

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.

THE LATE
SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN.

BOMBAY'S TRIBUTE.

Under the auspices of the Bombay Presidency Association, a public meeting of the inhabitants of Bombay was held at the EXCELSIOR THEATRE, Fort, on Wednesday the 20th of March 1918 at 5-30 P.M. to put on record the meeting's sense of deep regret at the loss to the people of India by the death of SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN and to take steps to erect a suitable memorial in his honour and communicate the meeting's sincerest condolences to Lady Wedderburn. Sir Narayan Chandavarkar presided, and there was a large attendance, including prominent Indian ladies and gentlemen; among those seated on the platform being, besides H. H. the Thakore Saheb and Rani Saheb of Gondal and their daughters, Lady Mehta, Lady Tata, Sir Jagmohandas Varjivandas, Lady Chandavarkar, Mr. S. R. Bomanji, the Hon. Captain C. Fernandes, Mr. B. G. Horniman, Mr. Omer Sobani, Mr. H. P. Mody, Mr. Sarafali Mamooji, Mr. Vinayak Raoji Jagannath Shunkerseth, Sir Vithaldas D. Thakersey, Mr. N. M. Samarth, Mr. C. H. Setalvad, the Hon. Mr. G. K. Porekh, Mr. Jehangir B. Petit, the Hon. Mr. Lallubhai Samaldas, Mr. H. A. Wadia, Mr. W. A. Chambers, Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas, Mr. M. R. Jayakar, Mr. Rahimtoola Currimbhoy, Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. T. A. Kulkarni, the Hon. Mr. R. P. Paranjpye, Mr. Faiz B. Tyabji, and others.

On the motion of **Sir Bhalchandra Krishna**, seconded by **Mr. Rahimtoola Currimbhoy**, Sir Narayan Chandavarkar was elected to the chair.

Mr. N. M. Samarth read the following telegram from the Hon. Sir Dinsha E. Wacha, President of the Association, who had gone to Delhi to attend the Imperial Legislative Council which was in session at the time :—“I cordially sympathise with the object of to-day’s meeting. Indians owe undying gratitude to Sir William Wedderburn for having consecrated his long life to their greater welfare in every way with a devotion and single-minded sacrifice unprecedented in their annals under the British Raj. Indians will never see another like him for generations together.”

The Hon. Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, Member of the Executive Council of His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, in a letter to Mr. Samarth, said :—“ I very much regret I will be unable to attend or take part in the public meeting which is called in connection with the late Sir William Wedderburn. Kindly inform the President that I fully sympathise with the object of the meeting.”

SIR N. G. CHANDAVARKAR.

Sir Narayan Chandavarkar, who was received with loud cheering, said :—

We meet to-day to mourn the loss of a great Englishman. Sir William Wedderburn spent himself for India. A warm friend of the ryot, of social reform and in particular female education, a consistent supporter of the rights and interests of our Ruling Princes and Chiefs and their States, the man behind Miss Florence Nightingale when for years she pressed the necessity of village sanitation in India on the attention of successive Secretaries

of State and Viceroy, both in and out of Parliament serving the cause of self-government within the Empire, a promoter of Hindu-Moslem unity, here is the picture. What forms the background of it? His intense love for India, intense sometimes to a fault.

HIS LOVE FOR INDIA.

There are those who profess, and I have no doubt profess sincerely, to love India but whose love and service are those of the critic, dwelling more on our blemishes than our virtues and ability, who treat us as children fit only to be in leading strings. The other class consists of those who realise that to make a people great you must rouse in them a consciousness of their worth, inspire them with self-confidence and hearten them to learn even from their failures how to stand on their own legs. Sir William Wedderburn belonged to the latter class. He looked upon our failings with indulgence, emphasised our virtues and fought hard those who made political capital of our defects. Who will say he was wrong even as a matter of state-craft? That hard-headed British statesman, Sir George Lewis, who had little of sentiment in him, says, in his "Government of Dependencies," that it is the duty of the ruler of a dependency to view with an indulgent and favourable eye the failings of its people and to be kind to their virtues and that a more venial and almost desirable fault can scarcely be attributed to a Governor than that of a strong attachment to the people whom he is sent to govern. The worst way to elevate a people and promote reforms among them is to condemn and carp at them in the name of kindness. The kind of love for India which pursued its people with disheartening criticism has a two-fold effect, bad for all. It inclines Indians

to distrust Englishmen and Englishmen to distrust Indians.

A TYPICAL INSTANCE.

