

PLAN
OF A
COMPARATIVE VOCABULARY
OF
Indian Languages :

READ AT THE
LITERARY SOCIETY OF BOMBAY,
On the 26th May, 1806,
BY SIR JAMES MACKINTOSH.

BOMBAY: PRINTED—

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CALCUTTA,

Re-printed by Chas. Hubbard,

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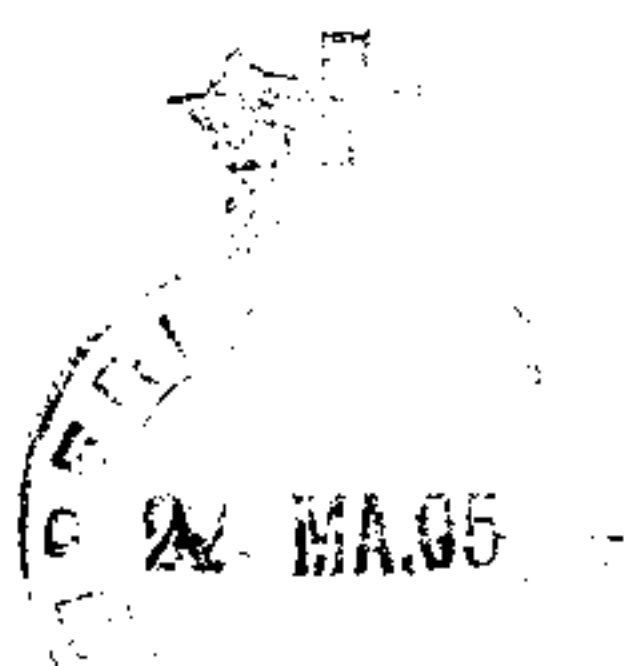
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PLAN &c.

THE EMPRESS CATHARINE II. in the year 1784, conceived the idea of a work better adapted than any which had preceded it, to facilitate the comparison of languages, and to furnish certain means of determining their affinity and filiation. This work was a comparative vocabulary of all languages. It is obvious that so great a plan must have been altogether impracticable, if it had not been limited to a moderate number of words. Her Imperial Majesty herself selected, and wrote with her own hands, one hundred and thirty words, which she thought the best fitted for the purpose of the work; and the execution was committed to the celebrated Mr. PALLAS, who has already published two volumes, exhibiting these words in two hundred languages of *Europe* and *Asia*. A third was promised, but has not yet been published, with those of *America*. This defect, however, may be supplied by Dr. B. S. BARTON, Professor of Natural Philosophy at *Philadelphia*, who is said to have collected vocabularies of a hundred *American* languages.

It is needless to observe how much gratitude and admiration are due to the Sovereign who, in the midst of the cares of Government, found leisure for so noble an enterprize; and to the celebrated scholar

lar who undertook and executed a task so laborious. These sentiments of gratitude and admiration are not abated by some inconveniences which belong to the plan chosen, and by some defects unavoidable in the first execution of a work of such magnitude. So few copies were printed, and such was the consequent scarcity of the book, that it was not to be found even in the public library at *Paris*, the greatest in the world. Another circumstance, besides its rarity, made it almost inaccessible to curious and ingenious men. A spirit of nationality, pardonable indeed, but inconvenient, had dictated the choice of the *Russian* characters, known to very few men of letters. It required no great diligence to conquer that obstacle, but the character is said not to be in itself well adapted to perform the functions of an universal alphabet, and seems (in common indeed with most other alphabets,) very imperfectly to represent the sounds employed by many other nations.

Very different degrees of accuracy were naturally to be expected in different parts of such a work. The authority of Government was employed to collect specimens of the languages spoken though the vast extent of the *Russian* empire, and they may doubtless be presumed to be perfectly correct. The greatest exactness was also attainable in those numerous languages of *Slavonic* origin, which are analogous in their structure and genius to the *Russian*, and which are spoken by nations in the immediate neighbourhood of that great empire. And no difficulty could be found respecting the polished languages either of ancient or modern *Europe*. But the same correctness was not possible with regard to the languages of distant nations, either illiterate, or whose literature was unknown to learned Europeans.

