

regard to the Purāṇa literature did not go unrefuted by his own contemporaries. In this connection the name of Colonel Vans Kennedy may be prominently mentioned. He protested against the views of Wilson in the form of letters to the London *Asiatic Journal*, (1840-41) and these have been reprinted by the late Editor of Wilson's Vishṇu Purāṇa as an appendix to that Purāṇa. He put up an eloquent defence to the effect that the Purāṇas as a whole were as much a sacred work of the Hindus as the Vedic literature, and that Wilson misunderstood the preferential worship inculcated in this branch of literature as the exclusive worship of a particular deity and the votaries to be sectaries of either Vishṇu or Śiva. He strongly upheld that the Purāṇas must be deemed as a class of ancient literature and that there was no proof satisfactory enough to show that the Purāṇas were late compositions. We have next a set of scholars who took an abiding interest in the study of the Purāṇas and these were E. Bournouf who has translated and edited the Bhāgavata Purāṇa, Colonel Wilfred, and the compilers of catalogues of manuscripts like Thomas Aufrecht and Julius Eggeling.

A considerable time elapsed when F. E. Pargiter by his learned publications *Ancient Historical Tradition* and *Dynasties of the Kali Age* showed to the world what amount of historical material and genuine historical tradition can be gathered from this mass of literature which goes by the name Purāṇas. His was a real attempt to obtain definite results to reconstruct the dynasties of the Kali age. He also endeavoured to study the chronology and genealogy of well-known Indian sages, seers and kings in pre-historic India. These two works of his evoked a revival of interest in a closer study of Purāṇic literature by Orientalists. Thus we have from Prof. Winternitz a sound and scholarly chapter on the Purāṇas in his *History of Indian Literature*. No less learned is Prof. E. J. Rapson's contribution on Purāṇas to the first volume of the Cambridge History of India. We