

68
60 Dealings. Woodbridge 29th Octob 1824

You are, I know, perfectly acquainted with the language in which I have the honor of addressing you. I am but a poor hand at writing French, although I can manage to read it - and I therefore write in my own language. I am most obliged and flattered by the tenor of your kind and instructive letter of 10 April. I should like to deserve your attention and consideration if I could presume to suppose myself capable of giving you any information on any subject connected with the Sanskrit language or literature. Be assured that ^{it} is no affectation of self-abasement when I declare myself in comparison (if comparison can at all be made) profoundly ignorant. - The biting remark which I ventured to make to our respected friend Dr. Haedler, and which appears to have reached you, on the mode of spelling

certain Eastern names, referred to their appearance in English, not in Latin. The reasons which you give for your mode of orthography in the latter language are convincing. I am much pleased to see that you have adopted the approved orthography of Sir Wm Jones. Some works on Eastern Philology have been published in England in so barbarous a style of spelling as to detract much from their utility. There is one point which now occurs to me that I have often

thought might have been advantageously adopted by Sir Wm Jones and his followers. It is the substitution of K, where convenient, for our hard C. In well known names, of places particularly, it would not be expedient. Such as Calcutta, Calicut &c. In these, and such words as these, no inconvenience can arise. But in such as Kartikeya, Valmiki &c. which I believe he writes ~~Carticeya~~ Carticeya, Valmici. the pronunciation is equal to C hard. - But I will not trouble you with any more of my importuneness on these points.

At the time when living among Hindus and hearing but little of my own language, I learned a little of some of their dialects and made some enquiries into their mythology which comprehends