

Journal of the Pali Text Society.

Pali Text Society.

Journal

OF THE

PALI TEXT SOCIETY.

1891-3.

EDITED BY

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PALI TEXT SOCIETY.

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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 5000 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 1894 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: 3, Brick Court, Temple, London, E.C.)

Report

OF

THE PALI TEXT SOCIETY

FOR 1891-1893.

THE Chairman greatly regrets to have to report that, owing to a protracted and serious illness, which very nearly indeed proved fatal, he has been quite unable to do any serious work for the Society for a long period of more than two years. It would no doubt be only the way of the world if the members—regardless of the fact that the illness was the direct result of many years of thankless and unremunerated work—should think of nothing so much as of the loss they themselves had sustained, and be full, not of sympathy with the sufferer, but of complaint that the work of the Society had been allowed to stand still. But I trust with confidence that the members of the Pali Text Society stand at a higher level than this, and, rather than finding fault with me for having been ill, will be sincerely glad to hear that I have now at last entirely recovered.

I deeply regret to have to announce that Dr. Richard Morris, who had become seriously unwell from a very similar cause, that is, through the effect of worry and of overwork, has fallen a victim to the disease which seized

upon him when weakened with trouble. His self-denying zeal will now no longer be at the service of our Society and of the cause of knowledge. His name must be added to the long list of those whose usefulness has been impaired and at last destroyed by the neglect and even cruelty of an unthinking world which might have continued to profit by their work. His edition of the Anguttara remains incomplete, and no one has as yet come forward to undertake to finish it. The present issue contains the last work he did for the Society.

On the other hand, M. Léon Feer is going on with the edition of the Samyutta, the fourth volume of it being nearly through the press, and the Society may look forward to the completion of this important undertaking.

Mr. Robert Chalmers has kindly consented to fill the place left vacant by Mr. Trenckner's lamented death, and will finish the edition of the Majjhima in one more volume, and will also add a complete edition of the Papañca Sūdanī, Buddhaghosa's Commentary on the Majjhima. He is already well advanced in his most useful work, and has given specimens of what he has done in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society.

Dr. Grunwedel, of Berlin, who has unfortunately been suffering from an affection of the eyes, has found it impossible to carry on his collation of the MSS. of the Apadāna, and has handed them over to Prof. Edward Müller, who may, it is hoped, be able to prepare an edition of this interesting series of legends.

Dr. Karl Neumann, who is at present in Ceylon, has been kind enough to undertake an edition of the Patisambhidā.

Prof. Edward Müller is preparing an edition of the Attha Sālinī, Buddhaghosa's Commentary on the Dhamma Saṅgaṇī (which latter work he has already edited for the Society).

Dr. Karl Neumann has been so kind whilst in Ceylon to procure MSS. for the Society of the Daladā Wansa, the

Niddesa, the Apadāna, and the Netti Pakarāṇa, and I hope to be able to put in hand an edition of the latter work as soon as possible.

T. W. RHYS DAVIDS.

22, ALBEMARLE STREET, PICCADILLY, LONDON, W.,
July, 1894.

ACCOUNTS.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Balance January 1st, 1890	85	3	8	Loss by Exchange... ..	1	4	3
Investment Proceeds	250	0	0	Printing	374	0	0
24 Subscriptions of five guineas	126	0	0	Editors	18	0	0
195 " one guinea	204	15	0	Publisher's Charges	27	4	10
Donations	12	0	0	Balance December 31, 1893... ..	265	7	3
Interest from the bank	7	17	8				
	£685	16	4		£685	16	4

Balance in Ceylon, December 31st, 1893, R795. 90.