

the promotion of a better knowledge of the religions and customs of India, as the best key to a knowledge of the religious needs of our great Eastern Dependency. My very first public lecture delivered after my election in 1860 was on 'The Study of Sanskrit in Relation to Missionary Work in India' (published in 1861).

For the rest, I have already alluded to the advantage which this Dictionary has derived from the support of the Governments of India, and I ought here to acknowledge with gratitude that, without the subsidy granted by successive Secretaries of State in Council, the present volume could not have been sold to the public at the price at which it is now offered. In regard to the Oxford University Press it will be sufficient to say that this volume adds to the countless evidences of its efficiency and of the wealth of its resources. But I may be permitted to congratulate its Delegates and Controller on their good fortune in possessing an unrivalled Oriental Press-reader in Mr. Pembrey. For more than forty years he has read the final proofs of all my books; and I can from my own experience, and without exaggeration, affirm, that I doubt whether any one can surpass him in the perfection to which he has brought the art of detecting errors due to the inadvertence of both authors and printers.

It is only necessary for me to add that having been alone responsible for the singularity of the plan of the original Dictionary, I thought it desirable to prefix to the first edition several sections of introductory explanations. In the same way my supremacy in the production of the present new work necessitates my undertaking the responsibility of writing a new series of explanations, in which I have deemed it desirable to pursue the main lines of my previous method, and not to discard any portion of the old matter which could be advantageously retained.

INDIAN INSTITUTE, OXFORD, 1899.

MONIER MONIER-WILLIAMS.

#### POSTSCRIPT.

This Dictionary, to which my father devoted so many years of labour, was completed by him a few days before his death, which took place at Cannes, in the south of France, on April 11, 1899. It had been his hope to see this work published shortly after his return to England. Although this desire was not granted, it was a satisfaction to him to know that the last revise had received his final corrections, and that the book would be issued from the University Press within a few weeks of his death.

May 4, 1899.

M. F. MONIER-WILLIAMS.

tionary:—'I received a copy of Professor Monier Williams' English and Sanskrit Dictionary at a time when I was about to commence a translation into Sanskrit of portions of the Old Testament. I have used it daily for the last seven years, and the more I have consulted it the more excellent I have found it. I feel bound to say that he appears to have succeeded, not only beyond my previous ideas of what was likely, but also of what was feasible, to be accomplished at the present time. The Pundits whom I employ have likewise expressed their unqualified admiration of the labour

and erudition which his volume displays. The Rev. J. Parsons of Benares, who has been engaged for some years past in preparing a new Hindee version of the New Testament, has likewise derived material assistance from Professor M. W.'s work. Indian missionaries generally owe him a large debt of gratitude.'

Let me add that I hope the present Sanskrit-English Dictionary will furnish some young scholar with materials for the compilation of a far more satisfactory English-Sanskrit Dictionary than that which I began to compile more than half a century ago.