As a typical instance of Sir William Wedderburn's love for India, here is an incident. At a small dinner party given by the late Mr. Geary of the "Bombay Gazette" thirty years ago the guests consisted of Lord Brassey (whose lamented loss has been recently brought home to all of us in Bombay by our close association with Lady Willingdon), Sir William Wedderburn, Mr T. J. Bennett and myself. Those were days when the question of social reform had led to a bitter controversy among Hindus throughout India owing to the late Mr. Behramji Malabari's writings on the evils of infant marriage and enforced widowhood. Sir Auckland Colvin, then Lieut.-Governor of the United Provinces, had publicly declared that political reform in India can and should come only after social reform. Mr Justice Telang had publicly declared with Sir William's approval that all reform moves along the lines of least resistance and that political reform was in its turn bound to act upon and accelerate social reform. Lord Brassey, at the dinner at Mr. Geary's, told us that Mr. Malabari had sent him his literature on social reform and that he felt interested in the controversy. During the discussion Sir William clinched his case by saying "by bearding the Secretary of State for India at Whitehall, Indians will learn to beard the mother-in-law at home." Who can say after these thirty years of political and social agitation in India that Sir William Wedderburn was a false prophet? The Secretary of State for India has been drawn out of his den at Whitehall into this country. The Indian mother-in-law has almost gone into the background and the

Indian wife is beginning to rule in our houses, there to become our home ruler. Love for India blind to a fault such as Sir William Wedderburn's may no doubt be carried too far and lull us to sleep over our inherent weaknesses. That is a danger in these days. We want also candid critics. But Sir William never carried his passion too far. While staunchly striving to raise India's political status as a self-governing member of the British Empire, he never tired of helping by advice and money our cause of social reform. Only he felt that our social weaknesses were being exploited by some in influential spheres for the purpose of political reaction and vested interests and creating an unworthy prejudice against us in England.

Another feature of Sir William Wedderburn's passionate love for India was that it had no exclusions and preferences. He did not love one community at the expense of another; there was no Brahmin, or non-Brahmin, no Hindu or Mahomedan for him; his heart melted with sympathy for all classes and races of India equally and he worked for all as a whole. Further, like Allan Hume he was so absorbed in love for the people of India, so full of the noble sense of service and duty to them, that there was no place in his heart and mind for the play of self. He worked and did not mind who got the credit. He was never known to say he had done this or that for India.

A DREAMER OF ENDURING DREAMS.

Sir William Wedderburn used to be pointed at till some years ago as a mere doctrinaire, a dreamer, who vainly believed that men could be made perfect in this imperfect world. But wisdom is justified of her children. Lord Islington's warm tribute to Sir William Wedder-

burn's strenuous, selfless and fearless work for India is a vindication, if one were needed, of Sir William as a dreamer. A great Empire and a great nation are made and moulded into unity and stability by dreamers who dare, not by men living for the day, looking low and passing for practical shrewd business men of the world. If the British Empire won by the golden deeds of heroic Britons with visions and if Indians as solid and satisfied members of it are to be maintained in all their glory, we must have dreamers like Sir William Wedderburn, men who dream visions of the Empire, stand up for equality of opportunity for all, and take the side of Providence, not of self, in the world-wide movement of history. Yes, Sir William was a dreamer and a doer, but his dreams were dreams neither of political indigestion nor of political underfeeding. His were the dreams of health; sane, sober and steady; he was as free from the hectic temper of a hectoring spirit which only sets back in the end, while seeming to hasten for the time, the clock of enduring progress, as he was free from political astigmatism.

Now that the mortal of him is gone, I invite you to contemplate the expression of his face. It was what poets and artists love to paint as beauty of soul because sweetness and sadness mingled to shed their soft light there and gave his whole gait in life the poise of calm, never elated by success or depressed by defeat. It was a sound Scotch face of faith. So Sir William lived for India; so he has died for India, faithful to the end. Our hearts of sorrow go out to the Lady on whom the blow of bereavement has fallen most heavily—to Lady Wedderburn, who shared her husband's heart for India and made the Indians who enjoyed their hospitality in England realise how sweet an

English home can be with the gentleness of Christ's peace and love.

A DEDICATED LIFE.

Mr. Chimanlal H. Setalvad moved the following 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, both in and out of Parliament, making India's cause his own and at 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.”