Europeans. Defects and errors respecting them were inevitable; and they are confessed by the learned compiler, with the candour natural to conscious and secure superiority. It is indeed obvious that in the hands of one man, or of one Society, the work can never approach completeness. It never can be executed to the extent or with the exactness desirable, in any other manner than by committing several parts of it to different persons, who may each contribute specimens of the languages most accessible to them. But this distribution would occasion such difficulty and delay as to be altogether useless, if each contributor were only to take a single language. Nor is this at all necessary. The languages of the world are in general divided into classes, one of which extends over many neighbouring or connected countries; and which having been originally dialects of the same speech, or branches from the same stock, retain, even in their separate form, similarity sufficient to make it convenient that they should be considered together. Thus in *Europe*, from the *Rhine* to the *North Cape*, and from the *Vistula* to the *Atlantic*, the predominant speech is *Teutonic*, which has gradually diverged into *German*, *Dutch*, *English*, *Danish*, *Swedish*, (not to mention the dialects of *German*) the independent idioms of nations no longer intelligible to each other. This is a natural principle of classification. Besides, there is a practical convenience in committing to the same person or persons all the idioms spoken in the same empire, even when they have no natural analogy. This occurs in many cases in *Russia*; and even in our more contracted insular territories, we have the *Welsh*, *Irish* and *Gaelic*, which, being *Celtic* dialects, are radically different from *English*. On either and perhaps on both these principles,

from similarity of idiom and from local convenience, the languages of *India* become the proper province of the *British* nation. By *Indian* languages are meant, those spoken by that race of men, of which the great majority professes the Braminical religion, and which inhabits the country extending from the *Indus* to the *Burrampooter*, and from the northern mountains to *Cape Comorin*. Whether the nations, situated between the South Eastern frontier of *Bengal* and the Straits of *Malacca*, ought to be comprehended in the *Indian* class, seems very doubtful; for though Bhuddism be either a sect of Bramanism, or a modification of the same original religion, and though deep traces of *Sanscrit* language and learning are discoverable among these nations, yet they are so blended with others of *Malay* extraction towards the South, and so tinged with *Chinese* manners and institutions towards the East, that little reason for ranking them with the unmixed nations of *Hindu* race. All the *Indian* languages hitherto explored have a large mixture of *Sanscrit*; but in what relation they stand to that ancient and celebrated tongue, is a matter which has not yet been determined, and which indeed cannot be determined, without a more exact comparison than has yet been laid before the public. The mere coincidence of many words will not prove that they are descended from it. On that principle *English* would be a daughter of the *Latin*. Nor is a different grammatical structure a decisive proof that they are not so descended. For that difference subsists between *Italian* and *Latin*, between *English* and *Saxon*. *Sanscrit* may have been the ancient vernacular speech of all *India*, from which all her modern dialects are derived. It may have been the speech of one district, which being

more

more cultivated and polished, was adopted as the written, though not as the vulgar language, of all the other provinces. It is thus that the *Tuscan* and *Upper Saxon* dialects are supposed to have become the written and polite languages of *Italy* and *Germany*, aided in the latter case by the great influence of *LUTHER*. It may have been the language of learning and refinement throughout *India*, insensibly formed out of the analogous spoken dialects which it left in undisturbed possession of vulgar use. This would be applicable to the supposition of those *German* and *Italian* critics who have resisted the exclusive claims of *Tuscany* and *Saxony*. It may have been the speech of a conquering nation which imposed its laws and religion on the vanquished, and imparted to them a great portion of its language. In this manner such multitudes of *Norman* words flowed into the *Saxon*, and combining with it, gradually produced the modern *English*.

