

Reminiscences and Anecdotes
OF
Lokamanya Tilak

WITH A FOREWORD BY
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EDITED BY
S. V. BAPAT.

" Home-rule is my birth-right and I will have it."

—LOK. TILAK.

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**REMINISCENCES AND ANECDOTES
OF
LOKAMANYA TILAK**

Foreword

The honor is given to me to write these few lines to Mr. Bapat's most timely & useful work, the reminiscences by friends of that splendid servant of India, Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Let me write of him as I knew him.

He was a man filled with passionate & never-weakening love for India, for whom every sacrifice ^{was} joy, every suffering was welcome. No physical bondage could bind that free spirit. His clarion call still rings ~~through~~ through India. Freedom is my birthright, & I will have it.

In my own relations with him, I found him absolutely straight & loyal to his word. When we joined hands, I told him that I could join in no secret conspiracy, nor would I consent to throw boys & young men into any danger which we did not share. I did not seek to dictate his conduct to him, but I

did claim similar freedom for myself? ²
I would not nick the lads. He promised he
would tell me, if he determined to use them,
I had worked with me on that basis, straight
to the end.

We differed on the N.C.O. movement. As
he said, he worked for Responsive Co-operation;
but he thought that Gandhi's welded power
that might strike India, & he would not
therefore break with him. Unhappily he soon
pined away, leaving India bereft of his
Hatterias's brain, as well as his Lion heart.
Other brains hearts we have, but few brains
like his.

To-day, Tilak is not lost. He is with us,
working with us from the other side. And I
lay at his feet this poor tribute of admiration,
respect & affection. We both love India; we
both try to serve her. He is awaiting her
Freedom & working for it. So am I. He is
still our comrade in the great struggle. And
he will share our joy when the Motherland
is free.

Quinn Berant

DEDICATED

TO

SHRIYUT N. C. KELKAR

AND

SHRIYUT D. V. VIDWANS

Tried and trusted lifelong associates

of the

LATE LOKAMANYA

in his

Self-sacrificing Service

of the

MOTHERLAND

and

The present Trustees

of

" KESARI-MAHRATTA INSTITUTION "

In humble token of the love and high regard

which the Dedicator feels

towards them.

PREFACE



THIS third and last volume of Lokamanya Tilak's reminiscences was to be published on the 1st of January 1928. Owing to unavoidable and unforeseen difficulties, the compiler regrets that he could not do so. He is however glad to present it to the readers to-day. His original intention was to publish this volume even before January 1928; and hence he made urgent requests to the contributors of this volume to send in their material quickly. Now when he himself has made delay in the publication, he behoves him to beg their pardon for that. One of the many reasons why he could not publish this book then, was that Mr. N. C. Kelkar decided all of a sudden to publish the second part of Lokamanya Tilak's biography in Marathi.

As this volume mainly contains matter which properly forms an sequel to the third Marathi volume of Lokamanya Tilak's reminiscences, it is obvious that this English volume could not be published earlier than the Marathi volume. As the publication of that Marathi volume was post-poned for the above reasons, it was inevitable that this English volume had also to be post-poned along with that. That third Marathi volume is now published on this year's anniversary day of Lokamanya Tilak and for the convenience of English knowing readers of this volume, like the first two English volumes, comprising the English contributions only, is published separately.

A similar first volume was published by me in 1924. In his preface to that volume Mr. N.C.Kelkar said, "...And my advice to Mr. Kelkar would therefore be to preserve and make progress in the line which he has already started and to make his work of reminiscence hunting as thorough and exhaustive as he can make it, so

that he may be able to make the English volume as big as the Marathi one." According to that encouragement and advice, I have corresponded with persons, with whom to my knowledge Lok. Tilak had come in touch in some way or other, in India and abroad. I have personally interviewed persons wherever possible. And as a result of this I have been able to present to the public a second volume in 1925 and this third and last volume in 1928. But I regret to announce that I have not been successful in this task as I expected. While all the three volumes in Marathi comprise 1875 pages I am sorry to say that the total number of pages of the three English volumes does not exceed 400. Also, if the number of contributors to the three Marathi volumes is more than 600, the total number of contributors of the three English volumes is not more than 125 ! Between the one province of Maharashtra on the one hand and the whole of India on the other, from the latter a larger number of contributors should have been forthcoming. But it may be that it would not be proper to expect an equal number of contributors from people outside Maharashtra, as the Lok. Tilak must have come in touch with more people in Maharashtra than out of it and that too for a longer period. Yet if only all those who had assured me with their contributions had fulfilled their promise, I would have been in a position to express my satisfaction rather than my disappointment. It is likely that had a better qualified and better known person than myself undertaken this work, it would have been more successful. But that seems not to be wholly correct. For even such a first-rank leader as Dr. Besant had complied with my humble request in 1924 when she was homeward bound. She wrote her reminiscences on board the ship and posted them at Aden. Many other Rajas and Maharajas have also responded to my call. I am thankful to them all for that. But there are many others who in spite of my many letters and telegrams and their own promises, did not send their reminiscences. I attribute this lapse, not to the lack of love and respect for Lok. Tilak on their part, but to the want of a sense of civic duty amongst

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us, Indians, in general and I think this is the main cause of failure in this particular instance as in many other movements of ours.