Mr. Chimanlal H. Setalvad said that from the day the late Sir William Wedderburn set foot in this land as a member of the Civil Service up to the last minute of his life he had broad sympathy, great love, great regard and great concern for the people of this country and their welfare. Even when he retired and went to England Sir William's interest in the welfare of the people of this country did not cease, and he continued to work for them even after his departure from India. Few people knew the great solid work that he did as a member of Parliament. His earnestness, his singleness of purpose,

his accumulation of facts and the manner in which he presented them, won him the esteem and admiration of both sides of the House of Commons. People were not fully aware of the great work which he accomplished as a member of Parliament. It was indeed a great national calamity that he had passed away at this juncture when they were on the threshold of great expectations and of great constitutional changes. The presence of a man like him in England at the present time would have been a great asset to Indians and it was a great calamity that they were deprived of his services.

A STURDY LIBERAL.

Mr. W. A. Chambers, seconding the resolution, said he fully appreciated the opportunity of paying his tribute to the character of Sir William Wedderburn. It was, however, more than sad that the members of the old guard were passing from among them. Yet they left behind a precious heritage—their work and their character. Sir William's career proved that it was possible to live in the enervating atmosphere of the East and yet to preserve a robust Liberalism. His Liberalism was not a matter of locality. Wherever he was and whatever he did he tested all his thoughts and all his actions by the creed of a Liberal. Was it good for the public? Did it tend to the happiness of the masses? If, after applying those tests, the answer was favourable, then Sir William did all that lay in his power to further the proposal. No matter what odium or obstacles came in his way, that was his policy. That is the lesson of Sir William's life and that is the heritage he has left us. It is easy to gain the plaudits

of the conventional—some flattery and a ready acquiescence are all that are wanted—but that was not Sir William's way. His Liberalism was of a sturdier type. He knew—no one better—that Liberalism was not popular in the East. He knew that the attempt to solve the problems of India in the spirit of Radicalism was not likely to bring him reward from his friends in his own country, but, in spite of all, he, in and out of the House of Commons, said that the attempt should be tried. He was not like some men—a Radical in England and a Tory in India. He was a Radical in England and a Radical in this country. His life was spent in that struggle. The struggle was severe, but throughout he retained the regard of those who knew him. His most bitter opponent respected him. He stood the great test of character. Sir William, the man, was held in esteem, even though Sir William, the statesman, was looked upon with less favour. In him India had a great friend and, with his knowledge, a useful friend. There only now remains his memory, but, if there be any gratitude in this country, the name of Sir William Wedderburn will be engraved in brass on the records of India. There is gratitude, and his name will remain as a cherished memory in this country—a country he loved and worked for as few men have done.

A TRUE FRIEND OF INDIA.

The Hon. Mr. R. P. Paranjpye said:—British rule was firm in India not merely because of bayonets of soldiers but also on account of great-hearted Englishmen who had always been true friends of India. Sir William Wedderburn was one of these Englishmen and India had been

fortunate in having a long roll of them from Burke to Wedderburn. Sir William did real good work for India, and they could realise the great love he bore to India from the fact that after his retirement he did not spend a single pie of pension on himself, but he gave the whole of his pension and more than that to the cause of India. Few Civillians thought, after their retirement, of the salt they had eaten of India, but it was different in the case of Sir William Wedderburn, who proved far more useful to the cause of India after his retirement than before it; and if they had a few more Wedderburns, they would hear less of the so-called troubles in India. He had dedicated his whole life to the service of India, and India would ever cherish his memory with feelings of deep gratitude

Mr. Jehangir B. Petit said Sir William had left a name amongst them in consequence of his great career, and it would always be a household word in India. He was the interpreter between the people and the Government and as such he was a great bulwark for the whole of the British Empire. This country owed a great deal to Sir William, and so long as Great Britain continued to produce men of the calibre and goodness of Sir William, and so long as it sent out Englishmen of this type to this country, so long England need have no fear about the continuance of her Empire in this country.

AN EXAMPLE TO OFFICIAL CLASSES.

Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas said, as a representative of the Younger India he paid his homage to the memory of the great dead. Not only had he left behind him an example and a message to all who were anxious to work

in the cause of the Motherland, but he had left behind him an example and a message for the official classes of India also. If these officials emulated the career and character of Sir William Wedderburn, the political problems of India would soon be solved. Sir William had eaten the salt of India and he was true to it up to the time of his death, unlike some, who, having eaten the salt of India, took, I regret to have to say, almost a fiendish pleasure in being untrue to it.

The resolution was carried, in solemn silence, all standing.

MR. H. A. WADYA.