Other suppositions might be made, and those which I have offered above might be variously combined; as, the *Sanscrit* might have grown up spontaneously in one part of *India*, while it might be introduced by conquest into another, and only by religion and learning into a third. But, of problems which depend on such subtle distinctions, it would be absurd to attempt the solution, without a series of writers of well ascertained antiquity, and without those collateral aids from civil history, which, in this country, it seems daily to become more vain to expect. But whether the *Sanscrit* be the groundwork of the spoken languages, or a subsequent addition; in other words, whether it be to them what the *Saxon*, or what the *Norman* is to the *English*, is a question to which caution and diligence

gence may doubtless discover the true answer. For this purpose it will be useful to observe with peculiar attention the state of derivatives and their roots, of compounds and their elements. The roots will often be found in *Sanscrit*, where they have not been transferred, or have not been preserved in the vernacular tongue. But it will deserve particular notice whether insulated words or whole families have migrated. The first must happen in every case of intercourse between nations. The second, when it frequently occurs, is a strong proof of the descent of a language. It will also merit the greatest care to determine whether the *Sanscrit* words, in the spoken dialects, be learned, religious and scientific terms, or words denoting the common objects and actions, for which no nation can be without names. In the first case they may be foreigners, but in the second we may confidently pronounce the languages themselves to be of *Sanscrit* extraction.

We are informed by Sir WILLIAM JONES that in several of these tongues there is a combination of *Sanscrit* with an "*unknown basis*." Unhappily this great Philologist seems to have considered the citation of authorities as unclassical, and to have regarded the detail of proofs as unsusceptible of elegance. Though it be very probable therefore, from his great reputation, that his assertion is true, yet he has not made his researches useful to his successors, who must repeat and verify them before they make any conclusions from them. It would be most curious to ascertain whether this unknown basis be the same in all, or in any considerable number of *Indian* languages.

In Mr. PALLAS's vocabulary, that part which relates to *India* is necessarily one of the most incomplete. I now wish and hope to remedy

remedy that defect, and, by the aid of the *British* Government in this country, to exhibit a vocabulary, consisting of his words, and of a certain number of others, in every language, dialect and jargon of *India*. It is not easy to distinguish these three terms from each other with logical precision; but, for practical purposes, the following distinction may perhaps suffice. When two sorts of speech differ so much that they who speak them are not intelligible to each other, we call them different languages. When they differ only so much as not to be easily and universally intelligible, they are different dialects. When this difference is confined to the unwritten and ungrammatical speech of the vulgar, it forms what the *French* call a *Patois*, and what, for want of an appropriate term, I must, with the hazard of some reproach for innovation, call a jargon. Thus, before the union of the Crowns, the *Scottish* and *English* were two dialects of the same *Anglo-Norman* language.* Since that period the *Scottish* can no longer pretend to equal rank; yet the remembrance of its former dignity, and the merit of the authors who have written in it, still entitle it to be called a dialect; from which the provincial speech of *Lancashire* or *Devonshire* would be conveniently distinguished by the term jargon.

It is my intention to transmit to the various Governments of *British India*, a list of words for an *Indian* vocabulary, with a request that they would forward copies to Judges, Collectors, Commercial Residents and Magistrates, directing them to procure the correspondent

* For so it surely must be called, though Scotland was never conquered by Normans. The proportion of Norman words in Scotch seems, for some reason not yet very well ascertained, not to have been perceptibly less than in English.

ent terms in every jargon, dialect or language, spoken within the district committed to their trust : and respecting the languages spoken without the Company's territories, that the same instructions may be given to Residents at the Courts of friendly and allied States, as far as their influence may extend. I shall propose that they may be directed to transmit the result of their enquiries to me, and I am ready to superintend the publication of the whole vocabulary.

It is particularly desirable that they should mark with great precision the place where one language, dialect or jargon, or variety of speech ceases, and another begins ; and that they should note with more than ordinary care the speech of any tribes of men uncivilized, or in other respects different from the *Hindoo* race, whose language is most likely to deviate from the general standard. Mixed and frontier dialects, for the same reason, merit great attention.

The languages now least known to us seem to be those which are spoken on both sides of the *Indus*, from *Tatta* to *Lahore* ; and the enquiry might be extended to *Cashmire*, of which country there are so many natives in most parts of *India*, that the *Cashmirian* words can easily be procured.

In the words, especially in those which are familiar, it will be convenient to chuse the *most familiar* of two or more nearly synonymous words : that for instance which would be most easily understood by the lower sort of people.

Where there are many foreigners resident in a district, especially when they speak a language not otherwise very accessible to our enquiries, it will be a great addition to the value of a communication to
procure

procure the words to be translated into the foreign as well as the local languages. When the words or their orthography have changed in modern times, it would be most desirable to procure from learned natives the correspondent terms in the more ancient speech.

