

pleasant reading of imaginative poetry¹ These pieces were composed about 1928

(1) **Manavalli Gangadhara Sastri C. I E** was an Andhra Brahmin and son of Nrisimha Sastri He was born at Vasaragatta near Bangalore in 1854 Nrisimha settled at Kasi and wrote *Kavya-masamsodhana* Among the learned men under whom Gangadhara studied were Rajarama Sastri and Bala Sastri whose lives he wrote in exquisite verse He became a professor of Sanskrit in the College at Kasi in 1879 In a great assembly convened to see his *Satavadhana*, he was asked to complete a *Samasya*

बमौ मयूरो लवशेषसिंह

He framed the verse at once, displaying the regular series of Sanskrit consonants and thus illustrated the ductility and pliability of the Sanskrit language

अनेकवर्णक्रमरीतियुक्त कखागघाङ्कजज्ञा वटौ ठ ।
अङ्गणस्योऽथ दधौ न पफुल् बमौ मयूरो लवशेषसिंहः ॥

Here is the commentary

मपरिकरस्य शिवस्य वाहनेषु कतमो वर्षासु भोदते इत्येवं पृष्ठ कोऽप्युत्तरति, अनेकेति ।

अथ निदाघोत्तरम्, अनेकवर्णानां क्रमरीत्या युक्तं पीतनीलादिविविधवर्णविशिष्ट कखागघाङ्का ऋणेन ह्रासेन अनायासेनेति यावत्, अका कुटिलगामिनां सर्पाणां अघ, भक्षणरूप-
मृचति, पूजयत्याद्रियत इति तादृश, अञ्च शोभनं जातो यो भूषणरूप यस्य सोऽञ्चजज्ञः,
जाना विराविर्णा, ट ध्वनिं स्वरवमाधुर्येण ठति प्रतिहन्ती तिरस्करोति यस्तथाभूत्, अङ्गणस्योऽथ-
पल लवौ न्यूनौ नानावर्णवत्त्वादिगुणै शेषसिंहौ यस्मात्तादृक् मयूरोऽपरपक्षिहस्तादिवत्, त
क्षीणतां वेदमिति यावत् । नदधौ, प्रत्युत पफुल्सन् प्रमोदातिशय भजमानौ बमौ ॥

This composition must enchant any reader, as it did that assembly Later he wrote works on Grammar and a gloss on *Ravagangadhara* He became *Mahamahopadhyaya* in 1887 at Queen Victoria's first Jubilee, and a C I E at King Edward's Coronation He passed away in 1914

1 Sar Bhar Series (No 27), Benares.

For instance

विद्वत्कुलप्रसवभूमिरितिप्रसिद्धा कैलासत प्रियतरा शिवराजधानी ।
यस्या पदाञ्जनिकटे विलुठस्यजज्ञ मन्दाकिनी शिवशिरोवरवैजयन्ती ॥
राकाशशाङ्कहिमकुन्दमृणाळनाळकैलासकाशसदृशी जनिताऽन्यकीर्ति ।
व्याप्याखिलामपि धरामनवाप्तपारां वाग्देवताश्रवणपूरपद जगाह् ॥