

REPORT OF THE PĀLI TEXT SOCIETY

FOR 1882.

BY T. W. RHYS DAVIDS.

I HAVE to congratulate the members of the Pāli Text Society on the fact of its having safely survived the anxious period of birth, and of its having fairly entered upon what we may all hope will be a career of such usefulness as will fulfil the promise with which it was started into life. Its birth was announced in my Hibbert Lectures in the May of 1881. At first—as was only indeed to be reasonably expected—subscriptions came in but slowly, and some of those friends who were its first supporters may have been anxious at the long delay which has elapsed before they have seen the first fruits of their subscriptions. I trust their fears have now subsided: and I would take this opportunity of pointing out how great is the debt which we owe to these first adherents of a good cause that was then without friends, and that but for their timely and generous aid might have died still-born. When we recollect that a generation elapsed after the publication of Turnour's Mahā-vaṅsa, and again another generation after the publication of Fausböll's Dhamma-pada, before any other Pāli Text of importance saw the light, we may well suppose that had it not been for the manner in which our first subscribers led the forlorn hope, another generation would have passed before the objects of the Society would have been at all attained. As it is, further effort was encouraged. It became certain towards the close of 1881 that the Society would live. And the

scholars who had so generously promised to work for us gratuitously, if the necessary funds for printing could only be assured, began their labours in the early part of this year.

Slowly but steadily other subscribers came forward. The result of my personal application to the Orientalists and great public libraries in Europe was in most cases satisfactory; and the especial thanks of the Society are due to Professor Lanman for his successful efforts in America. In the spring of 1882 there came the welcome intelligence that more than seventy of the most important of the members of the Buddhist Order in Ceylon had shown their appreciation of the work, and their trust in its promoters, by subscribing in advance to the cost of the printing. It is no slight thing that an established clergy should have come forward so readily to support the publication of the sacred books of their religion in an alien alphabet and by scholars of an alien faith. We need not perhaps be surprised that so liberal minded a body as the Buddhist Bhikkhus should have acted so; but this was due, no doubt, in great measure, to the personal influence and high position of the Sinhalese gentleman who has so kindly consented to be our agent in Ceylon,—the Atapattu Mudaliyâr of Galle.

This assistance come at a very opportune time. The want of good manuscripts had already in several instances made itself felt; and it was intended to apply, for the purpose of supplying this want, the donations of some generous friends who, not themselves acquainted with the Pāli language, had come forward to support a movement which bade fair to throw so much light on the comparative history of ideas and especially of religious belief. These donations having supplied at home the deficiencies which would otherwise have arisen in the charges for printing if we had not had recourse to the subscriptions of the Bhikkhus in Ceylon, we have been enabled to leave the whole of the latter amount in the island itself, to be applied there exclusively to the purchase of manuscripts.

The adhesion of so large a number of Buddhist Bhikkhus to our enterprise has had also another result. We announced

in our prospectus, which was circulated in Ceylon in the Sinhalese language, that it was proposed to include in the Society's series those of the more important of the earlier Jain and uncanonical Sanskrit Buddhist texts which might be expected to throw light on the religious movement out of which the Pāli Piṭakas also arose. Since nearly half of the number of our subscribers are now Bhikkhus belonging to the original Order of Buddhist recluses, it is only fair to them that this intention should be so far modified that we should devote our funds more immediately and continually to the publication of those texts in which they are principally interested—that is, of the ancient Pāli literature preserved in their own bright and beautiful island, by the zeal and industry of the successive generations of scholars who have kept the lamp of learning alight through its long and illustrious past. To this the other half of our subscribers in Europe and America will no doubt readily agree. It was to that end, indeed, that our Society was in the first place devoted: our other aims were always intended to be only subservient to that.

But the Buddhist Bhikkhus themselves are by no means desirous that our efforts should be directed either entirely or immediately to the publication of the Pāli Piṭakas alone. I have received from four of their number, whose opinion, especially on those points on which they agree, may fairly be taken as representative of the general opinion of the Saṅgha, the four letters (three in Sinhalese and one in Pāli) which are printed in full in the Appendix. They are as interesting as they are valuable, and I venture to give a précis of their contents for those who do not understand the languages in which the originals are composed.

Piyaratana Tissa Thera, himself a distinguished Buddhist scholar, welcomes with enthusiasm the undertaking of the Society, and expresses his personal thanks to the scholars who have promised to work for it. After giving in Pāli verse the names of the Piṭaka books, the writer refers to the treatises by scholars of old time, such as Buddhaghosa's "Path of Purity," on the subjects treated of in the Piṭakas, and

to the ancient commentaries upon them, and he suggests that these three classes of works should be kept carefully separate.

