

REPORT
OF THE
Proceedings of a Public Meeting

HELD AT THE
EXCELSIOR THEATRE

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
Bombay Presidency Association

ON

Wednesday the 20th March 1918

TO

PERPETUATE THE MEMORY

OF THE LATE

Sir William Wedderburn, Bart.

Bombay :

PRINTED AT THE "APOLLO PRINTING WORKS," FORT.

1918.

APPENDIX.

The following telegram of Condolence was sent to Lady Wedderburn by the Hon. Sir Dinsha E. Wacha, President of the Bombay Presidency Association :—

The Council have learned with profound sorrow the lamentable news of the death of Sir William Wedderburn, who for thirty long years had worked most strenuously and unceasingly for the greater political and social advancement of Indians with marked ability, keen political sagacity and with devotion and single-mindedness of purpose which indeed are most rare. He had also been a true and impartial interpreter of the feelings and sentiments of the ruled to the rulers. Thus, by his many merits, he had richly won the admiration, esteem and affection of all classes of the Indian people. His death is a great national loss, which it will be long and difficult to replace, while generations of Indians will cherish his memory with reverence and gratitude. The Council offer their sincere condolences and sympathy to you and other members of your family in this the darkest hour of your bereavement.

In reply to this cable the Hon. Sir D. E. Wacha has received the following letter from Lady Wedderburn :—

MEREDITH,

GLOUCESTER,—Feb. 14th 1918.

DEAR SIR DINSHAW WACHA,

I write to acknowledge the very kind cable of condolence that you sent me on behalf of the Bombay Presidency Association. My daughters and I were much touched by the affection and gratitude to Sir William's memory shown

by his Indian friends. Their appreciation of his work for the advancement of India, and their kind sympathy is a consolation to us in our great sorrow.

Sir William was engaged in writing an article on the future of India, when his strength failed and he slept away the last few days of his life. The end was quite painless and peaceful. I must thank you also for your personal cable. I feel that you will miss his letters after such a steady correspondence for so many years. My daughters join with me in heartfelt thanks for your sympathy.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) M. B. WEDDERBURN.

The following telegram was sent to Lady Wedderburn by Sir N. G. Chandavarkar, Chairman of the Public Meeting held on 20th March 1918 :—

Under Bombay Presidency Association auspices Public Meeting inhabitants Bombay including large number Hindu Parsee ladies held Wednesday last for memorial Sir William Wedderburn. Resolutions condolences to you and erection worthy memorial passed. Detailed letter follows. Pray, accept Bombay public's sincere condolences and share your great sorrow.

(Sd.) N. G. CHANDAVARKAR.

Bombay Presidency Association Rooms,

123, ESPLANADE ROAD, FORT,

Bombay, 3rd April 1918.

FROM

SIR NARAYAN G. CHANDAVARKAR, Kt.

To

LADY WEDDERBURN,

MEREDITH,—GLOUCESTER.

DEAR LADY WEDDERBURN,

A public meeting of the inhabitants of Bombay was held in the Excelsior Theatre on Wednesday the 20th of March last to record the sense of grief of the said inhabitants at the demise of Sir William Wedderburn and to take steps for a suitable memorial to him worthy of his life-long services to the people of India and his single-minded and self-sacrificing devotion to and work for their welfare and progress.

I was elected Chairman of the said public meeting and as such I was authorised by it to communicate to you the deep condolences of the meeting and the resolutions which were carried at it.

The resolutions so carried are as follows:—

Resolution.

That this public meeting of the inhabitants of Bombay puts on record its sense of deep regret at the loss to the people of India by the death of Sir William Wedderburn, who for sixty years devoted himself with singleness of purpose to their service by advocating (1) the interests of the agricultural masses of their country (2) the rights and privileges of the Ruling Princes and Chiefs of India and their States (3) the educational and social advancement of India's people in general and women in particular and (4) the promotion of Hindu-Moslem unity and who, on his retirement from the Indian Civil Service in 1887,

l. of Parliament, making India's cause his own and by great self-sacrifice, laboured strenuously to secure for this country the right of Self-Government and the status of equal partnership within the British Empire.

Resolution.

That a suitable memorial be erected to the late Sir William Wedderburn and a Committee with power to add is hereby appointed to invite subscriptions and take all necessary steps in that behalf.

Resolution.

That the aforesaid Resolutions be communicated by the Chairman of the meeting to Lady Wedderburn with a letter of condolence on behalf of the meeting

I also send to you separately a copy of the *Times of India* and a copy of the *Bombay Chronicle* containing reports of the proceedings of the public meeting.

In performing the melancholy duty of offering to you on behalf of the public meeting as its Chairman its deep sympathies and condolences, I beg to add that in Sir William Wedderburn the people of India have lost one of the most beloved champions of their cause and that to them his life and character and his valuable services will always be a grateful memory and inspiration. Your loss and bereavement are also India's and we mourn with you most deeply.

Yours in Sorrow

(Sd.) N. G. CHANDAVARKAR,

*Chairman of the Public Meeting held on
20th March 1918.*