

**SIR SUBRAMANIA AIYER, K.C.I.E., D.L.**



**SIR S. SUBRAMANIA AIYER, K.C.I.E., D.L.**

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K.C.I.E., D.L.

## A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

BY

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Editor, Wednesday Review

WITH A FOREWORD BY

THE RIGHT HON. LORD AMPHILL

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## FOREWORD.

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I LEARN with great pleasure and interest that you intend to publish a biography of Sir S. Subramania Aiyer. No modern biography could be of greater public value in the Madras Presidency, for the life and character of the retired judge are an example of so noble and rare a kind that a record of them ought most certainly to be enshrined among the enduring memories of Madras. You ask me to write an 'appreciation of the judge'; but that is a task for which I am hardly fitted. I prefer to express in a few simple words my respectful appreciation of the man. It was as a man that I knew Sir Subramania Aiyer and it was as a man that I liked and respected him. It does not come within the competence or within the ordinary duties of a Governor to watch or to criticise the work of members of the High

## ii.

Court so long as the public are satisfied with the administration of justice, and I am glad to think that during the times which are within my knowledge there was always complete confidence in the High Court of Madras.

My relations with Sir Subramania Aiyer were therefore mainly personal and I had less to do with him officially than I had with any other members of the public service.

I regarded him as the soul of honor, as a man who had absolutely no personal ends to serve and who devoted his great abilities solely to the public good. It seemed to me that in his life and conduct he effected an ideal compromise between adherence to Indian ways and the requirements of European methods. Neither too conservative nor too progressive, he remains the perfect model of an Indian gentleman, and is broad-minded enough to adapt himself gracefully to the political and social requirements of the British connection with India. His life is an example to all, for the virtue of piety, modesty, industry and patriotism are equally essential to all classes and conditions of men. I shall never forget his demeanour when His Majesty the King, at that time Prince of Wales, visited Madras, for

it was a picture of that respectful dignity and dignified respect which are among the true characteristics and most forceful qualities of Indians.

I hope that your biography will keep alive the memory of one who is a great gentleman in the truest and best sense of that time-honoured English word and stimulate many to follow in his foot-steps. It is from the East and from our Sacred Writ which came from the East that we of the West have derived our notions of the veneration due to great men. When our poet wrote

“Lives of great men all remind us

We may make our lives sublime,”

he surely had his inspiration from the beautiful chapter in the Book of Ecclesiasticus which is always quoted before any other writings in this connection, the chapter which begins with the words,

“Let us now praise famous men”.

AMPTHILL.

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