ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE TITLE PAGES OF SOME PROMINENT PUBLICATIONS OF THE NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY ON THE HISTORY OF ANCIENT BENGAL
HISTORY OF BENGAL.
FOR
BEGINNERS.
BY
RAJ KRISHNA MOOKHERJEA M. A. AND B L.

প্রথম শিক্ষা
বাঙ্গালার ইতিহাস।

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সাহিত্য
মদিক পত্র ও সমালোচনা

শ্রীনূরেশচন্দ্র সমাজপতি

উপরম বর্ষ
১২১৭

কথোপকথন

সাহিত্য জাতির ধর্ম ব্যবহার পথে সমালোচনা প্রচার
Fourth Meeting of the Academy

AUGUST THE 13TH.

The meeting having been declared open, the Chairman Maharaj Kumar Benoykrishna Bahadur, spoke as:

Gentlemen—There is one point on which I should be glad if you would allow me to say a few words. The rules passed by us provide for the review of works pertaining to current literature and the results of studies of ancient authors. Now in fulfilling this programme we may sometimes find ourselves in presence of works which are of a philosophical, mythological, metaphysical or scientific character. Are we to enter into judgment on the truth or inaccuracy of the statements or theories contained therein, or into disquisitions which are philosophic or scientific? I think not, and this is very clear. We have constituted ourselves into an Academy of Literature, as such we can take cognisance of a work in respect of its form and manner as a literary production, but we cannot enter into a philosophic or scientific disquisition upon it.

If we take the Gita for instance, we will consider it only in respect of its metrical form, its high ideal and poetic images, the balance of its parts, its beautiful construction, and so forth; and we may compare it, if possible, with any Western production of a similar nature. But we cannot enter into a disquisition on its philosophy.

Similarly, if dealing with the Mahabharat, we cannot expound the meaning of the allegories, nor dwell at length on the esoterism it contains; but we may review the form and manner of the work as a literary production, and bring it side by side (if we please) with any Western work of the same nature.

These remarks would apply also to some of our later dry works and dramas.

Our ambition, gentlemen, is to encourage latent talents, to cultivate the taste for healthful literature, to purify and elevate Bengali literature, to steer the national language to a proper standard; not to make philosophy. If we remember all this we will regard any work that may come before us only in the light in which it interests us, that is, only in respect of the subject the form and manner in which the work has been carried out as a literary production. And we hope that our countrymen well-wishers, who besides being well-wishers are men of letters, will bring their strength in support of our movement.

The meeting entirely agreed with the clearly expressed remarks of the Chairman.

Mr. L. Liotard then addressed the meeting as follows:—

Gentlemen—Now that we are fairly on our legs and able to look around, we may survey some of the work before us. It is said of a certain hero that when he found he had no more worlds to conquer he wept. We are not yet at that stage. We are about to begin our campaign—in the realm of literature. Therefore I think it well that we should lay our plan of operations.

The 2nd of our rules provides for the review of current publications on literary subjects; and for the publication of such reviews. The 4th rule provides for reviews of ancient Sanskrit works of acknowledged merit. And the 7th says that the Academy shall receive, consider and, if approved, publish the results of the studies of any of its members.

It is on this last rule that I wish to base a plan of work for your consideration. I propose that each member, or any two jointly, undertake to make himself (or themselves) master of any one of the following divisions of literature, and write a paper thereon:—

(1) Poetry among the Bengalis.

(2) The poetry of Hindu names, that is, the original conception which led to the names.
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(জাহানাবাদ)

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