

PREFATORY NOTE

I wish to express my best thanks to the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society for giving this little work a place among the Society's publications. To Professor Rhys Davids I owe, once again, a grateful acknowledgment of inspiration to begin a task and encouragement throughout. To him also as Editor of the Journal of the Pali Text Society my thanks are due for permission to reprint in Chapters I and II some of the material appearing in my article, "Early Pali Grammarians in Burma" (JPTS., 1908). My obligations to many others, by whose labours I have profited, will be seen in the pages of the Essay. Finally, I can only thank Dr. Barnett for his untiring kindness by reminding him that there are very few of those pages which do not owe something to his advice and help.

M. H. B.

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