

Nevertheless, sincerity obliges me to confess that, during my long literary career, my mind has had to pass through a kind of painful discipline involving a gradual weakening of faith in the trustworthiness of my fellow men, not excepting that of my first venerated teacher. I began my studies, indeed, with much confidence in the thought that one man existed on whom I could lean as an almost infallible guide; but as I grew a little wiser, and my sensitiveness to error sharpened, I discovered to my surprise that I was compelled to reject much of his teaching as doubtful. Nay, I am constrained to confess that as I advanced further on the path of knowledge, my trustfulness in others, besides my old master, experienced by degrees a series of disagreeable and unexpected shocks; till now, that I have arrived at nearly the end of my journey, I find myself left with my faith in the accuracy of human beings generally—and certainly not excepting myself—somewhat distressingly disturbed. Such painful feelings result, I fear, in my own case from a gradual and inevitable growth of the critical faculty during a long lifetime, and are quite consistent with a sense of gratitude for the effective aid received from my collaborators, without which, indeed, I could not have brought this work to a conclusion.

In my original Preface I expressed my thanks to each and all of the scholars who aided me in the compilation of the first edition, and whose names in the chronological order of their services were as follow:—

The late Rev. J. Wenger, of the Baptist Mission, Calcutta; Dr. Franz Kielhorn, afterwards Superintendent of Sanskrit Studies in Deccan College, Poona, and now Professor of Sanskrit in the University of Göttingen; Dr. Hermann Brunnhofer; Mr. A. E. Gough, M.A., of Lincoln College, Oxford, sometime Professor in the Government Colleges of Benares, Allāhābād, and Calcutta; and lastly, Mr. E. L. Hogarth, M.A., of Brasenose College, sometime Head Master of the Government Provincial School at Calicut.

It is now my duty to express my grateful obligations to the able and painstaking Assistants who have co-operated with me in producing the present greatly enlarged and improved work.

No one but those who have taken part in similar labours can at all realize the amount of tedious toil—I might almost say dreary drudgery—involved in the daily routine of small lexicographical details, such as verifying references and meanings, making indices and lists of words, sorting and sifting an ever-increasing store of materials, revising old work, arranging and re-arranging new, writing and re-writing and interlineating 'copy,' correcting and re-correcting proofs—printed, be it remembered, in five kinds of intricate type, bristling with countless accents and diacritical points, and putting the eyesight, patience, and temper of author, collaborators, compositors, and press-readers to severe trial. I mention these matters not to magnify my own labours, but to show that I could not have prosecuted them without the able co-operation of others.

The names of my new Assistants in chronological order are as follow:—

First, Dr. Ernst Leumann (a native of Switzerland), who worked with me in Oxford from October 3, 1882, until April 15, 1884, when he accepted a teachership in the Kantonschule of Frauenfeld in Switzerland. I have already acknowledged my obligations to him.

He was succeeded by the late Dr. Schönberg (a pupil of the late Professor Bühler), who came to me in a condition of great physical weakness, and whose assistance only extended from May 20, 1884, to July 19, 1885, when he left me to die. He was a good scholar, and a good worker, but impatient of supervision, and, despite my vigilance, I found it impossible to guard against a few errors of omission and commission due to the rapid impairment of his powers.

Then followed an interval during which my sources of aid were too fitful to be recorded.

In September, 1886, Dr. Leumann, who had meanwhile been appointed Professor of Sanskrit in the University of Strassburg, renewed his co-operation, but only in an intermittent manner, and while still resident in Germany. Unhappily the pressure of other duties obliged him in September, 1890, to withdraw from all work outside that of his Professorship. He laboured with me in a scholarly way as far as p. 474; but his collaboration did not extend beyond 355 pages, because he took no part in pp. 137–256, which represent the period of Dr. Schönberg's collaboration.

It was not till December, 1890, that Dr. Carl Cappeller, Professor of Sanskrit in the University of Jena, began his painstaking co-operation, which, starting from the word Dāda (p. 474), he has prosecuted perseveringly to the completion of the Dictionary. And it should be put on record that, although his collaboration had to be carried on contemporaneously with the discharge of his duties at Jena—involving the necessity for a constant interchange of communications by post—yet it resulted in the production of 834 finished pages between March, 1891, and July, 1898. It should also be recorded that, from the beginning of the letter ऋ ष, he had a careful assistant in Dr. Blau of Berlin, who also occasionally read the proof-sheets and contributed a certain number of words for the Addenda.

Furthermore, I must express my gratitude to Herr Geheimrath Franz Kielhorn, C. I. E., Ph.D., Professor of Sanskrit in the University of Göttingen, who was my assistant soon after the inception of the first edition, for his free and generous supervision of the grammatical portions of the present edition from about the year 1886; and his readiness to place at my disposal the experience which he gained during his labours for many years as Superintendent of Sanskrit Studies at the Government College, Poona.