

of the College and the Society and are to be available to any person desirous of consulting them. The superintendence of this work occupies as you may imagine much of my time and with my public duties which are not light leaves me little leisure for other tasks. I do not lose sight of my Hindu Drama however. I am now engaged on the sixth and last of the collection the *Vikrama* and *Urvaśi* of *Calidāsa*. I am also preparing a Catalogue of the Books of the late Col[onel] Mackenzie, many of which particularly in the Southern Dialect are quite new to Europe. I have charge of his collections. The Translations are numerous and some of them interesting but they are not uniformly valuable having been made quite at random and under no competent superintendence. The colonel had made no use of them himself and has left nothing whatever of his own. A very large portion of the Translation requires also a thorough revisal before they can be made any use of and I am afraid I cannot engage in [such] disagreeable and unthankful a task. The whole will be sent to Europe shortly, having been purchased by the Company.—I am much obliged to you for the pains you have bestowed upon my Dictionary in the Bibliothek. I have run my eye over the criticism and am now trying to read it attentively. It is rather a task for I am a very poor German. I learned the rudiments when a boy, abandoned the study early and only resumed it occasionally of late years when I found it might teach me something in Sanscrit. I admire the language much and the Literature more. In truth the Genius of both is too English not to delight an Englishman. The great drawback is the inexhaustible copiousness of the language. There is no end to new words. If I am not mistaken too you have not yet left off manufacturing them and every author of note coins for himself. It is true they may be analysed by one skilled in the chemistry of the tongue but this science cannot fall to the lot of many foreigners and I at least have not acquired it—but to return to the Dictionary, I am not at all displeased by the fault you point out. “Whoever hopes a perfect work to see hopes what ne’er was, is not and ne’er shall be.” I am quite conscious of mine. Some of your censures I might perhaps contest, but my motives might be misconstrued and the defence attributed to partiality not principle. I shall therefore make none. Besides these however there are some defects I concur in and these are some absolute blunders. Time and extended study will no doubt furnish the necessary corrections. I am satisfied to have done what you give me credit for and in supplying a present want laid a foundation for future structure of loftier pretensions.