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INDIAN
CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENTS
(1773=1915)

COMPILED AND EDITED
WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY

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Movement in India".

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ERRATA.

- Introduction P. xxi, Line 2 from the top. *For* "Possessed by the Crown" *read* "Possessed by the Company."
- P. xxxvi, Line 7 from the bottom. *For* "April 26" *read* "April 28."
- P. 1. Line 6 from the top. *For* "II. Development etc" *read* "III. Development etc."
- P. 6. Line 13 from the bottom. *For* "Serbordinate" *read* "Subordinate."
- P. 172. Line 22 from the bottom. *For* "Pretty" *read* "Petty."
- P. 281. Line 7 from the bottom. *For* "Devolopment" *read* "Development."
- P. 372. Line 2 from the top. *For* "Severeign" *read* "Sovereign."
- P. 440. Para 5, line 2. *For* "Principle" *read* "Principal."
- Para 5, line 3. *Insert* a comma *after* "Press."
- Para 5, line 6. *For* "Respectively" *read* "Respecting."

A
SUPPLEMENT
TO
Indian Constitutional Documents
(1773-1915)

CONTAINING
THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1915.

In the Press.

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PREFACE.

Before the recent enactment of the Government of India (Consolidation) Act, Indian constitutional laws were scattered through a large number of statutes spread over about a century and a half. Though the Indian constitutional laws have now been codified into a single, all-embracing statute, yet its clauses can be properly understood only by reference to the various individual statutes referred to above. Besides, any one who wishes to trace the evolution of the present Indian constitution can only do so by studying the chronologically consecutive statutes relating to the constitution of the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. To facilitate such a study of Indian constitutional development I have incorporated in this volume not only the various important statutes (or only their important sections) which form landmarks in Indian constitutional development, but also the speeches of the responsible ministers in charge of the bills in either House of Parliament. These speeches (which are all taken from authoritative reports of Parliamentary Debates) not only give us an insight into the spirit underlying the letter of the law, but also an exposition of the principles and ideals of those who were the fathers of the Indian constitution. Besides, I think that the speeches delivered in either House of Parliament by statesmen like Pitt, Palmerston, Disraeli, Derby, Gladstone, Morley and Asquith on bills which shaped the Indian constitution and defined the principles of the Government of India, have an intrinsic and perennial value of their own, and should not be allowed to sink into oblivion. They possess an interest and an importance which increase, instead of diminishing, as time rolls on.

In addition to the statutes and the speeches I have also included in this volume epoch-making Royal Proclamations and Announcements, and various important Despatches and Resolutions enunciating principles and policies, which have great constitutional significance. In this connexion I have to express my deep obligations to the Government of India for having given me permission to copy out from the original and to publish the historic Despatch from the Court of Directors, dated the 10th December, 1834.

In the Introduction I have attempted to give brief historical summaries of (1) the rise and growth of British power in India from 1600 A. D. to 1765 A. D.; (2) the development of the Indian Constitution from 1765 A. D. to the present day; (3) the development of the system of Provincial Financial Settlements; and (4) the development of Local Self-Government under British rule. They do not profess to be exhaustive original investigations, but are chiefly meant as a guide to the study of the various documents incorporated in this volume.

In this book it has been my aim to preserve in one place and in a permanent form all the more important original documents relating to the constitution of the Government of India, so that the student of Indian constitutional history, the publicist, and the Indian legislative councillor may not have any very great difficulty in finding out references to particular documents. My labours will be amply repaid if this book be of some help to such enquirers and if it thereby promote a scientific study of the Indian constitution. I shall feel much obliged if readers of this book will offer me any suggestions or point out to me any mistakes or omissions.

Before I conclude, I deem it to be my duty to acknowledge my indebtedness to my esteemed colleague, Prof. S. C. Roy, M.A., for the constant help and encouragement which I have received from him in the compilation of this volume.

DURBHANGA LIBRARY, }
September the 1st, 1915. }

P. MUKHERJI.

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