Though the Marathi material fully satisfies the connotation and denotation of the word 'reminiscence,' I am fully aware that the material in the English volumes does not fall under that category. But instead of myself explaining and answering that objection, I deem it proper to quote the actual words of Mr. Kelkar from his lucid preface to the 1st English volume where he has already anticipated and given a reply to the objection. He says, "The reminiscences contained in this book are mostly by those who came into contact with Lok. Tilak, but comparatively at a distance; and therefore they may look more like appreciations than reminiscences. But even these have their own value as coming from illustrious men and women, who were his contemporary judges and in a few cases also his co-workers."

Mr. D. V. Gokhale, B. A. LL. B. editor, 'Maharatta', had suggested in his foreward to the second volume, that as there were many a beautiful instructive anecdote in the Marathi volumes, which the English readers would read with great interest, they should be translated into English. I am sorry I have not been able to do this. But I beg to announce that whosoever will come forward to translate my Marathi volumes will get my permission most willingly.

To conclude. I heartily thank all those who have obliged me by sending their contributions. I am very much indebted to Dr. Basant for her short and sweet foreward. As in 1924, this time also she has sent her preface written in her own handwriting amidst the very busy time of her preparing to sail for England. I am sure that instead of my formal thanks, she will appreciate my motives the better if I place her as an ideal before the Indian youths to follow rather than passively admire her energies in her old age.

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Lastly, my obligations are many to my friends Messrs M.J. Vidwans, M. A. LL. B., Pleader, and G. H. Dharap, Asst. Manager whose assistance has been invaluable to me.

KESARI OFFICE,
POONA CITY.

S. V. BAPAT.

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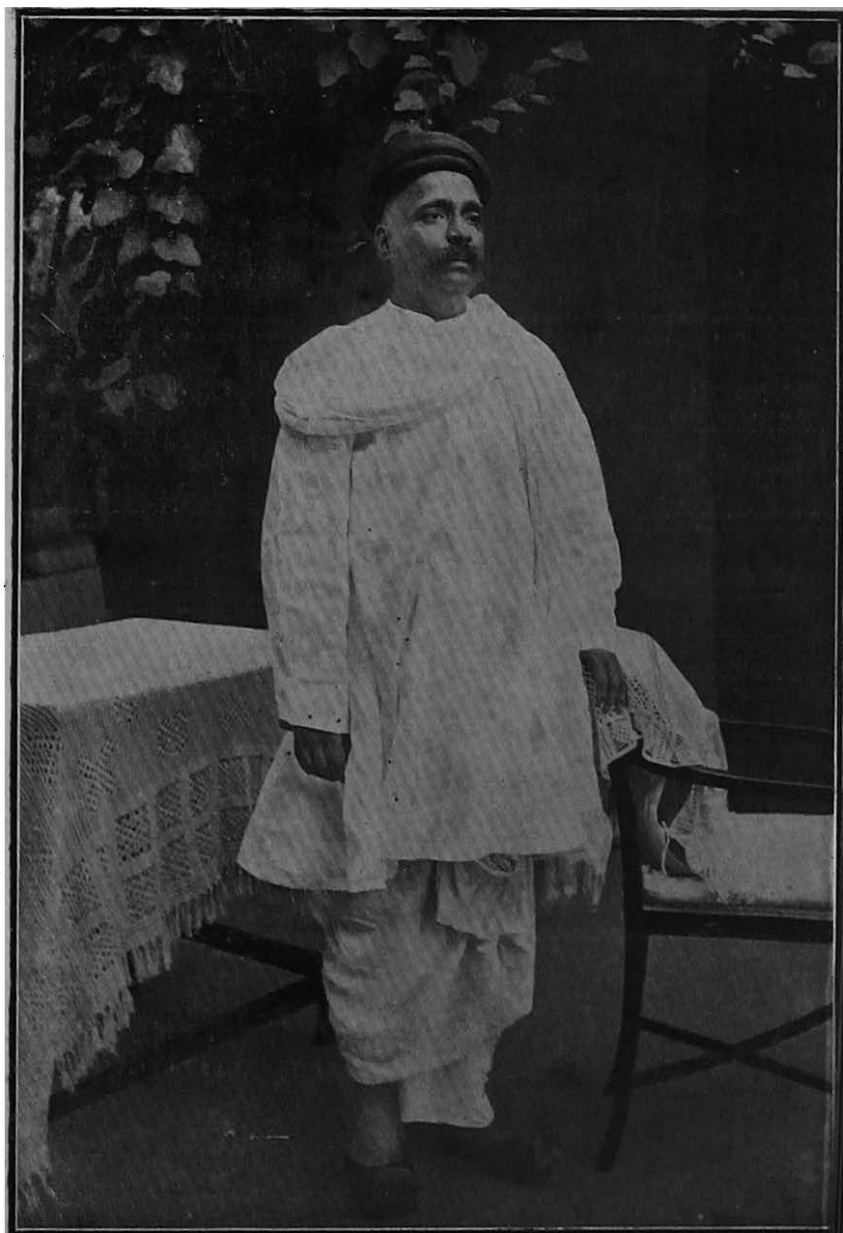
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