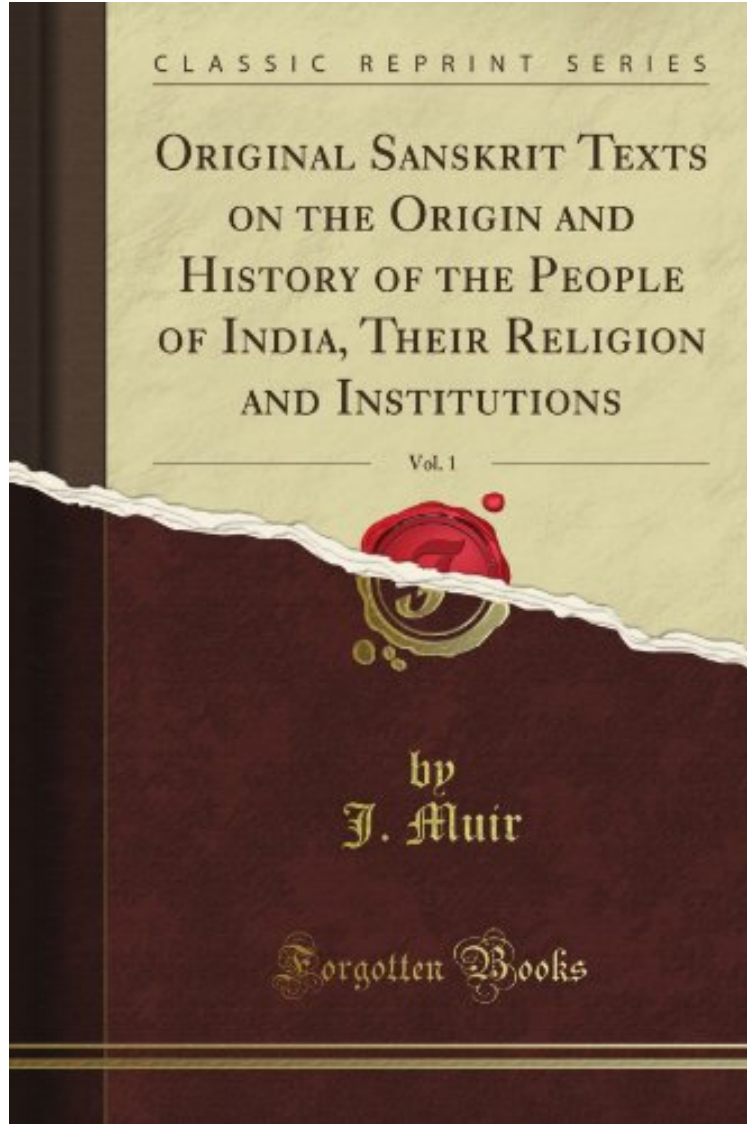


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In order that the reader may learn at once what he may expect to find in the following pages, I shall supply here a fuller and more connected summary of their contents than is furnished by the table which follows this preface. The Introduction (pp. 1-6) contains a very rapid survey of the sources from which our information on the subject of caste is to be derived, viz. the Yedic hymns, the Brahmanas, the Epic poems, and the Puranas, in which the chronological order and the general characteristics of these works are stated. The first chapter (pp. 1-160) comprehends the mythical accounts of the creation of man and of the origin of castes which are to be found in the Yedic hymns, in the Brahmanas and their appendages, in the Kamayana, the Mahabharata, and the Puranas. The first section (pp. 7-15) contains a translation of the celebrated hymn called Purusha Sukta, which appears to be the oldest extant authority for attributing a separate origin to the four castes, and a discussion of the question whether the creation there described was intended by its author to convey a literal or an allegorical sense. The second, third, and fourth sections (pp. 16-160) contain a translation of the Yajurvedic hymns, the Brahmanas, the Epic poems, and the Puranas. (Typographical errors above are due to OCR software and don't occur in the book.)

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