This vocabulary would be completed by a collection of all the ancient and modern alphabets of the district; their force being represented in *English* characters according to Mr. GILCHRIST's system.

The sounds of all these languages are to be represented by *English* characters; and it will be more convenient to adopt Mr. GILCHRIST's orthography, which is fixed and generally known, than to contrive another, which, even if it were better, would require some time to teach, and probably encounter some opposition.

To facilitate the execution of the plan, there will be subjoined to this essay a specimen of the tabular form into which the vocabulary will be thrown.

The extent and limits would be most perspicuously represented by small maps, in which different colours might denote the different sorts of speech.

Where there are sounds, for the expression of which the *English* character and Mr. GILCHRIST's orthography are supposed to be peculiarly inadequate, that circumstance ought to be mentioned. In such a case other signs may be used; provided that full warning be given of the deviation, and that the words be *also* given according to Mr. GILCHRIST's system, as being that which is now best known and most generally adopted.

If

If from accidental circumstances, it should be difficult for any gentleman to comply with the condition which requires the use of Mr. GILCHRIST's system, he will be pleased to give as full an explanation as possible of the plan which he himself adopts.

Though in an undertaking which requires the support of the Supreme Authority, the first appeal must be made to the Officers of Government, yet I have no doubt that they will receive the voluntary aid of every intelligent *Englishman*, who possesses any means of contributing to the object ; and that they will call for the assistance of all the learned natives, who must be able so powerfully to second their exertions.

VOCABULARY



VOCABULARY

OF THE

EMPRESS CATHARINE II.

1 God,
2 Heaven,
3 Father,
4 Mother,
5 Son,
6 Daughter,
7 Brother,
8 Sister,
9 Husband,
10 Wife,
11 Maiden,
12 Boy,
13 Child,
14 Man,
15 People,
16 Head,
17 Countenance,
18 Nose,
19 Nostril,
20 Eye,
21 Eye-brow,
22 Eye-lashes,
23 Ear,
24 Forehead,
25 Hair,

26 Cheek,
27 Mouth,
28 Throat,
29 Tooth,
30 Tongue,
31 Beard,
32 Neck,
33 Shoulder,
34 Elbow,
35 Hand,
36 Finger,
37 Nail,
38 Belly,
39 Back,
40 Foot,
41 Knee,
42 Shin,
43 Flesh,
44 Bone,
45 Blood,
46 Heart,
47 Milk,
48 Hearing,
49 Sight,
50 Taste,

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|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 51 Smell, (the sense of) | 90 Summer, |
| 52 Touch, | 91 Spring, |
| 53 Voice, | 92 Autumn, |
| 54 Name, | 93 Winter, |
| 55 Cry, | 94 Year, |
| 56 Noise, | 95 Time, |
| 57 Howling, | 96 Earth, |
| 58 Speech, | 97 Water, |
| 59 Sleep, | 98 Sea, |
| 60 Love, | 99 River, |
| 61 Pain, | 100 Wave, |
| 62 Trouble, | 101 Sand, |
| 63 Labour, | 102 Dust, |
| 64 Force, | 103 Mud, |
| 65 Power, | 104 Mountain, |
| 66 Marriage, | 105 Coast, |
| 67 Life, | 106 Rising ground, |
| 68 Size, | 107 Valley, |
| 69 Spirit, (or Mind) | 108 Air, |
| 70 Death, | 109 Vapour, |
| 71 Cold, | 110 Fire, |
| 72 Circle, | 111 Heat, |
| 73 Ball, | 112 Depth, |
| 74 Sun, | 113 Height, |
| 75 Moon, | 114 Breadth, |
| 76 Star, | 115 Length, |
| 77 Ray, | 116 Hole, |
| 78 Wind, | 117 Ditch, |
| 79 Whirlwind, | 118 Stone, |
| 80 Tempest, | 119 Gold, |
| 81 Rain, | 120 Silver, |
| 82 Hail, | 121 Salt, |
| 83 Lightning, | 122 Marvel, |
| 84 Snow, | 123 Forest, |
| 85 Ice, | 124 Herb, |
| 86 Day, | 125 Tree, |
| 87 Night, | 126 A stake, |
| 88 Morning, | 127 Verdure. |
| 89 Evening, | |

One or two words have been omitted, either because there are no terms exactly corresponding in the *English* language, or because such corresponding terms did not occur to the writer. Several of the above words, especially such as relate to climate and seasons, will probably, from physical reasons, be untranslatable in the languages of a tropical country. They are preserved out of respect to the original plan, and with a view to suit the *Indian* vocabulary, so far as possible, to the universal.