He will see that this will be done. Each work will be published separately in parts by itself, which are intended to be bound together in one volume; and thus no volume will contain works from any two of these different classes into which the Pāli literature is naturally divided.

Śrī Saddhānanda Thera, of Ratgama, who writes in Pāli, also mentions the Piṭaka books, concluding, as usual, with the Abhidhamma, and expresses the opinion that the contents of these last can best be learnt by a study of the work called Abhidhammattha-saṅgaha. He therefore suggests that this book, with the two Tikās upon it, and with two allied works, named Sucittālaṅkāra and Abhidhammāvātāra, should be included in the series of Pāli texts to be published by the Society; and he offers, if they are wanting in Europe, to supply the necessary MSS. He points out the desirability of printing the other Pāli works not included in the Piṭakas, and strongly insists on the importance of our obtaining good MSS. with the help of learned Buddhist scholars in Burma, Siam, and Ceylon.

Professor Childers left a part, about one-third, of an edition of the Abhidhammattha-saṅgaha, the importance of which was very early recognized by him, ready for the press. It were much to be hoped that one or other of our contributors should complete this for publication. There are sufficient MSS. for this purpose in Europe: of the other works we should be greatly indebted to our learned correspondent if he would supply us with MSS.

Paññānanda Thera, of Gintoṭa, after welcoming the Society, points out the advantage which it will be to those readers of Pāli who are not learned scholars to have correct texts before them. He lays stress therefore on the importance of our using good MSS., stating incidentally that some Pāli texts lately printed in Europe contain blunders (which is very likely, though in the one example he actually gives he seems to have chosen about the least likely instance). He

then very properly desires that the Jain texts which we print should be kept separate from the Buddhist ones.

Śrī Sumana Tissa, of Minuwañ-goḍa, sets out the historical dependence of Burmese and Siamese MSS. on those of Ceylon, and strongly insists on the general superiority of the latter. And he suggests the advantage, in editing also, but especially in translating Pāli texts, of European scholars obtaining the assistance of learned Buddhist Theras in Ceylon, of the principal of whom he gives a very interesting list. Finally, in touching and beautiful language (and he is evidently a master of style in the graceful tongue in which he writes), he gives expression to the earnest desire which he himself feels to aid in every way possible to him, though he has now grown old in years, the high and worthy task, so full of benefit to the world, and so difficult to fulfil, which the scholars in Europe belonging to our Society have ventured to undertake.

We are much obliged to our friends, the native scholars, for these proofs of their sympathy and interest, and can assure them that their suggestions have been considered with the respect which they deserve. Nothing would give us greater pleasure and advantage than letters from the distinguished scholars, mentioned by Śrī Sumana Tissa, in respect of Pāli Texts printed in Europe. We must only ask that these letters should be in Pāli and not in Sinhalese, as only two or three of us have the advantage of understanding the latter of these two languages. They will find that our scholars are very ready and willing to acknowledge any errors that may have crept into our printed texts, and to correct them in Lists of Corrigenda in the following parts. The fact is we neither hope nor expect when texts are first printed that they will be entirely without errors. This was not the case when the Latin and Greek literature was first printed, and will not be the case with our Pāli Texts. But our printed books, which will be all carefully edited by good scholars, and with collation of a number of native MSS., will be more correct, even from the very first, than any one MS. ever can be. They will also be much more practical and handy for daily use and reference. One

of the many advantages which we claim for our texts over those in MS. is precisely the ease with which the few errors they may contain can be pointed out and discussed by reference to chapter and verse. And when a correct reading has been once established, and published in print, it can never afterwards be lost or forgotten.

It is the same with our translations. There are, for instance, several passages in the version of the Khandhakas, published by Professor Oldenberg and myself in the Oxford series of the "Sacred Books of the East," in which we have been in great doubt as to the rendering of certain technical terms connected with the *Kathina*. So, also, in the translation in my *Buddhist Suttas* of the passage in the Mahâ-parinibbâna Sutta II. 32, I have only been able to conjecture as to the meaning of the phrase *vegha-missakena*. Throughout all our translations such doubtful passages are usually referred to in the notes; and suggestions or criticisms (in Pâli) from native scholars on these or other points in English translations of Pâli texts, will be gladly welcomed and followed, and we trust that we shall be able to publish some such letters in the next volume of this Journal.