On the motion of Mr. H. A. Wadya the following resolution was adopted:—"That a suitable memorial be erected to the late Sir William Wedderburn and the following Committee with power to add is hereby appointed to invite subscriptions and take all necessary steps in that behalf."

The Hon. Sir D. E. Wacha (President), Sir N. G. Chandavarkar, (Vice-President), Sir Bhalchandra Krishna, Sir Vithaldas D. Thakersey, the Hon. Mr. Mahomed Hajeebhoj, the Hon. Mr. Lallubhai Samaldas, the Hon. Mr. C. V. Mehta, the Hon. Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas, the Hon. Mr. G. M. Bhurgri, the Hon. Mr. R. P. Paranjpye, the Hon. Mr. V. G. Patel, the Hon. Mr. M. A. Jinnah, the Hon. Mr. Gokuldas K. Parekh, the Hon. Mr. Pandurangrao A. Desai, the Hon. Mr. S. B. Upasani, the Hon. Mr. S. D. Garud and Messrs. C. H. Setalvad, H. A. Wadya, W. A. Chambers, Narottam Murarji Gokuldas, Govindlal Shivalal Motilal, Gulabchand Devchand Javeri, Jambadas Dwarkadas, M. R. Jayakar, S. R. Bomanji, L. R. Tairsey, Narandas Purshotamdas, Lakbamsi

Nappoo, Hansraj Pragji Thakersey, D. N. Bahadurji, N. V. Gokhale, Mathuradas Vasanji, Faiz B. Tyabji, Husseinbhoy A. Lalji, Rahimtoola Currimbhoy, Tribhowandas N. Malvi, Hiralal D. Nanayati, S. E. Warden, N. N. Gazdar, D. G. Dalvi, A. V. Thakkar, T. A. Kulkarni, G. K. Devadhar, J. R. Gharpure, U. K. Trivedi, Motilal Vallabhji and the following as Secretaries: Mr. N. M. Samarth, the Hon. Mr. Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Mr. Jehangir B. Petit and Mr. N. M. Joshi.

Mr. Wadya said:—

I am sure you will all join me in wishing and trusting that the gentlemen who will form the committee will not regard this nomination as an empty honour but as a call upon their honour to do their duty and help us in paying the debt we owe to Sir William Wedderburn. He was one of the noblest Britons who brought to our country the benefits and blessings of the British rule. I never knew one who had a loftier conception of its purposes or who was a more devoted follower of the policy prescribed by those purposes and indispensable for securing those purposes.

I came to know Sir William Wedderburn intimately when he was Secretary to Government in the Political Department in those days when we had the good fortune to have Lord Reay as our Governor, and I can say honestly and without exaggeration that our Ruling Princes and Chiefs and their States had no better friend not only when he was in service but in those better and greater days which he devoted to India's care after his retirement and until his death. He has died their creditor and ours and they and we can never adequately discharge our great debt to him. There was one peculiar trait which dis

tinguished Sir William Wedderburn's services to our country and his own. He was the best interpreter to India of the better mind of Great Britain of which he was himself the embodiment and the example. He was to his country the best interpreter of the better mind of India which he had inspired and guided and befriended and which he was always helping to extend and promote and maintain and to make more worthy and more useful in India's relations with British Rule. It is this peculiar trait which to my mind makes his loss the greater and the heavier to bear. And now particularly when, to use John Bright's noble words, we see on the hill-tops of time the glimmerings of a better and brighter day for our land and our people, we will miss his firm hand and guidance to help us in the steep upward path.

A COMMON MEMORIAL.

Mr. Chairman, among our many painful associations in connection with the War our city and Presidency have to mourn the loss in three short years of the four foremost leaders and guides in our public life. Between February 1915 and February 1918 we have lost Gokhale, Pheroze-shah Mehta, Dadabhai Naoroji and Sir William Wedderburn in quick succession. The fates have decreed that those who were so long united in devoted service should thus be united in swift removal from the scene of their great labours. And we who knew their work, who accepted them as leaders and followed in their path, we stand to-day amazed and appalled by the swift misfortunes. May I not ask you, and I was particularly requested to speak to this Resolution that I may ask you, ladies and gentlemen, if we cannot endeavour that those who served us so long together and who have been so removed

