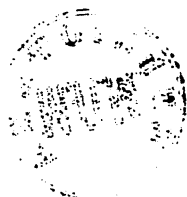


THE
FIRST ASHTÁKA, OR BOOK,
OF THE
RIG-VEDA,
&c. &c.



RĪG-VEDA-SANHITĀ.

A COLLECTION OF
ANCIENT HINDU HYMNS,
CONSTITUTING
THE FIRST ASHṬAKA, OR BOOK,
OF THE
RĪG-VEDA;

THE OLDEST AUTHORITY FOR THE RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL
INSTITUTIONS OF THE HINDUS.

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL SANSKRIT.

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INTRODUCTION.

WHEN the liberal patronage of the Court of Directors of the East-India Company enabled Dr. Max Müller to undertake his invaluable edition of the *Rig-Veda*, a wish was expressed that its appearance should be accompanied or followed, with all convenient despatch, by an English translation. As I had long contemplated such a work, and had made some progress in its execution, even before leaving India, I readily undertook to complete my labours and publish the translation.

It might else have been thought scarcely necessary to repeat a translation of the first *Ashtaka*, Ogdoad, or Eighth book of the *Rig-Veda*, as that had been already more than once accomplished, partly in English by the Rev. Mr. Stevenson and Dr. Roer, and fully in Latin by the late Dr. Rosen: a translation in French, also, by M. Langlois, extending through four *Ashtakas*, or half the *Veda*, has been recently published at Paris; but I was not aware, when I engaged to publish an English translation, that such a work had been commenced. At the same time, these translations do not seem to preclude entirely the usefulness of an English version: the earliest publication, the