

Pali Text Society.

Journal

OF THE

PALI TEXT SOCIETY.

1887.

EDITED BY

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LONDON :

PUBLISHED FOR THE PALI TEXT SOCIETY,

BY HENRY FROWDE,

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS WAREHOUSE, AMEN CORNER, E.C.

1887.

Journal of the Pali Text Society.

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PALI TEXT SOCIETY.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

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(With power to add workers to their number.)

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This Society has been started in order to render accessible to students the rich stores of the earliest Buddhist literature now lying unedited and practically unused in the various MSS. scattered throughout the University and other Public Libraries of Europe.

The historical importance of these Texts can scarcely be exaggerated, either in respect of their value for the history of folk-lore, or of religion, or of language. It is already certain that they were all put into their present form within a very limited period, probably extending to less than a century and a half (about B.C. 400-250). For that period they have preserved for us a record, quite uncontaminated by filtration through any European mind, of the every-day beliefs and customs of a people nearly related to ourselves, just as they were passing through the first stages of civilization. They are our best authorities for the early history of that interesting system of religion so nearly allied to some of the latest speculations among ourselves, and which has influenced so powerfully, and for so long a time, so great a portion of the human race—the system of religion which we now call Buddhism. The sacred books of the early Buddhists have preserved to us the sole record of the only religious movement in the world's history which bears any close resemblance to early Christianity. In the history of speech they contain unimpeachable evidence of a stage

in language midway between the Vedic Sanskrit and the various modern forms of speech in India. In the history of Indian literature there is nothing older than these works, excepting only the Vedic writings; and all the later classical Sanskrit literature has been profoundly influenced by the intellectual struggle of which they afford the only direct evidence. It is not, therefore, too much to say that the publication of this unique literature will be no less important for the study of history—whether anthropological, philological, literary, or religious—than the publication of the Vedas has already been.

The whole will occupy about nine or ten thousand pages 8vo. Of these 3,300 pages have already appeared. The accession of about fifty new members would make it possible to issue 1000 pages every year.

The Subscription to the Society is only One Guinea a year, or Five Guineas for six years, payable in advance. Each subscriber receives, post free, the publications of the Society, which cost a good deal more than a guinea to produce.

It is hoped that persons who are desirous to aid the publication of these important historical texts, but who do not themselves read Pāli, will give Donations to be spread if necessary over a term of years. Nearly £400 has already been thus given to the Society by public spirited friends of historical research.

** * * Subscriptions for 1887 are now due, and it is earnestly requested that subscribers will send in their payments without putting the Chairman to the expense and trouble of personally asking for them. All who can conveniently do so should send the Five Guineas for six years, to their own benefit and that of the Society also.*

The Society keeps no books, and its publications cannot in any case be sent to subscribers who have not already paid their subscriptions for the year.

Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the "Pāli Text Society." (Address: 22, Albemarle Street, London, W.)

Report

OF

THE PALI TEXT SOCIETY

FOR 1887.

I HAVE to congratulate our subscribers on the fact of our little Society having survived all the dangers of birth and childhood, and reached the end of its first six years in safety. It can now fairly claim to be an established success, and, when it promises to do even better in the future than in the past, my readers will agree that the promises of the Pāli Text Society are not empty words.

And first as to work done. Up to 1885 inclusive, we had issued in four years fourteen volumes, of a total of 2,602 pages. Adding for 1886 three volumes, viz. :

Journal	...	...	...	186 pages.
Vimāna Vatthu	...	...	...	116 „
and Sumaṅgala	...	...	...	368 „

and for 1887 two volumes of about 800 pages, gives us a total for the six years of nineteen volumes, containing twenty-six texts, in about four thousand pages—a very handsome result indeed for the six guineas which the issues have cost most of our members, and still more for those who have been wise enough to pay five guineas in advance for the six years.

The few copies which have found their way into the second-hand book market are already quoted at prices considerably above the subscriptions paid. And as the number of copies—especially in the earlier years—is nearly exhausted, the market value of our publications must inevitably rise still further. The reason is obvious. The Society, paying nothing for management, rent, or interest on capital,

is able to produce more cheaply than a publisher, who looks simply for profit, could do : and it has, besides, the advantage of the support of those of its generous friends who appear in the list of donors.

Another six years will see the work accomplished, or nearly so. Let me urge, therefore, on all of our subscribers the advantage of paying their five guineas in advance for those years.

Including the issues of this year, the full list of work already accomplished in the publication of texts (besides the lexicographical and other articles in the Journal) is as follows :

