

BENGAL CELEBRITIES

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED

BY

SRIKANTA RAY.

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—
1906.

A decorative border with a repeating floral and scrollwork pattern surrounds the text.

THIS
BOOK IS DEDICATED

TO

BABUS

DWIJENDRA NATH BAGCHI, M.A.

AND

IATINDRA MOHAN BAGCHI, B.A.

Zemindars, Jamsheerpur, Nadia.

AS A

TOKEN OF LOVE

AND

GRATITUDE

SRIKANTA RAY,

Compiler and Publisher.

PREFACE.

This book, as its name implies, is an attempt to bring to the notice of the world, the lives, the character and the works of the most distinguished sons of Bengal, living and dead, commencing with Hrji Mahummud Moshin. No body is more conscious than the publisher, of the imperfections of this little work. He has reasons to fear that he has, of course unwittingly, left out names which had a claim to be incorporated in this record, and he is fully alive to the meagreness of the biographical notices that appear in the following pages. He earnestly hopes, however, that he may be regarded as having made an attempt in the right direction. One of the first conditions of the development of a national spirit and of a national self-respect, is the appreciation of the great men of the nation. A dictionary of national biography for India has yet to be written. The publisher hopes he has made an humble beginning, which, with due, encouragement, may enable him or others gradually to build up a full and accurate record of the lives of Indian worthies. He can only say that he has spared neither pains nor expense to collect the materials which he now places before the public, and to print the illustrations which, he may be pardoned for hoping, may deserve to be looked upon as the nucleus of a national picture gallery for Bengal. With these few words of introduction he is content to leave the book to speak for itself. He himself regards it not as the complete execution of an idea, but only as a partial commencement. It rests with the public, with his own compatriots in particular, to give him such encouragement and assistance as may fit him for a full realisation of his scheme, namely the production of a fairly full and comprehensive record of the lives of men who have glorified the country and rendered it services that should not be forgotten by any children of the soil.

The publisher's grateful acknowledgments are due to BABU HIRALAL CHAKRAVARTY M. A. B. L. without whose help this work could not have been brought out.

CONTENTS.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Pages.</i>
MAHAMMUD MOSHIN	11
RAMMOHAN RAY	15
RADHAKANTA DEB	19
DWARKANATH TAGORE	23
GANGADHAR KAVIRAJ (<i>Sen</i>)	27
PRASANNA KUMAR TAGORE	31
TARANATH TARKABACHASPATI	35
RAMTANU LAHIRI	39
K. M. BANERJI	43
RAMGOPAL GHOSH	47
DEBENDRANATH TAGORE	51
ISWAR CHANDRA VIDYASAGUR	55
AKSHAY KUMAR DUTT	59
PEARYCHAND MITRA	63
MICHAEL MODHUSUDAN DUTT	67
RAJENDRALAL MITRA	71
HARIS CHANDRA MUKERJI	75
RAJNARAIN BOSE	79
BHUDEB MUKERJI	83
ABDUL LATIF	87
DINABANDHU MITRA	91
RAM KRISHNA PARAMHANSA	95
DWARKANATH MITRA	99
MOHENDRALAL SARKAR	103
BANKIM CHANDRA CHATTERJI	107
KESHUB CHANDRA SEN	111
KRISHNADAS PAL	115

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Pages.</i>
CHANDRA MADHUB GHOSH ...	119
HEM CHANDRA BANERJI ...	123
PRATAP CHANDRA MAJUMDAR ...	127
ROMESH CHANDRA MITRA ...	131
KALI PRASANNA SINHA ...	135
SISIR KUMAR GHOSH ...	139
NARENDRA NATH SEN ...	143
MANMOHAN GHOSH ...	147
W. C. BONERJEE ...	151
KALIPRASANNA GHOSH ...	155
GURUDAS BANERJI ...	159
RASHVEHARY GHOSH ...	163
NABIN CHANDRA SEN ...	167
KALICCHARAN BANERJI ...	171
ANANDAMOHAN BOSE ...	175
SIVANATH SASTRI ...	179
SURENDRANATH BANERJI ...	183
ROMESH CHANDRA DUTT ...	187
SARODA CHARAN MITRA ...	191
LALMOHAN GHOSH ...	195
NAGENDRA NATH GHOSH ...	199
JAGADISH CHANDRA BONE ...	203
RABINDRANATH TAGORE ...	207
PRAPHULLA CHANDRA RAY ...	211
VIVEKANANDA SWAMI ...	215
ASHUTOSH MUKERJI ...	219