together may remain united in our grateful remembrance of them by one great Memorial to them all? Such a Memorial will present them and those who come after us in the same light in which they taught us to regard them when they were among us,—a band of noble workers whose friendship and union were only less conspicuous than the virtues they brought to our public life—ceaseless and strenuous endeavour, uncomplaining sacrifice, unostentatious devotion, and fearless rectitude. The work of collecting subscriptions for the Memorials to Gokhale and Pherozeshah Mehta and Dadabhai Naoroji is not yet completed. We will only just begin similar work in Sir William Wedderburn's memory. The gentlemen who are ~~the~~ the Committee we are appointing to-day are most of them, if not all of them, on the other Committees. It will not be difficult to accomplish the task if it is publicly approved and supported. We may pool all our different funds together and raise one great memorial to them all—a fitting shrine in years to come—a great temple; we and those who come after us, Hindus and Mahomedans and Christians and Parsis, may remember what the great dead were and what they did, and may learn from their forgotten example to love India as they loved her and tried to serve India as they did surely serve her. I will only add that if this suggestion is approved I will be ready to devote what one can, at my time of life, to its successful attainment.

HIS SELF-SACRIFICE.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar, seconding the resolution, said that it was a great privilege to him to second the resolution and that the resolution asked them to perform their part of the contract as Sir William Wedderburn did his

Though his association with Sir William was short, he could say with confidence that he was a prodigy of human talents, as the poet said. His activities were varied, ranging over the various fields of reform whether political or social. He was alike a champion of the Ruling Princes and women's education. His great services in a few words meant that the British official in India had a distinct and an important part to play in the function of Indian aspirations. While working for the good of the Indian people, it was he, who proved that the Civil servants in this country could as well be perfectly loyal to the Government who paid them. Continuing he said that the closing words of Sir William's presidential address at the Congress viz., "I have eaten the salt of India and I shall be true to it till the end of my life," ought to serve as an object-lesson to the leaders of the Indo-British Association. He exhorted them to pour out whatever money they could for the memorial of such a great self-sacrificing man.

The Hon Mr. Lallubhai Samaldas supported the resolution.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta, in further supporting the resolution, said that while he was a student in England he had come in contact with Sir William Wedderburn, who told him that every student in India should devote his spare time to the study of the political problems of his country.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The Chairman here announced the following subscriptions to the fund:—Messrs. Pragjee Soorjee & Co. Rs. 1,000; Mr. J. B. Petit, Rs. 500; Mr. C. H. Setalvad, Rs. 500; Mr. M. R. Jayaker, Rs. 500; the Hon. Mr. Lallubhai Samaldas, Rs. 500; Sir Vithaldas D. Thakersey,

Rs. 500; Sir Currimbhoy Ibrahim, Rs. 500; Sir Narayan G. Chandavarkar, Rs. 400.

CONDOLENCES TO LADY WEDDERBURN.

Mr. N. M. Samarth moved the following resolution:-
 "That the previous two resolutions be communicated by the Chairman of this meeting to Lady Wedderburn with a letter of condolence on behalf of this meeting."

He said, he was one of those who had the good fortune to come into contact with Sir William and Lady Wedderburn while in England and to know something of the inner working of their mutually attuned minds. Lady Wedderburn's love for India and sympathy with Indian aspirations was as deep and abiding as was that of Sir William Wedderburn to whom she was a helpmate, who worked with him and stood by him in his self-imposed task of service and sacrifice for the country whose salt he had eaten, and who spread around him an atmosphere of hopefulness and cheerfulness and blissfulness which it was the God-given privilege of womankind to generate. Sir William Wedderburn, as they knew, had to bear and suffer for many a year the ridicule and obloquy of some of his own countrymen for his espousing the cause of the people of India. But Sir William did not mind the abuses that were showered on his devoted head. He not only outlived the obloquy but for some years past he was able to exercise a great and beneficent influence on behalf of India at the seat of authority in England. Since the war began, he made strenuous efforts, by correspondence and by interviews, to induce the Secretary of State and the British Cabinet to make a declaration of policy announcing the aim and object of British Rule to be Self-Government for India within the Empire and to

give effect to it in a spirit of earnestness and liberality. He had the satisfaction of seeing that the announcement was after all decided upon and authoritatively made on 20th August last. But it was painful to think that he did not live to see the result of Mr. Montagu's mission to India. Lady Wedderburn's sorrow could not but be tinged and made deeper by the sad thought that it had pleased Providence to ordain that Sir William should pass away with a mere Pisgah-sight of the Promised Land. Her grief was great and she deserved all the sympathy which India could extend to her in her disconsolate loneliness.

Mr. Faiz B. Tyabji seconded the resolution, which was carried.

On the motion of **Sir Vithaldas D. Thakersey**, seconded by the **Hon. Mr. G. K. Parekh**, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

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.*