

PREFACE TO THE NEW EDITION.

THE first edition of this Dictionary had the advantage of being published by the Delegates of the Oxford University Press, with the support of the Secretary of State for India in Council. The present greatly enlarged and improved work enjoys the same privileges. The first edition appeared in the summer of 1872. The extent of its indebtedness to the great seven-volumed Sanskrit-German Thesaurus compiled by the two eminent German Sanskritists, Otto Böhtlingk and Rudolf Roth, with the assistance of many distinguished scholars, such as Professor A. Weber of Berlin—then only completed as far as the beginning of the letter व *v*—was fully acknowledged by me in the Preface.

Having regard, however, to the entire originality of the *plan* of my own work, I did not venture to describe it as based on the great Sanskrit-German Wörterbuch. For that plan I claimed to be alone responsible. Every particle of its detail was thought out in my own mind, and the whole work was brought to completion by me, with the co-operation of five successive assistants—whose names were duly recorded—in about twelve years from the date of my election to the Boden Professorship in the University of Oxford.

The words and the meanings of the words of a Dictionary can scarcely be proved by its compilers to belong exclusively to themselves. It is not the mere aggregation of words and meanings, but the method of dealing with them and arranging them, which gives a Dictionary the best right to be called an original production.

In saying this I am not claiming any superiority for my own method over that of the two great German Sanskrit scholars—which, of course, has advantages of its own. Nor am I detracting one whit from the tribute of admiration which I and other lexicographers are always desirous of rendering to the colossal monument of industry and scholarship represented by their work. I am merely repeating my claim to the production of a Sanskrit-English Dictionary on a wholly unique plan—a plan the utility of which has been now proved by experience.

It was not thought desirable to print off more than a thousand copies of the first edition of my book. These—notwithstanding the necessarily high publishing price—were sold off in a few years. It then became a question as to how the continuous demand for the Dictionary was to be met, and the Delegates decided to provide for it by a supplementary facsimile edition, produced by a photolithographic process. Copies printed by that process have been procurable ever since. Of course I was well satisfied with the factual evidence thus afforded of the