

and broad)—that mātra was not, like nimesha, the twinkling of an eye, but the measure of the voice, and of time, in pronunciation; and that Hindu rhythm and poetry are entirely founded upon it:—that the time of a consonant is one mātra, the time of a vowel two mātras, and the time of a diphthong three mātras. Thus he verified the entirely new knowledge to English students of Hindu learning, gained by this author, of division of time by matres. I afterwards learned how the author came to use these French terminations; for, though no person of the name of Alexander Hamilton graduated at Cambridge, yet I learned at the British Museum library that he was for twenty-five years a member of the Bengal Asiatic Society, and that he was associated with a Frenchman named Langlès, in editing a catalogue of the Sanscrit MSS. in the Bibliothèque Impériale at Paris; this explained his use of French terminations in the words matire, chinon, venidique;—also that M. Langlès was the author of a great many other works; but that he had not a reputation for very profound learning. A Captain Alexander Hamilton published a work on India in the last century, and he may have been his father. It happened that Dr. Edward Hamilton, Dean of Salisbury, graduated at Cambridge in 1816, four years before the date of this book, and might, I thought, have procured its being printed at the