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JOURNAL
OF
A VISIT TO EUROPE
IN 1896.

BY

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BOMBAY.
D. B. TARAPOREVALA, SONS & Co.
1903.

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PREFACE.

IN putting this volume before the public it is, perhaps, advisable that I should mention my principal reasons for so doing. The foremost of these is that it may help to remove the bar of prejudice against foreign travel, which still prevents many of my fellow-countrymen from enjoying and profiting by it ; next is my desire that many popular misapprehensions as to the difficulties and disagreeableness to be met with in the West may be corrected. Many have brought back lugubrious accounts of the manners and customs of the Briton. To these I would reply that every garment has its seamy side, but that is not the side which should be expatiated on in describing it. Those who have only discovered the under side of life cannot have sought for anything else.

With these ends in view I have published my journal, just as I wrote it. A six months' tour does not, as some travellers have apprehended, qualify one to pronounce authoritatively on the ethnography and politics of the countries seen ; and I felt that this unembellished record of my passing impressions would better convey to the reader an idea of the uniform courtesy the native of India may meet with, both from casual strangers and those to whom he is formally introduced, from retired Indian officials as well as untravelled Englishmen, than would a more elaborate and artificial essay in the field of literature.

Of the interest of such a tour I need not speak. To travel in countries where every hill and river, every city and castle is a landmark in history and a memorial of some high ideal, is in itself an education. Such associations are common enough in our own land, but they are often lost in the mists of time and through the lack of historical record. And since our fortunes are now linked with those of Britain, it is expedient that all who can should know something of the land and the associations that cradled her greatness.

Besides the tour itself, I had as an objective in my trip the Jubilee of Lord Kelvin's professorship at Glasgow, where I had the honour, in company with Mr. Justice Jardine, of representing the University of Bombay. Indeed, it was the spirit of a student which I endeavoured to preserve in all my wanderings, and the constant meetings with historical and poetic associations already endeared to my imagination by my studies begun long ago under Principal Chatfield, Professor Hughlings and others, gave me a pleasure that I cannot express.

More than six years have elapsed since the trip recorded here, and during that time many changes have come about. Some whom I saw during my stay in England, such as Mr. Justice Jardine and Mr. Bhownggree, have received official recognition of their merits; others, chief among them that gracious Lady under whose rule the benefits of converse with the West first came to be understood, have passed to "that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller returns." To all those to whom these pages will bring back the pleasant recollection of their own kindness I would send greetings; and to any who may be encouraged by the reading of this unpretentious book to extend their knowledge of this fair world, I heartily bid Godspeed.

G. N. N.

Bombay, April 1903.

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