

for years, to translate some valuable and interesting work, and than suppose him to print it for the benefit of mankind: what must now be his mortification to find, that he can perhaps sell six copies; and that he must labor for years to pay the debts he has contracted in printing and publishing his book? If a man will suppose this, he will suppose nothing more than has more than once taken place, and which will perhaps induce him to believe, that few individuals will ever think of laboring to this extent, and fewer still of giving to the world the result of their labors.

What has here been stated with reference to Arabian and Persian literature few will perhaps undertake to deny; and if so, when we consider our connections with the East, particularly in a mercantile point of view, I think all must be convinced, that there exists a necessity, that something should be done on a more liberale scale than has hitherto been attempted.

C.

LETTER to the Honorable Court of Directors of the Honorable East-India Company.

HONORABLE SIRS,

I had, six years ago, the honor of presenting you with a copy of my edition of the celebrated Indian philosophical poem, entitled Bhagavad-Gitá, the first book ever printed on the continent of Europe in the Sanscrit language and in the original Dèvanâgarî character.

The first Volume of my edition of the Râmâyana, the most ancient epic poem of India, has just been published, and I have charged my bookseller to transmit to you the number of copies, for which I was honored with your subscription. I have, in a Prospectus, printed in London, and in the Latin preface prefixed to the first volume of the text, shown the importance of this work, and the extensive researches it involves.