

THE MIRROR OF COMPOSITION.

SALUTATION TO GANES'A !

CHAPTER I.—*The Declaration of the Nature of Poetry.*

At the beginning of his book, desiring the unobstructed completion of what he wishes to begin, he [i. e., the author—commenting on his own metrical treatise—] makes his address to the Goddess of Speech, because in the province of Eloquence it is she who is the constituted authority.

TEXT.

Invocation. 1.—May that Goddess of Language, whose radiance is fair as the autumnal moon, having removed the overspreading darkness, render all things clear in my mind !

COMMENTARY.

a. As this book is ancillary to Poetry, by the fruits of Poetry only can it be fruitful :—therefore he states what are the fruits of Poetry :—

TEXT.

The subject declared by implication. 2.—Since the attainment of the fruits consisting of the class of four [i. e., the four great objects of human desire—viz., Merit, Wealth, Enjoyment, and Liberation]—by means of Poetry simply, is possible even in the case of those of slender capacity, therefore its nature shall be now set forth.

COMMENTARY.

a. [The allegation in the text is borne out by facts]—for it is notorious that the fruits of the “class of four” have been attained by means of the counsels, as to doing and forbearing to do [respectively] what ought to be done and what ought not to be done, deduced from Poetry—[to the effect] that “one ought to do as Rāma and the like,