



## PREFACE.

In connection with the great Marian Congress Celebrations held in Madras on the 4th, 5th, and 6th of January 1921 a Syriac 'Rasa' or Pontifical High Mass was solemnly celebrated at the request of the Religious Ceremonies' committee on the second day at 6-30 A. M. in the special Sanctuary in the great Congress Square. We well remember the eager crowds that thronged into the Hall that morning just to catch a glimpse of the beautiful ceremonies, rites and intonations of the Syriac Pontifical, so long in use on this side of the Ghats but also alas so little known even in places which



witnessed the life, labours and martyrdom of the Apostle of our land. It was indeed a pity that, on that memorable occasion there was no Manual in English with which the faithful assembled could have followed the imposing sacred functions performed before them or understood their meaning. Quite a host of them, clerical and lay, complained of this lack and everybody interested, recognised at once that their reproach reserved serious consideration. On returning, we had opportunities of knowing first-hand, that several of our young men too, who are now in our Secondary Schools and Colleges or are just leaving them, entertained the same views, that the 'Rasa' should



be made intelligible to the English-knowing public; while certain others argued for a Malayalam translation for the very same reasons. Owing to pressure of duty we could not put our hand to it immediately; in time however we set ourselves to the task and both the translations are now offered to the eager public.

It has been our endeavour to make this translation also to the original as strictly as possible. How far the effort has proved a success, we leave the sympathetic critic to judge. Here it behoves us to say that the prayers, supplications, etc, after the Offertory are more or less the same both for the 'Rasa' and the ordinary

low Mass. And quite at the end we give a few short prayers for Confession, Communion and thanksgiving just to make the book serve as a little prayer-book as well.

In conclusion, we beg to express our sincere thanks to all - and they are many - who have helped and encouraged us in the getting-up of this volume. One name, however, deserves special mention, that of the Rev. Fr. Cyriac Manonmani, Rector of the diocesan Petit Seminary Changanacherry, to whom we owe a deep debt of obligations for his ready co-operation and many valuable helps.

Feast day of St. Andrew,

1923.



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# THE 'RASA'

THE SYRIAC

PONTIFICAL

HIGH MASS

The Rassa-celebrant with the assistants, enters the sanctuary for mass and the choir begins singing aloud:-

Let me enter into Thy house and fulfil to Thee by holocausts the vows which my lips have settled. Remember us not, in our transgressions as well as in those of our forefathers.

\* Ordinary priests also are allowed to officiate at such a Mass.



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