We can also assure our friends in Ceylon that we recognize as fully as they do the paramount importance of making use of good MSS. We have enough such already available for some of the publications of the next year; but for others, and for the texts to be published in following years, we must appeal for help from Burma, Siam, and Ceylon. We want most especially MSS. (both texts and commentaries) of:—

Udâna.	Paṭisambhidâ.
Iti-vuttaka.	Apadâna.
Vimâna-vatthu.	Kathâ-vatthu.
Peta-vatthu.	Puggala.
Niddesa.	Visuddhi-magga.

The Society is willing either to receive MSS. of these books on loan, or in place of subscriptions, or to give printed Pâli books of the same value for them, or to pay for them in money. Scholars in the West are already working at the

Iti-vuttaka, the Apadâna, and the Visuddhi-magga. *Good MSS. of these books are therefore wanted at once*, before there can be time to have them copied. We would earnestly ask that any Thera in Ceylon who possesses copies of them, and who is desirous to help us in carrying out our difficult task, will be so kind as to allow us the use of them on any one or other of the terms just mentioned. All inquiries on the matter, and MSS. intended for the Society, should be sent to the Atapattu Mudaliyâr of Galle.

This matter of good MSS. is moreover of such importance that I have deemed it advisable to add to the present issue of our Journal such accounts of the MSS. at present existing in most of the more important of our European libraries, that our friends in Ceylon will be able to see in what respect we are already provided, and that our contributors in Europe may be able to ascertain whence MSS. of the books they are working at can be procured. To these I add a list of the MSS. in the two principal libraries in Ceylon, for purposes of reference and comparison.

With regard to our future work, it should be mentioned that we hope to publish about 25 sheets (that is, 400 pages) regularly at about Christmas time each year until our important work is actually concluded. The Vinaya Piṭaka being already nearly completed by the industry of its learned editor, Professor Oldenberg, the following table will show how far that part of the Pâli Piṭakas which the Society hopes to publish has been at present dealt with or undertaken :—

NAME OF BOOK.	PROBABLE NO. OF PAGES. ¹	EDITOR.
The Dīgha Nikāya . . .	500 . . .	Mr. Rhys Davids.
The Majjhima	650 . . .	Mr. Trenckner.
The Saṃyutta	500 . . .	
First Saṃyutta		M. Léon Feer.
The Aṅguttara	950 . . .	Dr. Morris.
	2600	

¹ This includes the text only; not the notes and extracts from the commentaries.

On this it should be noted that I have been so fully occupied this year with the unexpectedly wide correspondence and anxious thought which the starting of our Society has brought upon me that it has not been possible for me to make more than a very little progress with my projected edition of the Dīgha. But about half of the work is in a more or less forward state, and four of the largest Suttas are already nearly ready for the press, and Dr. Morris has been kind enough to promise his assistance with respect to one or two others which he has already copied for other purposes.

Mr. Trenckner is hard at work at his edition of the Majjhima, which he is printing without any assistance from the Society's funds. It will promote the good cause none the less for being independent of our aid, and our readers will all be glad to hear that the edition of so important a work by so able a philologist is already in type to the extent of between three and four hundred pages, and bids fair to arrive at a safe and speedy conclusion.

Of the Aṅguttara, by Dr. Morris, we have the pleasure already this year of presenting to the subscribers the first instalment, containing the Eka Nipāta and the Duka Nipāta, together about one-eighth of the whole work. The editor, who, in spite of the claims of other fields in which he is already so distinguished, has heartily devoted his wide knowledge and almost unrivalled power of rapid work to the cause of our Society, has the next instalment well in hand, and, as will be seen below, both gives and promises other very substantial aid to the common enterprise.

No one has as yet ventured to undertake the whole of the one remaining of the four great collections of the Suttas, but M. Léon Feer, having concluded the important works on Tibetan Buddhism on which he has been engaged, will begin, and hopes to complete, his edition of the first part of it this year; and may possibly be persuaded to continue it afterwards.

