

## COMMENTARY.

Youthfulness exemplified. *a.* Among these [various characteristics we may exemplify each severally—and first then of the ‘youthful’ damsel in respect of her being] ‘at the first arrival of the period of youth’—as [in the following verses] of my father.

“The loins now take to themselves the bulkiness [which previously was the characteristic] of the waist; the belly takes possession of the depression [which previously was the characteristic] of the breasts; the line of hair on the body [characteristic of the period] runs off with the straightness of the glances [which then fall into a sidelong habit]. Seeing Cupid newly inaugurated in the empire of her mind, the members of the fair-browed one, for the moment, as it were, mutually plunder one another, [as people are wont to do at the commencement of a new reign before the king can ascertain what properly belongs to each].”

The first sensations of love. *b.* [Now of the ‘youthful’ damsel in respect of her being] ‘altered by love then first taking possession [of her mind]’—as [in the following verses which occur] in my *Prabhāvatī-pariṇaya* [or “Marriage of Prabhāvatī”].

“Lazily and languidly she sets her footsteps on the ground; she never goes out of the inner apartments; she no longer laughs unconstrainedly, but practises every moment some bashful restraint or other. Little she speaks, and that little always somewhat touched [or tinged] by a certain sort of deep covert significance; and she looks up with a frown at her female friend who entertains her with a discourse about sweethearts.”

Maiden Coyness exemplified. *c.* [Now of the ‘youthful’ damsel in respect of her being one] ‘who shrinks from caresses’—as—

“When looked at, she casts down her eyes; she speaks not when spoken to; she stands turning away from the couch; when clasped perforce, she trembles; when her female friends [who have conducted her to the bridegroom’s house] are about to retire, she too wishes to depart from the dwelling. By this very coyness my beloved bride has become now more than ever dear to me.”

Gentleness. *d.* [Now of the ‘youthful’ damsel in respect of her being] ‘gentle amid her indignation’—as—

“On the occasion of her husband’s first offence, she does not know—