

On each occasion I was cordially assisted by the Governor-General and local Governments of the day<sup>1</sup>. On each occasion, too, I found scattered throughout vast areas old fellow-students and pupils of my own administering immense provinces, and eager to help me in my investigations; and on each occasion I met to my surprise with learned and thoughtful natives—not only in the cities and towns, but even in remote villages—able and willing to converse with me in Sanskrit, as well as in their own vernaculars, and to explain difficult points in their languages, literatures, religions, and philosophies.

It may well be believed that these Indian journeys were of great value in extending the horizon of my own knowledge, and increasing my power of improving the Dictionary, but it must be confessed that they interrupted its continuous prosecution.

And, in very deed, the intermittent character of my latest lexicographical career would have made its completion during my life-time almost hopeless, had I not been ably aided by successive assistants and fellow-workers, whose co-operation is gratefully acknowledged by me subsequently (p. xxxi); that of Professor C. Cappeller having extended over far the larger portion of the work.

And this is not all that I have to urge in extenuation of my apparent dilatoriness. A still more unavoidable cause of delay has been the unlooked-for amount of labour involved. This is fully explained in the Introduction (see p. xvi), but I may briefly mention here that it has consisted in adding about 60,000 Sanskrit words to about 120,000—the probable amount of the first edition; in fitting the new matter into the old according to the same etymological plan; in the verification of meanings, old and new; in their justification by the insertion of references to the literature and to authorities; in the accentuation of nearly every Sanskrit word to which accents are usually applied; in the revision and re-revision of printed proofs; until at length, after the lapse of more than a quarter of a century since the publication of the original volume, a virtually new Dictionary is sent forth.

It would, of course, be unreasonable to look for perfection in the result of our combined efforts. The law of human liability to error is especially applicable to the development of a new method of any kind. Nor are the imperfections of this volume ever likely to become better known to the most keen-sighted critics than they are to the compilers themselves.

It is said of the author of a well-known Dictionary that the number of mistakes which his critics discovered in it, were to him a source of satisfaction rather than annoyance. The larger a work, he affirmed, the more likely it was to include errors; and a hypercritical condemnation of these was often symptomatic of a narrow-mindedness which could not take in the merit of any great performance as a whole.

Without having recourse to this convenient way of discomfiting critics of the *Chidrānveshin* type, and without abating one iota of justifiable confidence in the

<sup>1</sup> The three Viceroys were Lord Northbrook, the late Lord Lytton, and Lord Ripon. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to Lord Ripon for receiving me as his guest at Government House, Calcutta, in 1883-4;

and to Sir Richard Temple for receiving me at Government House, Belvedere, during the Prince of Wales' visit in 1875-6; and to Sir James Fergusson for receiving me at Government House, Bombay, in 1884.