

Financial (1899) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1148

DATED 21.10.99

R

RECEIVED

6/6

[Despatch Abstract.]

Informing Mr. R. C. Dutt C.I.E., that the Govt. will take six copies of his literary translation of the "Ramayana".

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
132/00	167		5-2-01				

[- F. -]
500- 18.

Financial (1899) Department.

For the A.S.

Submitted that the draft order in the Financial Department may now be counter initialed & returned.

CURRENT No.

Secy.

17-10-99.

27/10/99

To D.P. 110. for note of the

Number of copies required.

11-2-99

Order

1156

Govt decided in P.O. No 1192, Finl. A

No.

of 8-2-98, to take six copies of Mr Dutt's

"Mahan Bharata", out of which four

Dated 15-Sept-99

were sent to the D.P.D. Submitter that

Received

Enclosure may be ^{consulted} as to the

Registered

desirability of obtaining copies of the

Enclosures -

"Ramayana" for the D.P.D. and also as to

Spare copies -

whether the same no. of copies

would suffice.

1156

Order for 6

Order No. 1148 of 21-10-98

Mr R.C. Dutt C.S. will

be informed that the Secretary

will take six copies of his metrical

translation of the Ramayana for

circulation as under

SUBJECT

Stating that he has completed and placed in the hands of his publishers a condensed metrical translation of the Ramayana and requesting to be informed if the Govt wishes to subscribe for copies of the work.

Secy. Library 1 copy

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
R	438	Public	15.4.99
Mis	1192	—	8.12.98

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

CURRENT No. 3572



54, PARLIAMENT STREET,

LONDON, S.W.,

15th September, 1899.

SIR,

The Government of *Madrass* did me the kindness of subscribing for *six* copies of my condensed metrical translation of the *Maha-Bharata*, which was published last year. Those copies have been duly sent, and the remittance sent by the Government has been received by me. I have now completed and placed in the hands of my publishers a similar condensed metrical translation of the *Ramayana*, and I beg the favour of your informing me if the Government will be so good as to subscribe for the same number of copies of this work.

It is, perhaps, needless for me to state that the *Maha-Bharata* and the *Ramayana* are the two great Epics of India, and comprise the entire literature of the ancient Hindus. They together form one of "Lubbock's Hundred Books" of the world, recommended to all modern readers; and they together contain the most graphic and life-like picture that exists of the customs and civilisation, the social, domestic, and political life, and the religious faith and observances of ancient India.

More than this, the stories and traditions contained in these old Epics have been handed down from generation to generation, and from century to century, and are to the present day known in all parts of India; they are recited in village homes, acted at village festivals, and repeated by elders to children among the rich and the poor, the educated and the illiterate. The Hindu scarcely lives in all India whose earliest recollections do not cling round the tales of these ancient Epics, whose earliest moral education has not been shaped by them, and whose ideas of the duties of life have not been to some extent influenced by them. It may therefore appear to the Government that some readable account of these two Epics, conveying something of the spirit of the great originals, would be a help to English Administrators in better understanding the thoughts and ideas, the religious beliefs and moral conceptions of the people of India. And I venture to hope therefore that the Government of *Madrass* will feel disposed to render the same help to me in respect of the *Ramayana*, as I received from it in respect of the *Maha-Bharata*.

Commence Library - 1 copy
D.P. 1 - 4 copies

cost
6.4.98

R.C. Dutt Esq. Esq.

54, Parliament Street, London S.W. (1899)
(with 4)

For Dept (941) with

cc. in right of the same

Acct sent (941)

L. V. Dutt

Notes
15.10.99

The original *Maha-Bharata* has over 90,000 couplets, and the original *Ramayana* over 24,000 couplets. I have condensed them both on the same plan which has been fully explained in my Epilogue to the former work; and my condensed *Ramayana* (like my condensed *Maha-Bharata*) has only about 2,000 English couplets. The *Ramayana* will also be got up in the same style with the *Maha-Bharata*, illustrated with photogravures, and bound in parchment, with gold designs. And like the *Maha-Bharata*, the *Ramayana* will be priced 15 Shillings *net* the copy, packing and carriage to India free.

I shall consider it a special favour if the order of the Government of *Madras* on this application be intimated to me *at a very early date*, as it will enable me to place the order in the hands of my publishers before I leave England for the winter.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Romesh C. Dutt C.I.E.

Lecturer on Indian History University College, London.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS

ON THE

Maha-Bharata, Condensed into English Verse,

BY

ROMESH C. DUTT, C.I.E.

"Mr. ROMESH CHANDRA DUTT is the first scholar who brings to his task a life-long study of the original, with a perfect command of our own language. * * * Puts into vigorous verse the episodes which are still recited in thousands of quiet hamlets, and at hundreds of crowded festivals every year."—*The Times*.