The following words are subjoined to those taken from the *Russian* vocabulary.

1 One,
2 Two,
3 Three,
4 Four,
5 Five,
6 Six,
7 Seven,
8 Eight,
9 Nine,
10 Ten,
11 Eleven,
12 Twenty,
13 Thirty,
14 One hundred,
15 One thousand,
16 First,
17 Second,
18 Third,
19 Fourth,
20 Twentieth,
21 I,
22 Thou,
23 He, she, it,
24 We,
25 You,

26 They,
27 Above,
28 Below,
29 Before,
30 Behind,
31 Upon,
32 Of,
33 From,
34 By,
35 This,
36 That,
37 If,
38 Unless,
39 Yet,
40 Still,
41 Though,
42 But,
43 Without,
44 And,
45 Since,
46 Notwithstanding,
47 Nevertheless,
48 Except,
49 Because,
50 Therefore,

51 Then,
 52 There,
 53 In,
 54 With,
 55 Through,
 56 To,
 57 Till,
 58 About,
 59 Over,
 60 Much,
 61 Under,
 62 More,
 63 Most,
 64 Very,
 65 Perhaps,
 66 Rather,
 67 Once,
 68 Twice,
 69 Only,
 70 Alone,
 71 Yes,
 72 No,
 73 Who,
 74 What,
 75 Where,
 76 When,
 77 Which,
 78 To be,
 79 To have,
 80 I will,
 81 I ought,
 82 I may,
 83 I can,
 84 I wish,
 85 To walk,
 86 To run,
 87 To ride,
 88 To stand,
 89 To fall,
 90 To lie down,

91 To eat,
 92 To drink,
 93 To fight,
 94 A horse,
 95 A cow,
 96 A bull,
 97 A buffalo,
 98 A cock,
 99 A hen,
 100 A tiger,
 101 A serpent,
 102 A sheep,
 103 A bird,
 104 A fish,
 105 A panther,
 106 A camel,
 107 An elephant,
 108 A ship,
 109 A boat,
 110 A sail,
 111 An oar,
 112 A sailor,
 113 A commander of a vessel,
 114 A soldier,
 115 An officer,
 116 Cotton,
 117 Silk,
 118 Wool,
 119 Sickness,
 120 Health,
 121 A sword,
 122 A loom,
 123 A saw,
 124 A shoe,
 125 A bed,
 126 A house,
 127 A door,
 128 A nail,
 129 A hammer,
 130 A knife,

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| 131 An island, | 155 Bread, |
| 132 Rice, | 156 Pepper, |
| 133 Wheat, | 157 Oil, |
| 134 Hay, | 158 Eggs, |
| 135 Arrack, | 159 White, |
| 136 Opium, | 160 Black, |
| 137 Bang, | 161 Red, |
| 138 A tailor, | 162 Green, |
| 139 A weaver, | 163 Yellow, |
| 140 A carpenter, | 164 Blue, |
| 141 A smith, | 165 Brown, |
| 142 A labourer in husbandry, | 166 Iron, |
| 143 A rock, | 167 Lead, |
| 144 A cave, | 168 Tin, |
| 145 A shadow, | 169 Brass, |
| 146 Far, | 170 Native, |
| 147 Near, | 171 Stranger, |
| 148 Beside, | 172 Friend, |
| 149 Beyond, | 173 Enemy, |
| 150 Stream, | 174 To buy, |
| 151 Town, | 175 To sell, |
| 152 Field, | 176 To borrow, |
| 153 All the <i>measures</i> corresponding to inch, foot, mile &c. reduced as far as possible to <i>English</i> measures, | 177 To lend, |
| All the <i>weights</i> corresponding to ounce, pound &c. reduced in like manner to <i>English</i> denominations, | 178 Anger, |
| Measures of <i>time</i> , ditto, | 179 Pity, |
| ditto, ditto, | 180 Rich, |
| Names of <i>days of the week</i> &c. | 181 Poor, |
| Names of <i>months</i> , with corresponding months in <i>English</i> calender, | 182 Revenge, |
| 154 Root, | 183 Forgiveness, |
| | 184 Hunger, |
| | 185 Thirst, |
| | 186 A branch, |
| | 187 A leaf, |
| | 188 A flower, |
| | 189 Earth, |
| | 190 Hard, |
| | 191 Soft, |
| | 192 Quick, |
| | 193 Slow, |
| | 194 Weakness, |

