

GULDASTA-I-URDU

OR

A BOUQUET OF URDU

Translated by

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PREFACE.

The *Guldasta-i-Urdu*, as its title—A Bouquet of Urdu—suggests, is an anthology of carefully selected extracts of Urdu prose. Part I consists of four of the well-known 'Essays of Petrus', and provides the reader with a model of the best type of modern idiomatic Urdu as it is written and spoken by the westernised Muhammadan community all over India.

Part II consists of historical extracts, and selections from the writings of some of the best authors of the XIX century. Though the style of some is nowadays considered laboured and old fashioned, the extracts contain a mine of information about Indian life and sentiment, and the student will find much to interest him in the vivid descriptions of Indian customs, both religious and secular.

Part III consists of extracts from the *Jugliab* newspaper of Lahore. These are mostly taken from the 1931-32 editions of the paper when the Non-co-operation and Civil Disobedience campaigns of the Congress were raging all over India.

The style represents the best pattern of modern journalism in Urdu and the student cannot but admire the modern technical terms which the astute journalist has to improvise, often on the spur of the moment.

It is hoped that the introductory notes to this part will assist the student to appreciate the articles descriptive of the political situation in those troublous times. For further information on the subject, he is referred to the Indian Year Book.

The translation throughout has been kept as free as possible which will assist the student to appreciate the vast difference between the methods of expression of ideas in the two languages.

My best thanks are due to Mr. A. S. Bokhari B. A., (Cantab) M. A., I. E. S., Government College Lahore for so kindly checking my translation of his essays which form Part I of the book, and to Maulavi Abdullah Afzali, Chief Maulavi of the Board of Examiners for checking the entire MSS and for many valuable notes and suggestions.

Simla, January 1936.

C. A. B.

A note for the use of candidates for the Interpretship examination in Urdu.

This note is intended primarily for those who have not yet passed the first class Interpretship examination in any language, and also for those who have not worked out any system of learning a language for themselves.

In an examination of this nature, the primary object is to ensure that the candidate has acquired a sufficient colloquial knowledge of the language to enable him to converse fluently, accurately, and idiomatically, on subjects connected with his work or appointment, or on topics of general interest which are being discussed in the vernacular press.

The study of books and newspapers should therefore be carried out with this end in view, and it is on these lines that the following system of studying this book has been devised.

Prepare five to ten pages of the book by reading the English carefully, and then reading the vernacular with occasional reference to the English, noting any phrases etc. that you find difficult. Side-line any such paragraphs and passages. On the following day go through these passages etc. carefully with the Munshi who will explain the difficulties. The Munshi will then read aloud one of the pages you have prepared, while you follow in your book, after which you will read out in a loud tone of voice the same page, endeavouring to imitate his accent and style of reading.

As soon as some degree of proficiency is acquired,

listen to him reading the vernacular without following in your book, and then give in your own words in the vernacular the gist of what he has been reading, endeavouring to use the same expressions and idioms as in the original.

It is recommended that both the vernacular and English of any phrase which is marked by foot notes, "Note the expression (or idiom) in Urdu" should be copied out in a note book and learned.

To acquire the necessary practice for the extreme translation, it is recommended that the newspaper extracts in part III be read and studied in the vernacular and then translated *voce voce* from English to the Munshi.

It must be borne in mind that these extracts are by no means sufficient to ensure facility in reading the vernacular newspapers, and a good vernacular daily paper such as the *Taghlab* should be taken in for some two months or more before the examination. Suitable articles should be cut out and stuck in a scrap book, and the translations written by the side.

The subject matter of such articles should vary as much as possible, as this will ensure a wide scope of vocabulary.