With regard to the miscellaneous canonical books, we stand at present in the following position:—

NAME OF BOOK.	PROBABLE NO. OF PAGES.	EDITOR.
Khuddaka Pâṭha	10	Dr. Morris.
Dhammapada	40	Prof. Fausböll.
Udâna	75	
Iti-vuttaka	50	Prof. Windisch.
Sutta Nipâta	60	Prof. Fausböll.
Vimâna-vatthu	250	
Peta-vatthu	200	
Thera-gâthâ	100	Prof. Oldenberg.
Therî-gâthâ	30	Prof. Pischel.
Jâtaka	40	Prof. Fausböll.
Niddesa	300	
Paṭisambhidâ	350	
Apadâna	300	Dr. Hultsch.
Buddhavaṅsa }	100	Dr. Morris.
Cariyâ-Piṭaka }		

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And with regard to the Abhidhamma books :—

NAME OF BOOK.	PROBABLE NO. OF PAGES.	EDITOR.
Dhamma-saṅgani	100	Dr. Frankfurter.
Vibhaṅga	200	Dr. Morris.
Kathâ-vatthu	230	
Puggala	45	Dr. Morris.
Dhâtu	45	
Yamaka	430	
Paṭṭhâna	550	

1600

On this list also it should be observed that the Buddhavaṅsa and Cariyâ-Piṭaka have already been finished by Dr. Morris, as far as the text is concerned, and will be distributed this year. Professor Oldenberg's edition of the Thera-gâthâ is almost ready for the press (a few references only requiring to be added), and will be sent to press early next year. Professor Windisch and Professor Pischel are already at work on the Iti-vuttaka and the Therî-gâthâ. Professor

Fausböll hopes to have the Sutta Nipāta and the new edition of his Dhamma-pada ready during the course of 1883; and the former of these two he will publish without requiring any assistance from our funds. The Jātaka, as our readers will already know, he is publishing in his magnificent edition of the Jātak-attha-vaṇṇanā; and it will therefore be unnecessary to repeat it, without the commentary, in our series of Pāli texts. Dr. Frankfurter has had his edition of the Dhamma-saṅgani nearly ready for some time, but wishes to perfect it before publication by further collation with the MSS. at Paris. Dr. Morris has so far progressed with the Puggala that he only requires a short interval to prepare it for the press, and we hope to distribute this work next year.

Besides the above Piṭaka books, and separately from them, we propose to publish also a selection of later works throwing light on the history of early Buddhism. Of these the following may already be mentioned :—

NAME OF BOOK.	PROBABLE NO. OF PAGES.	EDITOR.
Visuddhi-magga	500	. . Prof. Lanman.
Netti-pakarāṇa	180	
Jātaka-mâlâ	200	. . Prof. Kern.
Lalita Vistara	300	
Madhyamaka Vṛitti	250	. . Mr. Bendall.
Mahâvaṅsa	200	
Lalāṭa-dhātu-vaṅsa	50	. . Dr. Morris.
Bodhi-vaṅsa	100	
Āyârāṅga Sutta	120	. . Prof. Jacobi.
Bhagavatî	150	. . Dr. Leumann.
Abhidhammattha-saṅgaha	50	
Mûla- and Khudda-sikkhâ	50	. . Dr. Edward Müller.

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This list might be indefinitely extended; it contains only at present the engagements already made, and the names of one or two other works which are particularly wanted. Two of them are Jain books—that is, books written by the followers of Niganṭha Nāthaputta; and three are Sanskrit

Buddhist works from Nepal—that is, books written by the followers of those Bhikkhus who, after the close of the Council at Vesâli, held the Mahâ Saṅgîti. Of these, one of the Jain works is completed, as far as the text is concerned, this year. It is scarcely necessary to point out to our subscribers in Ceylon that we do not propose to print these works because we believe them to belong to the Pâli Piṭakas, but because of their historical interest and especially because of the light they may reasonably be expected to throw upon the growth of Buddhism. We learn enough in the Pâli Piṭakas and in later Pâli records about Nâthaputta, and about the holders of the Mahâ Saṅgîti, to make us wish to know more. The works of their followers are the most likely source from which such further knowledge can be obtained, and we are particularly fortunate to have had the advantage of Professor Jacobi's help in this matter; whose work, now published, the edition of the *Āyâraṅga Sutta*, will be the more useful, as a translation of it by himself will also appear this year at Oxford.