195 Strength,
 196 To move,
 197 To rest,
 198 To fly,
 199 To swim,

200 To sink,
 201 To seek,
 202 To find,
 203 To heal,
 204 To kill.

The far greater part of the above words are selected on the principle, that being of indispensable use, they ~~must have been~~ original parts of the language in which they are found, and cannot have been derived from a foreign source. The agreement of various languages in such words is, therefore, a decisive proof that such languages sprung from the same stock. The *numerals* will be universally acknowledged to be of that sort.—No doubt will be entertained about the words confounded under the appellation of *particles*, and which, before the noble work of Mr. HORNE TOOKE, were the reproach of grammarians. All the other terms denote objects, qualities or actions which could not, in any country, have remained long without a name. The mere inspection of the list is, indeed, a practical proof that such words are a decisive criterion of the filiation of a language. The far greater part of the *English* words are indubitably *Saxon*, and they would, of themselves, be sufficient to shew the real source of our modern *English*. But the vocabulary would not be complete without some of those words which are most likely to be foreign, and which, for example, in *English*, are chiefly of *Greek* and *Roman* origin.

I shall begin with some of the greater Gods and most important Divine Personages in the *Hindoo* mythology, the collection of whose local appellations and names in the spoken languages, must be the first step towards a simple and perspicuous account of the *Indian* religion.

Brimh,

Brahm, (The Eternal and Infinite Being,)	12 King,
Bramha,	13 Queen,
Veeshnoo,	14 Minister,
Seeva,	15 General,
Suruswutee,	16 Judge,
Lukshmee,	17 Law,
Purvutee,	18 Right,
Bhawanee,	19 Justice,
Ramu,	20 Punishment,
Kreeshnu,	21 Theft,
Boodha,	22 Murder,
Maia,	23 Rebellion,
Eendra,	24 War,
Gunnesha,	25 Peace,
Varoona,	26 Honesty,
Kartikeya,	27 Humanity,
Kamu,	28 Charity,
1 Godhead,	29 Avarice,
2 Wisdom,	30 Generosity,
3 Power,	31 Virtue,
4 Goodness,	32 Vice,
5 Creation,	33 Understanding,
6 Providence,	34 Will,
7 Temple,	35 Probability,
8 Sacrifice,	36 Certainty,
9 Priest,	37 Doubt,
10 Pilgrimage,	38 Assent,
11 Government,	39 Belief,
	40 Conviction.

The signs of the Zodiac, and the names of the Planets.

Some of this last set of words may probably be wanting in several languages. But even this deficiency will not be uninformative with respect to the various degree of civilization and instruction of different *Indian* nations.

PLAN

PLAN OF THE RETURN;

which may be made by the gentlemen from whose liberal exertions the materials of the vocabulary are expected.

THE district of _____ which is entrusted to me as (Judge, Collector, &c. as the case may be) extends from _____ to _____ N. and S. and from _____ to _____ E. and W. Besides the *Hindoostanee*, which is understood and spoken (by the higher classes or by the people in general as the case may be) there are used in this district the following languages. The _____ which is spoken from _____ to _____ N. and S. and from _____ to _____ E. and W. (repeating this as often as there are different languages used in the district.)

God,	<i>Mahratta.</i>	<i>Guzerattee.</i> (as the case may be)	<i>Bengalée.</i>
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T. HUBBARD, PRINTER, DACRE'S LANE.