"Mr. DUTT, who has a wide reputation as an Indian historian and novelist, has proved a very capable translator, * * * and given an opportunity to Englishmen to learn something, in a cheap and handy volume, of a poem which still forms part of the lives of the two hundred millions of their fellow-subjects in India, and is still studied and revered by every class of Hindus, from the highest to the lowest."

—*Literature*.

"Mr. R. C. DUTT, C.I.E., has compressed into some 2,000 lines the 90,000 couplets of the great Indian Epic, and has reproduced them in English verse. His process has been one of condensation and omission, but in what he selects for preservation he adheres strictly to the original. * * * The volume is enriched by a learned preface from the pen of Professor Max Müller, which gives the genesis of the Epic, and fixes the place of the *Maha-Bharata*. An interesting epilogue by the translator further explains the history and scope of the work, and furnishes an instance of the marvellous command of English acquired by educated Bengali gentlemen. The wisdom of the East is worthily presented in attractive binding and printing."

—*The Saturday Review*.

"We congratulate Mr. DUTT on the success of his labours, and trust that his work will be welcome to English readers, who will owe to him a debt of gratitude for enabling them to enjoy the beauties of this wonderful poem. The book is produced in a dainty form, with twelve excellent photogravures from original illustrations."

—*The Daily News*.

"To many in India who know English better than Sanscrit, the present translation and condensation will, Mr. Max Müller says, be welcome; and it will be equally welcome to many English students of literature. Certainly, it is here presented in a shape which will make its reading and study a delight."—*The Westminster Gazette*.

"By giving an unabridged version of the leading episodes, and linking them together by means of short connecting notes, he has prepared for the English readers what is virtually the entire story of the Epic. * * * As much of the Sanscrit epic is written in the *Sloka* metre of 16 syllables to each line, Mr. DUTT has very judiciously selected, as the nearest approach to it, the trochaic measure as used by Tennyson in "*Locksley Hall*." That he uses it with both skill and vigour may be seen from the following section."—*Glasgow Herald*.

Financial (1897) Department.

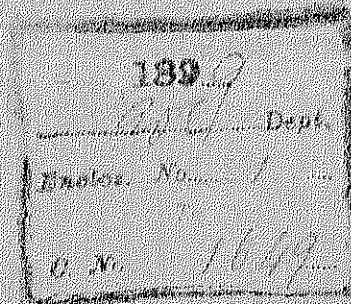
CURRENT No.

"He has succeeded in making a readable—often impressive—version in a rhythm which is at once familiar to English ears (if only through "Locksley Hall"), and also recalls, in some degree, that of the original. If the Epic could not attract European readers by its intrinsic merits—its noble moral conceptions; its encyclopaedic pictures of Indian civilization in the remote past; its pathos; its delineation of character—still, its extraordinary popularity and influence, as described in the translator's eloquent "Epilogue," should alone make us curious to learn something of the story of the Kurus, and the god-like sons of Pandu."—*Manchester Guardian*.

"Practically for the first time, English readers are enabled to make acquaintance with an Epic which, in one form or another, has existed for over 3,000 years. * * * He has selected the metre of "The Lord of Burleigh" and "Locksley Hall," which permits of an easy and simple flow of narrative in plain and unornate language. English readers of all degrees will thank Mr. DUTT for the exacting labours which have resulted in placing so much of the national poetry of India before them in easily accessible form."—*Birmingham Daily Gazette*.

"Mr. DUTT has done a patriotic work in presenting the ancient Indian Epic of "The Great War" in a form which can be read with interest and appreciation by the ordinary English reader."—*The Literary World*.

"A generous admiration for the original, and a warm sympathy with its tone; a striking command of vigorous and flowing and idiomatic English, a fine sense of rhythm, and a real power of poetic imagination, have combined to render this selection just what it is intended to be—a most interesting and attractive way of introducing to English readers what the author considers to be the essence of the grand old Indian poem."—*Dr. Rhys David in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*.



Order

Loaded
C. S.
For C.S.

From

The Educational Deptt.

No. 583. R.

Dated 30-10-99.

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

According J.O. F.D. informing Mr. R.C. Dutt, C.S.E. that the Govt. will take six copies of his metrical translation of the Ramayana.

Note The current has been returned by the Edcl Dept. on Wednesday last. It will not be any covering order & has been stitched with the original of 80. 1148721. 10-99.

3.11.99

BACK PAPERS

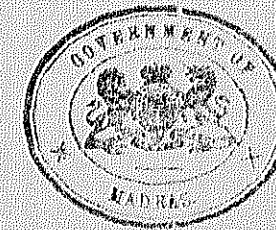
G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
1110	468	Finl	21-10-99

FURTHER PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

[6]
500-1-4-99.

Educational Department.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following paper :—

Proceedings of the Financial Deptt. No.1123, d/ 21st October

1899.

O R D No.537 dated 30th October 1899.

Recorded.

(True extract)

for Secretary to Govt.

To

The Financial Deptt. with current ret'd.

Copy to the Director of Pub.Instrn.