NAME OF TEXT.	YEAR.	EDITOR.
1.*Anāgata Vaṅsa ...	... 1886	Prof. Minayeff.
2. Aṅguttara, Parts I.-III. ...	... 1885	Dr. Morris.
3.*Abhidhammattha Saṃgaha...	1884	Prof. Rhys Davids.
4. Āyāraṅga Sutta ...	... 1882	Prof. Jacobi.
5. Udāna ...	... 1885	Dr. Paul Steinthal.
6.*Khudda- and Mūla-Sikkhā ...	1883	Dr. Ed. Müller.
7.*Gandha Vaṅsa ...	... 1886	Prof. Minayeff.
8.*Chakesa Dhātu Vaṅsa ...	... 1885	Prof. Minayeff.
9. Cariyā Piṭaka ...	... 1882	Dr. Morris.
10.*Tela Kaṭāha Gāthā ...	... 1884	{ Goonerātne Mudaliyar.
11. Thera Gāthā ...	... 1883	Prof. Oldenberg.
12. Therī Gāthā ...	... 1883	Prof. Pischel.
13.*Dāṭhā Vaṅsa ..	... 1884	Prof. Rhys Davids.
14. Dhamma Saṃgaṇi ...	... 1885	Dr. Ed. Müller.
15.*Pajja Madhu ...	... 1887	{ Gooneratne Mudaliyar.
16.*Pañca Gati Dipana ...	... 1884	M. Léon Feer.
17. Puggala Paññatti ...	... 1883	Dr. Morris.
18. Buddha Vaṅsa ...	... 1882	Dr. Morris.
19. Majjhima Nikāya, Part I. ...	1887	Mr. V. Trenckner.
20. Saṃyutta Nikāya, Part I. ...	1884	M. Léon Feer.
21.*Śaddhammopāyana ...	... 1887	Dr. Morris.

* The twelve texts marked with an asterisk appeared in the Journal.

NAME OF TEXT.	YEAR.	EDITOR.
22.*Sandesa Kathā ...	1887	Prof. Minayeff.
23.*Sīmā Vivāda Vinicchaya Kathā	1887	Prof. Minayeff.
24. Sutta Nipāta, Part I. ...	1884	Prof. Fausböll.
25. Sumaṅgala Vilāsini, Part I.	1886	{ Prof. Rhys Davids & Prof. Carpenter.
26. Vimāna Vatthu ...	1886	{ Gooneratne Mada- liyar.

The following list of works in progress will show how thoroughly our work is being supported by all the best Pāli scholars, not only in England, but also throughout Europe and in America :

1. PITAKA TEXTS.

TO BE EDITED BY

1. Dīgha Nikāya* ...	...	{ Prof. Rhys Davids and Prof. Carpenter.
2. Majjhima Nikāya, Vol. II.*	...	{ Mr. Trenckner (of Copen- hagen).
3. Saṃyutta Nikāya, } Vol. II.**	...	M. Léon Feer (of Paris).
4. Aṅguttara Nikāya, } Vol. II.**	...	Dr. Morris.
5. Khuddaka Pāṭha	...	Prof. Rhys Davids.
6. Dhammapada ...	...	{ Prof. Fausböll (of Copen- hagen).
7. Iti-vuttaka** ...	...	Prof. Windisch (of Leipzig).
8. Peta Vatthu** ...	...	{ Prof. Minayeff (of St. Peters- burg).
9. Niddesa ...	...	{ Prof. Bloomfield (of Balti- more, U.S.A.).
10. Apadāna*	...	Dr. Grünwedel (of Berlin).
11. Vibhaṅga	...	Dr. Morris.

2. EXTRA-CANONICAL BOOKS.

12. Sumaṅgala Vilāsini, } Vol. II.*	...	{ Prof. Rhys Davids and Prof. Carpenter.
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* Those marked with one star are well in hand, and those marked with a double star are in the press.

TO BE EDITED BY

13. Sutta Nipāta, Vol. II.,)
Dictionary & Notes) ... Prof. Fausböll.
14. Visuddi Magga ... } (Prof. Lanman (of Harvard
College, U.S.A.).
15. Netti Pakaraṇa ... } Prof. E. Kuhn (of München).
16. Mahā Vaṅsa* ... } Dr. Steinthal (of Berlin).
17. Hattavana-galla }
Vihāra Vaṅsa } ... Prof. Rhys Davids.
18. Sāsana Vaṅsa ... } Prof. Minayeff.
19. Bodhi Vaṅsa ... } Mr. Strong.
20. Lalāta Dhātu Vaṅsa ... } Dr. Morris.
21. Dhammapada Attha- }
kathā* } ... Dr. Wenzel.
22. Kathā Vatthu Attha- }
kathā } ... Prof. Minayeff.

The Government of India have lodged in the India Office Library a large number of MSS. from the late King's Library at Mandalay. The MSS. are both easy to read, being written in large letters, and very correct. I have also received from Gooneratne Mudaliyar of Galle, since the last report, the following MSS. :

Attha Sālinī
Netti Pakaraṇa
" " Atthakathā
Sammoha Vinodanī
Paramattha Jotikā
Lalāta Dhātu Vaṅsa (Sinhalese)
Sāsana Vaṅsa

What we want now are :

Lalāta Dhātu Vaṅsa (Pāli)
Sāsana Vaṅsa
Niddesa and Com.
Paramattha Dīpanī
Iti-vuttaka Atthakathā

besides the other MSS. mentioned at p. xii of my report for the year 1885.

It can no longer be said that we suffer from want of editors, which was one great difficulty when we started. And our stock of MSS., thanks chiefly to Gooneratne Mudaliyar, is getting fuller every year. *But we do want subscribers.* It is the want of money which prevents our printing texts ready for the press. We could easily now give 1,000 pages a year if we had a little more money. Surely the issue of a series of texts, so important for the history of India, will not be allowed to flag for the want of a few hundred pounds.

Finally, I have to congratulate the Society on the fact that our issue appears earlier this year than it has ever done before ; and, as the next issue is already in the press, it will probably be out still earlier than this one.

T. W. RHYS DAVIDS.