

GOVARDHANRAM
MADHAVRAM TRIPATHI'S
SCRAP BOOK

1888-1894

Manuscript Volumes I, II, III,
IV—Part (i)

Edited by

KANTILAL C. PANDYA
RAMPRASAD P. BAKSHI
SANMUKHLAL J. PANDYA



N. M. TRIPATHI PR. LTD.
PRINCESS STREET : BOMBAY · 2

GOVARDHANRAM

Govardhanrám Mádhavrám Tripáthi was born on October 20, 1855, at Nadiád in the heart of Gujarat. It was the day of Dashera, one of the most auspicious days in the Hindu Calendar all over India.

Born with a silver spoon in his mouth he regarded his childhood and the first fifteen or eighteen years as the happiest period of his life. As he acknowledged in the dedication of "Sarasvatichandra", in 1887, to his "Cousin-Uncle" Mansukhrám Suryarám Tripáthi, it was that "Cousin-Uncle" who sowed in him the seed of mental bliss and moulded his mind through all the vicissitudes of life.

The growing mind of Govardhanrám drank deeply of Sanskrit and English literatures, of History and allied subjects. This study had begun to result in the formation of some important resolutions as principles of life, when the storm burst over him. First his wife and then his first child died; the firm of his father became bankrupt; unnerved by this he made a miscalculation which resulted in his failure in 1874 at the B.A. examination of the University of Bombay. He passed that examination the next year, but he was then penniless and at the mercy of his relatives. He had serious and persistent maladies of the body and the mind.

He was forced by these circumstances to accept a small post as personal secretary to Samaldas, the gifted Dewan of Bhávnagar. Life at Bhávnagar was a life of difficulties, in which his second wife brought a ray of much-needed sunshine.

Facing poor health and financial straits he persisted in his study of Law and, after several failures, passed the exam. in 1883. Then, true to his early resolutions, though with empty pockets, he launched in legal practice at the Bombay High Court in June 1884.

He flourished remarkably well, refusing all through his life lucrative appointments offered by Cutch, Baroda and Junagadh. He paid off all his father's debts and supported a family of about a dozen members in Bombay for some fifteen years. And, with all that, he did an incredibly large amount of literary work of the highest merit.

"Sarasvatichandra" Part I was published in 1887; "Sneha-mudrá" (the Signet of Love) a collection of poems, followed in 1889; "Sarasvatichandra" Part II came in 1892. These quickly took people by storm. The event was most unusual and unparalleled in Gujarát. His popularity was then unequalled.

[Contd. on Back Flap