

CHILDREN

OF THE

MOTHERLAND.



PART I

CHILDREN OF THE —
— MOTHERLAND.



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FOREWORD.

This book has been written for the inspiration of Indian youths and maidens, on whom the future of India depends. It tells of deeds heroic in war and peace, culled from the annals of the past, and it seeks so to tell the story of these deeds that Hinḍu and Musalmān and Sikh may feel a common glory in them all, as all were wrought by children of the common Motherland. For it is by such memories that nations grow, and the proud Rājpuṭ Chiefs, and Guru Nānak, and mighty Akbar, and gallant Shivājī, are common property, and belong not only to Hinḍu, or Musalmān, or Sikh.

Nor only of men are heroic stories told, for India has women as noble as her men, and her daughters shine out splendidly, telling what Indian women may be, from Sāvitrī of the elder days to Ahalya Bai in modern time, but a century and a half ago.

The stories are written by different pens; Bhagavān Dās and his son Shri Prakāsha—who helped by translating some old Rājpuṭ annals sent by Rai Bahādur Shyām Sundar Lal, who also sent some useful corrections of the story of Mirā Bai—and Jogendra Singh, and Dhanhatṭar Singh, and J. M. Davies, and myself, have been the scribes. Some information about Ahalya Bai from a Mahrāṭhā source we owe to Yashwant V. Praḥhan.

Out of the great mines whence these few gems have been digged, many other miners may bring jewels yet more rare, and many books like this, and better far, should be written with pens dipped in love and fire, that Indian youths and maidens may learn aright the story of their Motherland.

May the volume serve the Mother, at whose Feet it is laid in reverence and in love.

ANNIE BESANT.

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