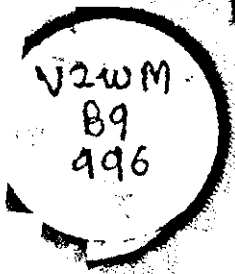


A
GENERAL BIOGRAPHY
OF
BENGAL
CELEBRITIES.

R. G. SANYAL.



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A
GENERAL BIOGRAPHY
OF
BENGAL CELEBRITIES.

BOTH LIVING AND DEAD.

BY
RAM GOPAL SANYAL.
AUTHOR OF THE LIFE OF LATE BABU KRISTO DAS PAL.

VOL. I.

Calcutta.

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DEDICATED
TO THE SACRED MEMORY
OF
THE HON'BLE KRISTO DAS PAL
WHO LOVED US SO DEARLY.

PREFACE.

In publishing these biographies, the writer need hardly offer any apology. The Lives of the most eminent amongst his countrymen, whether living or dead, must always be a priceless treasure to the country. The struggles and triumphs of Hurish Chunder Mukherjea, the indomitable perseverance and the noble patience of Shyama Churn Sirkar, the eloquence of Ram Gopal Ghose and his devotion to the true interest of his country, not to speak of the achievements of those now living, form the brightest page in the annals of modern Bengal. The author is conscious of the imperfect character of his work, and of the defects in matter and manner from which the work suffers; but he can truly affirm that he has made an honest attempt, with what little success, it is not for him to say, to preserve in a durable form, the work of some of the greatest amongst his countrymen. The Lives of the living are to be found side by side with those of the dead, and this may seem to be an anomaly. But it is really not so, if the matter is somewhat carefully examined. There is no record to speak of, of the lives of Hurish chunder Mukherjea, Shyama Churn Sirkar, Degumber Mitter, and Ram Gopal Ghose. The author felt that before he wrote of the living, he owed an yet unredeemed duty to the dead. In the interest of biography and for the sake of preserving in a durable form, the work of such men as Raja Degumber Mitter, Shyama Churn Sirkar, Hurish Chunder Mukherjea, and Ram Gopal Ghose, he has ventured to include in one work the Lives of the dead with those of the living. It is hardly necessary for him to offer an explanation as to why it should be considered desirable to publish so early, the Lives of living celebrities, many of whom are still in the vigour of life, and manhood, and who, we trust, have yet many long years of usefulness before them. The writer may refer to the Lives

of eminent Englishmen still living for a precedent. But the circumstances of this country furnish even a stronger reason for such a course than what may be said to exist in the conditions of England or of any other country. In publishing the life of Kristo Das Pal, the writer was confronted with difficulties of serious magnitude which would not have occurred, if he had undertaken the task during the life-time of that illustrious journalist. Points which are now obscure in the biography of Kristo Das Pal might thus have been cleared up, and a fresh light thrown upon the life of that great man. It is obviously the dictate of prudent and sound sense to prevent such obscurity and confusion, in connexion with the Lives of those eminent men who are treading in the foot-steps of that illustrious Patriot, and are endeavouring to serve their country, according to the measure of their abilities and of their opportunities. This work therefore is not to be viewed in the light of a complete biography in respect of the eminent living men concerned. It is much less pretentious in its character. It seeks to throw into shape, not always perhaps, the most consistent, or the most harmonious, the leading details of their lives. It will thus help the future biographer in the performance of his task, and obviate difficulties which otherwise would have been insurmountable. This is the only claim which may rightly be preferred on behalf of this work.

It will occur to the reader that there are some important omissions in the list of eminent living celebrities. But it is necessary to point out that this is only the first part of the work, and as soon as the necessary materials will be forthcoming, the omissions will be supplied. With these remarks, the writer throws himself on the indulgence of the reader.

CALCUTTA,
11th Nov. 1889. }

RAM GOPAL SANYAL

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