

migrated from the Deccan about two hundred and fifty years ago, I found that the fourth Act did not contain the Prakrit passages and the stage-directions under reference.

I have thought, I hope not incorrectly, that the above facts and considerations^o are sufficient to account for expunging the passages from the main text of my Edition. Though I am not at present in a position to pronounce decidedly on the merits of the passages, I may perhaps be allowed to risk a guess that it may be that the passages were intended to be chanted by some one behind the scene, and as such anonymous passages without any indications that they are to be repeated behind the scene are not known to occur in the plays, our passages may or may not have originally belonged to the play even though they be a production of the author.

The prints, reprints, and Editions of this play at present available have doubtless done good service in their days and in their own ways to the admirers of Kâlidâsa, by bringing to their notice and within their reach one of the best compositions of that author; but it is no presumption, I believe, to say, though I do so with great deference to the learning of my predecessors in the field, that most of them contain texts that demanded further research and further elucidation and improvement based on more careful collation of Mss. As for the translations, and annotations that have hitherto been given in Europe and Calcutta, a great many of them may very well

* One year after the text of the present Edition had been printed Dr. Richard Pischel published in the *Monthly Journal of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin* (No. for October 1875) a recension of the Vikramorvas'î according to Dravidian Mss. And though his sources are of course different from mine he too has had, on the authority of his Mss, to omit the Prakrit passages in the soliloquy of the King in the fourth Act. This affords independent confirmation of the correctness of the principle on which I have omitted them in the text of the Edition.