

A detailed account of the materials used in the present work must necessarily be deferred to a later date. I embrace, however, the opportunity now offered me, to express my obligation to Dr. TH. AUFRECHT for the kindness with which he allowed me the use of his Indices of the Háravali, Trikándāśesha, Bṛihad- and Chhándogya-Upanishads and of the Vájasaneyisamhitá, as well as to Mr. CH. CASSAL for the assistance I have derived from an elaborate Index he has made of Hemachandra's Anekártha and which, according to a recent advertisement of Mr. S. AUSTIN's at Hertford, is now in course of publication together with the Anekártha themselves, an Index and improvements of former editions of the Abhidhánachintāmañi.

The reasons which have induced me to base the etymological and generally the grammatical portion of the work on the native authorities, to retain the technical terms of Páñini's school, to accompany the crude forms of the compounds with their grammatical names, and to adopt a technical method of marking certain Upapada-compounds, not to accentuate the words in the Dictionary, — these and other topics relating to its interior economy will have to be explained in the Preface, although some of them may be gathered indirectly from a critical pamphlet the first part of which will soon appear.

The comparatively short time placed at my disposal for the preparatory labour and the considerations I had to yield to when I allowed the printing to begin, have forced upon me the necessity of adding to the Dictionary a Supplement which to judge from the increase of matter since the first sheets were struck off will become a rather extensive one. Having to choose between suppressing the additional matter which will accrue during the progress of the work, and claiming the indulgence of the reader for the inconvenience of a Supplement, I could not hesitate in deciding on the latter alternative. The Supplement will enable me, too, to supply omissions made inadvertently and to avoid the consequence of excluding altogether those words or meanings which I might not feel justified in giving at the time being on the score of doubtful authorities and which I preferred therefore to reserve till I could apply to them the result of more extended research. Subjoined to the Supplement will be Appendices containing an explanation of the technical terms used in the Dictionary, etymological essays, a treatise on the accentuation &c., and lastly an Index of English words referring to the Sanskrit word the meaning of which they represent with the number of the page, column and line.

These brief remarks will indicate my plan so far as it is necessary here; they will not, however, convey an impression of the assistance I have derived from and the obligation which I owe to the previous editions of Professor WILSON's Dictionary. It would be unbecoming, on my part, in my present relation to these works, to speak of the care, the conscientiousness and the scholarship which they so eminently combine; but, on the other hand I should be wanting in justice were I to conceal the conviction I entertain that they have been the safest guide I could have found when entering upon the present task, or were I not to mention that the changes I have introduced are owing, not to the objection I make against the principle on which they are framed, but either to personal views or to the claims of the actual condition of Sanskrit philology. But still less will these remarks be able to testify the gratitude which I feel to the illustrious and venerable scholar himself. I have not only enjoyed, at all times, the benefit of his great literary experience and of his invaluable advice, but he has manifested his active interest and concurrence in the present work in taking upon himself the labour of correcting the printed proofs; above all, his spirit of genuine kindness and his rare liberality have left on my mind impressions so lasting and profound that it will always give me the most heartfelt satisfaction to look upon whatever good may arise from this book as virtually produced by him.

I must also record the sense I entertain of the services of my present publishers. After a premature death had closed the active career of Mr. ASHER, they have not merely taken up his plan but entered into it with the same zeal and intelligence. I cannot forego the pleasure of mentioning the handsome manner in which they have allowed all the literary considerations I have suggested to prevail over personal interest, and their ready acquiescence in the long and unexpected delay; for no one can feel more convinced than I am, that without this friendly and scientific disposition on their part — and I may add, too, without the creditable manner in which the printer acquits himself of his portion of the duty — the irksome mechanical toil which is so abundantly inflicted upon the author of a lexicographical work would probably not have failed to leave its unpleasant traces in the labour itself still more than, I fear, may actually be the case.

University College, London,
June, the 30th, 1856.

TH. GOLDSTÜCKER.