

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

It has been justly said, that necessity is the mother of invention. The necessity long felt of a Sanscrit Dictionary, not too large for the hand to use, or the pocket to afford, led to the present undertaking. The author having a class of native youth to instruct, found it exceedingly inconvenient to teach, without being able to refer the young men to a Dictionary ; at the same time he knew that it was impossible for them to supply themselves with one, as all they possessed in the world, would not realize much, if any, more than 50 Rupees, the lowest price at which Professor Wilson's Dictionary is now selling. Nearly all the native youth, who study the English and Sanscrit, are students of a similar description ; they all find that it to be impossible for them to advance in the study of the Sanscrit without a Dictionary, and yet equally impossible, with their limited means, to obtain the amount of money necessary for that purpose. The main object of this work, therefore, was to bring the quarto of Wilson's Dictionary to the octavo form, without diminishing the size of the type or the number of the words. This has been effected and a little more ; for while the number of the words has been increased, the number of the pages has been a little reduced.

It is confidently hoped that the present performance will not in the smallest degree interfere with Professor Wilson's valuable Dictionary ; being intended simply to supply the wants of those who are not able to purchase it. That work is so much fuller in its interpretation of words, and so much more satisfactory in its account of their derivation, that every scholar who can afford it will wish to have it in his possession.

Though the number of the words has been somewhat increased, it will be perceived by the addenda that it may be increased to a much greater extent. Indeed it is difficult in Sanscrit to fix the boundary of compound words. To have given all that have been used, would have swelled this volume to more than double its present size ; and even then it would not have been complete, as every author has a licence to make new compounds to any extent he pleases. The rule generally