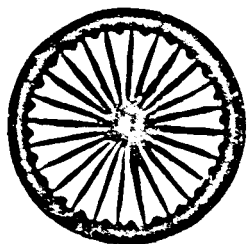


# INDIAN STATES AND THE CABINET MISSION PLAN

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*S. M. Gokhale,* M. A.

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## PREFACE.

A year ago when the Cabinet Mission issued their famous statement, few people gave any serious thought to the Indian States. It was assumed that they must all join the Indian Union. Some people even thought that when the British Empire in India came to an end, the States will also be disbanded and their rulers pensioned off. In fact, people in British India entertain very fantastic and often ludicrous ideas about the Princes and their people. Even prominent British Indian leaders have shown ignorance of the Indian States problems and tried to draw all sorts of inferences which are hardly supported by facts.

An attempt is made in this book to explain the true legal and constitutional position of the States. I have tried to show that they have every right to become independent and their joining or not joining the Union is a matter of their choice. I must not be misunderstood; for, side by side, I have also pointed out that the right way for them to follow is to join the Union, give responsible government to their people and be content to remain as constitutional heads. The Princes must read the writing on the wall and adjust themselves to new conditions. This does not mean that they should withdraw completely and become mere ornamental heads, like the King of England. It is a mistake to apply British standards to Indian conditions.

The Princes have a more vital role to fulfil in the new India. They must come forward as true leaders of men and help in building a happy, contented, prosperous and mighty India. The country needs them and they must take their rightful place.

I know I am too inadequately equipped to do full justice to the many intricate problems that surround us from all sides. Yet, I am sure the book will not quite fail in its purpose.

I am grateful to all my friends who have helped me, directly or indirectly, in the preparation of this book. I sincerely thank Mr. L. N. Shah of the Vakil Brothers Printing Press. Without his co-operation, it would have been impossible to bring out this book in time.

Dandia Bazar,  
BARODA.  
4th August 1947.

S. M. Gokhale.

# INDIAN STATES AND THE CABINET MISSION PLAN.

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