THE RAMAYANA: BOOK I; CHILDHOOD

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The Ramayana: Book I; Childhood by Tulsi Das

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TULSI DAS

THE RAMAYANA: BOOK I; CHILDHOOD



THE

RÁMÁYANA OF TULSI DÁS.

TRANSLATED DY

F. S. GROWSE, M.A., B.C.S.,

FELLOW OF THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

BOOK I. CHILDHOOD.

The Conceptua of Tube Prices, more popular and more honoured by the people of the North-Western Provinces than the Eible is by the corresponding choose in England."

Georgetta.

ALLAHABAD:

SORIR-WESTERN PROVINCES GOVERNMENT PRESE

1877.

ERBATA.

Page 17, note-for Lamentio read Laurentia,

- .. 72, line 2 from bottom- 'Narsin' road 'Narsinh,'
- 94, line 5-for 'troube' read 'trouble. '
- 97, line 6 from bottom-for 'father' read 'feather.'
- 2 100, line 8 from bottom-for 'most' read 'must."
- 129, last line, for 'inking' read 'winking.'
- 135, after 'His will be the glory,' insert 'my lord, upon whom your favour rests.'

CORRIGENDA.

- Page 53, Dohd 95—for and 'triumphod over host and all, yet' read 'be and his army were defeated.'
 - 60, line 25—for 'the bonquet-table of Bhavani and her mother' real 'the banquet in the house where dwelt the Great Mother Bhavana.'
 - 63, line 5-for 'called all the gods' read 'called all the hills and takes."
 - 63. line 13-for 'fame' read 'birth.'

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INTRODUCTION.

The Sanskrit Rámáyana of Válmiki has been published more than once, with all the advantages of European editorial skill and the most luxurious typography. It has also been translated both in verse and prose, and, in part at least, into Latin as well as into Italian, French, and English. The more popular Hindi version of the same great national Epic can only be read in lithograph or bazar print,2 and has never been translated in any form into any language whatever. Yet it is no unworthy rival of its more fortunate predecessor. There can, of course, be no comparison between the polished phraseology of classical Sanskrit and the rough colloquial idiom of Tulsi Dás's vernacular; while the antiquity of Válmíki's poem further invests it with an adventitious interest for the student of Indian history. But, on the other hand, the Hindi poem is the best and most trustworthy guide to the popular living faith of the Hindú race at the present day—a matter of not less practical interest than the creed of their remote ancestors,-and its language, which in the course of three centuries has contracted a tinge of archaism, is a study of the greatest importance to the philologist, since it serves to bridge an otherwise impassable chasm between the modern style and the mediæval. It is also less wordy and diffuse than the Sanskrit original, and, probably in consequence of its modern date, is less disfigured by wearisome interpolations and repetitions; while, if it never soars so high as Válmíki in some of his best passages, it maintains a more equable level of poetic diction, and soldom sinks with him into such dreary depths of unmitigated prose. It must also be noted that it is in no sense a translation of the earlier work; the general plan and the management of the incidents are necessarily much the same, but there is a difference in the touch in every detail;

A handsome edition of the text was issued from the press of the Baptist Mission in Calcutta many years ago; but it has long been out of print, and the only copy I have ever seen of it was the one in use at the college of Fort Williams. I had thus entirely forgotten the fact till remained of it by Mr. Bate, a gentleman who has ably maintained the scholarly reputation of the same society by the very useful Hindi Dictionary that he has lately compiled.