

GREAT MEN OF INDIA SERIES,

**GOPAL ..  
.. KRISHNA..  
... GOKHALE.**

(A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY)

BY  
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*With a Foreword by*  
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**GOPAL KRISHNA GOKHALE.**



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## FOREWORD.

Mr. and Mrs. Turnbull resided in Poona for many years and had opportunities of knowing Gokhale and appreciating the merits that won him his rare influence and fame. To this knowledge they add a real understanding of Indian life and character. Moreover, they realise, as those will who are engaged in the work of education, how greatly boys and girls will benefit by learning what manner of man he was, how he acquired the qualifications necessary for his task, and how he devoted them faithfully and ungrudgingly to its performance. This little volume, the result of their joint authorship, has a simple attractive style and is full of matter carefully selected and not unduly compressed. It seems well-adapted for use in schools, and one can confidently recommend it to education authorities in India.

It is a generation now, all but two years, since Gokhale passed away. He was so young at death that several of his contemporaries are alive, who watched the whole of his public life — how he swam into their ken, attained full lustre rapidly, and while still in the meridian of his glory, was extinguished with a suddenness which seemed wanton. Yet his work had been done. He felt so. In his last days he said now and then that, if he lived much longer, he would only be repeating himself. It was not merely that he was weary — weary in body and soul. All things seemed to have come to a pause. The Great War had

just begun. No one could have guessed how entirely it would change the world. Government, Legislative Council, National Congress, who could have predicted in 1915 that all these would undergo a transformation? To get a true perspective, one has only to read his political will and testament and compare it for a moment with the demands even of the moderate politicians of India at the recent Round Table Conference. The great questions that agitated Gokhale have receded from our horizon. Who talks now of simultaneous examinations or of the Indian proportion in the higher services? Indentured Labour is now of the past. Even Compulsory Education is no longer in debate. It is a question only of ways and means. Military Expenditure and Army Control are still unsolved problems. But, thanks to Gokhale and his labours, they must yield soon, seeing that India is about to become a Self-governing Federation and Dominion Status in her assured destiny.

V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI.

## AUTHORS' FOREWORD.

The chief aim of this little biography is to set forth the significance of Gokhale's public work, and to give some account of his views on the larger questions with which he had to deal. To this end we have often quoted from his public speeches (*Speeches of Gopal Krishna Gokhale*, Third Edition, G. A. Natesan & Co., Madras, 1920). In their knowledge, breadth of outlook, and admirable temper, these Speeches are in themselves a liberal political education for young Indians. For much of the purely biographical matter the authors desire to express their obligation to Principal Shahani's thoughtful and suggestive *Historical Biography*. To those who desire a full treatment of the problems to which Gokhale devoted his life, Principal Shahani's work may be cordially recommended.

For permission to use the quotations from Mr. Gokhale's Speeches, we are much indebted to the kindness of Messrs. Natesan.

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## A TRIBUTE TO GOKHALE.

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Heroic Heart! lost hope of all our days!  
Need'st thou the homage of our love or praise?  
Lo! let the mournful millions round thy pyre  
Kindle their souls with consecrated fire  
Caught from the brave torch fallen from thy hand,  
To succour and to serve our suffering land,  
And in a daily worship taught by thee  
Upbuild the temple of her Unity.

SAROJINI NAIDU.

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