, and new doctrines, not contained in the original compilation.

The two divisions, again, we may subdivide into five sections, allotting two to the first, and three to the second.

I, 1. The first section, although it makes some reference to Mārcaṇḍeya, was really intended to propound the *Bhāgavata* doctrine of the Supreme Being subsisting in four forms, and to appease the Brahminical mind by the solution of certain moral difficulties presented in the ancient mythology of the Hindus.