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## PUBLISHERS' NOTE

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This book completes the trilogy which includes sketches of *Eminent Mussalmans* and *Indian Christians*. It follows the plan of the two other publications of the firm in that it is at once biographical and critical. Every attempt is made to present as comprehensive a list as possible; but in a work of this kind it is difficult to be exhaustive. There must, doubtless, be names which, in the opinion of some readers, should with propriety be included in this gallery of Famous Parsis.

The Parsis, in their relation to India, are in one respect different from the Mussalmans and Christians. While the two latter are mostly converts to their respective faiths from the religion of the country, the Parsis are aliens in faith who migrated to India in search of a peaceful asylum to pursue their own "way of life and happiness." But in migrating

to these hospitable shores they have not only adopted many features of our civilization but have so identified themselves with the fortunes of the land of their adoption that they have proved themselves no less patriotic than their neighbours. Thus the Parsis, having made India their home, are "Indians first and Parsis afterwards."

The story is told that the Parsi Dastur that headed the first band of Parsis that landed in this country after the Arab conquest of Persia said to the ruling Prince of Sanjan :

We will be friends to the whole of India.

The Parsi community, as Mr. Kincaid has rightly pointed out, has done its best to be true to this promise. It has played an active part in the material, social, intellectual and political advancement of the country. Those great leaders of the past—Dadabhai, Mehta, Tata, Malabari—represent the best that is in the genius of a race that has distinguished itself in every sphere of public activity in this country.

And so among them we find men distinguished alike as patriots, philanthropists,

politicians, reformers, scholars and captains of Industry. Indeed with their genius for adapting themselves to their environments, the Parsis have risen to the top in every sphere of public and private life. There are no more illustrious names in the roll of Indian patriots than those of Dadabhai, Mehta and Wacha; no more distinguished Captains of Industry than the Tatas and Petits; no more philanthropists than the Jejeebhoy and Wadias; no more ardent reformers than Malabari and Bengalli; nor more venerated scholars than K. R. Cama and Jivanji Modi.

It is hoped that this attempt to record the achievements of the Famous Parsis in India will be widely welcomed as a fitting tribute to a community entitled alike by its intelligence and public spirit to take its proper place in the shaping of India's destiny.

Sept. 1950. G. A. NATESAN & CO.



SIR JAMSETJEE JEJEEBHOY



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