

**GOPAL KRISHNA GOKHALE.**



*First Impression.*

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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 SASIRI.

## 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.

# **C O N T E N T S :**

## **Chapter I.**

### **EARLY YEARS.**

Birth and parentage — death of his father — his brother's generosity — early school days — Rajaram College — the forward movement in Maharashtra — Gokhale's English studies — Deccan and Elphinstone Colleges — Gokhale takes his B. A. — plans for the future — goes to the New English School.

## **Chapter II.**

### **THE MAKING OF A PATRIOT.**

Teaching and studying — Gokhale's conscientiousness — His book on Arithmetic — Lord Dufferin and the National Congress — Agarkar and Tilak — Gokhale joins the Deccan Education Society — Fergusson College — lectures on Southey and Burke — introduced to Ranade — Ranade's character and career — Gokhale's training under him;

## **Chapter III.**

### **LOOKING BACK AND FORWARD.**

How British rule began and grew — the progress of India — growth of population and wealth — poverty of the raiyat and its causes — a contrast in education — the ignorant masses — employment of Indians in the

higher posts — Elphinstone's views — Gokhale's aims and methods — his political philosophy — his characteristics as a speaker.

#### Chapter IV.

### FIRST YEARS OF PUBLIC LIFE.

A breach in the D. E. S. — *the Sudharka* — the Sarvajanik Sabha — Tilak and Namjoshi resign from the D. E. S. — Gokhale fills the gaps — a valuable experience — first public speech — first speech in National Congress — speech at Allahabad Congress — communal rivalry — Gokhale's ideal of citizenship — Poona Congress of 1895 — Gokhale as secretary worried by opponents — death of Professors Kelkar and Agarkar — Gokhale's private life — His marriage — death of his mother.

#### Chapter V.

### A SEVERE TEST.

The Welby Commission — first visit to England — Gokhale's evidence — experiences in England — plague in Bombay — Gokhale repeats reports from Poona — Government enquiries — Gokhale's apology — a set-back — Gokhale helps to fight plague — elected to Bombay Legislative Council — famine relief and the indebtedness of the raiyat — Gokhale opposes a bill — Gokhale and Local Self-Government — temperance reform — death of second wife and of Ranade — Gokhale elected to the Imperial Legislative Council — farewell to Fergusson College.



Chapter VI.

**IN THE IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

Lord Curzon — his qualities and opinions — Gokhale's estimate — Gokhale's Budget Speech of 1903 — his views on some large questions — the Official Secrets Act — the Universities Act — Gokhale on Western Education — on the Depressed Classes — Memorial to Ranade — the Servants of India Society — a political mission to England — the Partition of Bengal — Gokhale President of the 1905 Congress at Benares.

Chapter VII.

**GOKHALE & THE MORLEY-MINTO REFORMS.**

Lord Minto arrives as Viceroy — impressed by Gokhale's Budget Speech — Gokhale again visits England — interviews Lord Morley — the Calcutta Congress — Gokhale's warning — no short-cut to Swaraj — the campaign of violence — Gokhale on the promised reforms — his influence on Lord Morley — Congress split at Surat — a Royal Message — the Indian Councils Act of 1909 — communal rivalry again — Gokhale an outstanding figure in the new Council.

Chapter VIII.

**A FIGHT FOR EDUCATION.**

Gokhale's appreciation of the Reforms — tributes to Lords Morley and Minto — campaign against violence — meaning of "Loyalty to Government" — the Seditious Meetings Bill — the Press Bill — finance and the

salt tax — primary education — Gokhale's Bill — pros and cons — why it failed — Gokhale's hopes for the future.

### Chapter IX.

## SOUTH AFRICA.

Indentured labour — the system attacked by Gokhale — abolish later — hardships of Indians settled in South Africa — Gokhale's Congress speech on the Transvaal Question — he decides to visit South Africa — arrangements in London — the tour a great personal success — Gokhale's speech at Pretoria — the anti-Asiatic party too strong — Gokhale's speech at Bombay.

### Chapter X.

## A FINAL EFFORT.

The Islington Commission on the Services — brief review of the question — Gokhale's labours in England and India — outbreak of War — meeting with Gandbi in London — back to India — health broken — but no escape from worry — a tragic farewell party — the last hours — Mr. Montagu's tribute — a great example.

## 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.