Of the other works in this list, the *Abhidhammattha-saṅgaha* has already been referred to above (p. 4). The very valuable and important portion of the *Mahâvaṅsa* that was published by Mr. Turnour is not only out of print, and difficult to obtain, but is not up to the level of present knowledge, and is often indeed incorrect. One may be allowed to say this without detracting at all from the high estimation in which his weighty services to historical inquiry ought always to be held. Few and far between among the hard-worked civil servants in India and Ceylon are the men who are willing to give up the precious hours of their scanty leisure time to original work, either of an historical or of a scientific kind; and we, of this Society, are the last who are likely to forget the debt of gratitude we owe to Mr. Turnour for the interest which he took himself, and was able to arouse in others, in the native literature and religion of the people among whom his official duties lay. Nearly fifty years have elapsed since he wrote; and only one workman has descended with practical pick and shovel into the

mine which he opened for us. A careful edition of all that can probably be rescued of the text of the older, and almost superseded, Dipavaṅsa is the result of the new effort. But we ought to have the whole of the Ceylon *Wansa poth*, the ancient civil and religious chronicles of the island, made accessible to the world in printed texts. In the first place, of course, we want the Pāli Piṭakas; but this ought we to do, and not to leave the other undone—at least, if our funds hold out. And that brings me to the final point, last but by no means least, of this report, the question of the present state and future prospects of our finances.

Perhaps I ought, however, to add a word or two here about our *Journal*. It will appear every year, and contain a *Report* of work done, and work about to be done. But it will also be open for the insertion of letters, notes, and even short papers, relating either to the texts themselves or to early Buddhist history, from the pens of native or of European scholars, and either in the English or in the Pāli language. We hope also to include in it Analyses or Translations in English of Pāli texts, explanations of difficult or misunderstood terms, Catalogues of MSS., Indices, Glossaries, and other aids of a similar kind to the use of the works published by the Society. We hope to receive a number of such communications, and shall be prepared, if necessary, to publish an intermediate number of the *Journal* during the course of the year.

The annexed lists will show the names and addresses of those who have come forward to assist the young Society. With one or two exceptions, they have all paid up; and we have received in England from—

	£	s.	d.
Donors	44	8	0
Subscribers of Five Guineas	73	10	0
Subscribers of One Guinea	66	3	0
Sale of MSS.	17	14	0
Interest from the Bank.	2	19	6
	<hr/>		
	£204	14	6
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It is not possible to state at present what our expenditure here for this year will be, as our printers' bills have not yet all come in, nor have the accounts from Ceylon been yet made up for the year. A complete Balance Sheet must therefore be held over till the next issue of our Journal. But it is possible to estimate the total cost of printing, binding, and despatching to subscribers the four parts we issue this year at something under £135. In other words, the eighty odd subscribers in Europe and America will receive, thanks to the donors and the help we have had from Ceylon, about *fifty per cent.* more in printed matter than the value of their subscriptions, even reckoning the value of our issues at only the cost price. It will be noticed, also, that we have not encroached, for this year's expenses, on the subscriptions paid in advance for five years. That amount remains in hand for use, in due proportions, during each successive year.

As to the future generally I am afraid to prophesy, lest I should appear too sanguine. But thus much is at least certain, that even if the number of subscribers remains the same as at present, we shall be able to continue our work in regular course. I have already put communications in train with Burma, Siam, and Japan. It is scarcely likely that in all these three Buddhist countries there should be no result at all. Even in Europe and America we may fairly hope for a few more subscribers. Our next year's issue will be somewhat larger than that for the present year; and we may reasonably look forward to carrying to a successful conclusion, and that within a limited number of years, the difficult and important enterprise which, in spite of gloomy prophecies and of much discouragement, we have thus ventured to set on foot.

When that is done Buddhists throughout the world will have before them complete copies of their sacred books in the original language; and in a form at once more accurate, very much cheaper, and more handy for use, than the bulky MSS. in which alone they are at present accessible. European scholars will have before them a valuable series of original

documents on one of the most important and interesting chapters in human history. Part of the result will be, on the one hand among the Buddhists themselves, to encourage throughout the East the study of their ancient literature, and thus to insure and to popularize an accurate acquaintance with the primitive forms of their venerable faith—and on the other hand here in the West, to provide the bricks out of which historical works can be built up to enlighten us on the deeper feelings of that larger half of the world of which we know so much too little. And is it too much to hope that a widespread acquaintance, among our educated classes, with the history of a religion so remarkably similar in some points of its origin and in the whole course of its development to our own, will do much to enlarge their sympathies, and to aid them in forming a correct estimate of the real meaning and value of not a few details in their own inherited beliefs?

T. W. RHYS DAVIDS,
CHAIRMAN.

TEMPLE,
20th Dec. 1882.

P.S.—There has been an unexpected delay at the last moment in the issue of our first year's publications. But our subscribers will recollect that our editors had less than a year to work in, and that there are always unusual difficulties at the commencement of such work as they have undertaken. Next year we hope to be fully up to time.

P.S. No. 2.—Just as this report is being struck off, I have received the welcome intelligence from Siam of the substantial donations mentioned in the following list.