

## DIE REDEN DES BUDDHA. \*

(FIRST AND SECOND PARTS).

The above is the title of the German translation of the *Aṅguttara Nikāya*, the fourth in order of the collections of discourses, five in number, which make up the *Sutta Piṭaka*; the translator is a young Buddhist monk, German by birth, who resided for sometime in Burma a few years ago: *Bhikkhu Ñāṇatiloka*; before becoming a Buddhist monk, he had been in a Catholic Seminary; he embraced his new religion very earnestly and sincerely, and in order better to understand it, began the study of Pāli. The first fruit of his studies was "Das Wort des Buddha," a small tract, containing passages translated from the Pāli Canon and bearing all on the Four Noble Truths (1). 'Die Reden des Buddha,' 'the Discourses of the Buddha,' is more ambitious in its aim, for it is the translation (the first two parts only have yet appeared), of the whole of the *Aṅguttara*, a voluminous work edited by the Pāli Text Society, and extending over five large volumes. The style, as in most German translations of Oriental texts, is somewhat formal; but *Ñāṇatiloka* has kept throughout a just medium, and has not gone the length of, for instance, K. Neumann, whose style, though very beautiful, is so formal, as to render the reading of some of his works fatiguing. The style of "Die Reden des Buddha" is easy and agreeable; and this is a great advantage to readers of translations of works at once monotonous and full of repetitions. The translation is reliable and excepting in a few instances, renders the meaning, and what is more important, the spirit of the original very clearly. The profuse notes, mostly translated or adapted from the commentary on the *Aṅguttara*, are very useful for the elucidation of the text.

We find it a pity, however, that each part or Book (the original is divided into eleven Books, distributed over five volumes in the P. T. Society's edition) has a new pagination, the 1st part has 96 pages and the second 79; it would have been better to continue on the pagination until the translation of the whole of the first volume of the text was finished, in order to allow of their being bound together in a volume corresponding to the first of the text. It would have been very good also, to save the time and temper of the student,

\* Aus dem Pali zum ersten Male übersetzt und erläutert; W. Markgraf, Breslau, Mark. 2. 40.

1. This was translated into English by *Bhikkhu Silacara*, under the title "The Word of Buddha," and is obtainable in Rangoon.

to indicate the beginning in the body of the pages of each new page of the text translated, by inserting its number in bold type. We hope these suggestions will be carried out in the forthcoming parts. We see no index; but probably this will be supplied at the end of each volume.

Bhikkhu Ñāṇatiloka is rendering a real service to all students of comparative religion and to those of Buddhism in particular, in translating the Aṅguttara.

C. D.