

## APPENDIX A.

[From "*Eminent Indians on Indian Politics*,"  
edited by Mr. C. L. Parekh, 1892.]

PHEROZESHAH M. MEHTA, ESQ., M.A., BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

"To fight

In a just cause, for our country's glory,

Is the best office of the best men"—*Harard, Regulus.*

In that radiant group of stars which for years past is illumining the political and intellectual horizon of Western India, none, perhaps, shines with such fixed lustre as Mr. Pherozechah M. Mehta. As the first brilliant Elphinstonian of the second generation after Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, as the first distinguished Parsi Master of Arts of the local University, and as the first Parsi Barrister of great forensic talents whose 'future eminence' was prophetically foretold by the late lamented Mr. Anstey, of English and Indian renown, he had by the end of the seventies made himself a sufficiently prominent figure in the public life of Bombay. But the active and leading part he took in the affairs of the city at the very commencement of the eighties, and the patriotism, tempered by sobriety of judgment and discretion, displayed by him, along with his equally distinguished collaborateurs, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Telang, C.I.E., and Mr. Badruddin Tyabji—during the eventful period which gloriously signalled the sympathetic Viceroyalty of the beloved Marquis of Ripon—these achieved for him even greater prominence, which has not been a little enhanced during the last seven years by his enlightened and disinterested labours, though for a brief period of two years, as a non-official member of the Legislative Council during the statesmanlike administration of Lord Reay, and his staunch and fearless advocacy, as the leading native representative of the city's interests, of the rights, privileges and liberties of Local Self-Government, whenever threatened by the Provincial Executive.

As in the case of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, so in that of Mr. Mehta, it is hardly possible, within the limited space, to do justice to the many important incidents of his life. At the best we can only briefly allude to these. Mr. Pherozechah was born on 4th August 1845, at Bombay. His father was a successful merchant, a partner in the firm of Messrs. Cama and Co., who had bound up his fortunes with Calcutta at an early age. A gentleman of remarkably good common sense, shrewdness, and sagacity, he had even in his own heyday fairly understood the boon of a sound commercial education. Mr. Mehta, the

elder, was therefore known for his literary activity as the author of a comprehensive geography and history which was eagerly studied by the young Parsi scholars of his day. Mr. Pherozeshah's school career was rapid, and he passed his matriculation examination in 1861, graduated as a B. A. of the University in 1864, and passed with honours his M.A. examination six months later, being also nominated a Fellow of the College. Sir Alexander Grant, Principal of the Elphinstone College, was highly impressed with the talents of the young collegian from the very day of his entrance into the college, an impression which Mr. Pherozeshah's brilliant course and uninterrupted academic career successfully confirmed. So that Sir Alexander Grant was fully justified in recommending him for the travelling fellowship which the late Mr. Rustomji Jamsetji Jeejeebhoy had then instituted. Mr. Mehta's father, however, was against his son's availing himself of what he supposed was eleemosynary education. Sir Alexander ardently wished that the first Parsi M.A. should also be the first Parsi barrister from Lincoln's Inn. He took a natural pride in encouraging him to enter the liberal profession of the lawyer. Master of persuasion and sweet oratory as he was, he soon prevailed upon Mr. Mehta, the elder, and convinced him that his son's availing himself of the liberality of the philanthropic citizen would only reflect the highest honour on himself and his community. So Mr. Pherozeshah soon after set sail for England to study for the bar, though ultimately he did not avail himself of the endowment. And here his academical career may be properly said to have ended.

The three years of hard and persevering study of the law soon brought its reward. Mr. Mehta was called to the bar in 1868, though not without having made himself useful in London, with Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji for his *guru*. He heartily co-operated with him, along with Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, the well-known Barrister of Calcutta, and the President of the First Indian National Congress, in establishing the London Literary Society, which after a short time was superseded by the East India Association. During his sojourn in England, Mr. Mehta read before that Society an interesting paper on Education in India which, considering the age at which it was written, may be said to be a credit to his nascent talents. It may still be read with profit.

Having been called to the bar, it was a curious but most happy coincidence, his return to Bombay, 'fresh from the atmosphere of Lincoln's Inn,' on the same afternoon which witnessed in the hall of the Framji Cowasji Institute the interesting ceremony of presentation of a farewell address to Sir Alexander Grant on his election as Principal of the Edinburgh University—a coveted academic post which he had unsuccessfully competed for ten years earlier. So eager was the grateful young barrister to take part in the proceedings that no sooner had he come to shore and heard of them than he repaired to the

interesting gathering to bid him a hearty farewell. Thus parted Principal and scholar, the great Oxford coach and profound Aristotelian scholar and the brilliant Fellow and young lawyer, never to meet again.

It may not be generally known that the very first public event in which Mr. Mehta considerably interested himself, though most unobtrusively, was the movement set on foot in 1869 to present Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji with a handsome purse in recognition of the many valuable services rendered by him to the public for nearly a quarter of a century. The principal credit of initiating the movement belongs to Mr. Pherozeshah, who succeeded in getting (the 2nd) Sir Jamssetjee Jeejeebhoy, and all the other leading and opulent natives to join in it. It redounds highly to his credit that, impelled by honourable and patriotic sentiments as well as by his high respect for him, the young citizen and lawyer, who had yet to build his reputation, should have been one of the very first to cause the sterling worth of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji to be recognised and appreciated by the leading citizens of Bombay.

Two years later occurred a remarkable event in the annals of the Municipality, the boon of which was five years before granted to the citizens of Bombay by the enlightened statesmanship of the distinguished Sir Bartle Frere. The financial ability of its first and most brilliant Municipal Commissioner was not equal to his administrative genius. Fired by the example of M. Haussmann, Mr. Arthur Crawford was consumed with the ambition to convert the City of Bombay into a second Paris. Not only did he aspire to clear the town of the accumulated filth of half a century, to bring down its death-rate to 17 per thousand, to construct new roads and bridges, to build footpaths, to widen streets, and to erect fountains and gardens, construct markets and drains, but to give a perennial water supply to the increasing population, and haussmannize Bombay. Fired by this civic ambition, that *facile princeps* of ædiles cared not to look either to the right or to the left, to the pockets of the rate-paying constituency or to the condition of his own Municipal treasure chest. Disregarding the warning voice of his masters, economic members of the Municipality, H. M's Worshipful Bench of Justices, he went headlong in his career of financial extravagance,—cleansing and beautifying the city, but burying her at the same time under the load of a heavy debt. The crisis came at last and the ædile was overwhelmed by the deafening cries all round of Retrenchment and Reform. Those cries reached the ears of Government, till at last public indignation was appeased by his precipitate abandonment of his post. The rest is a matter of history. Many were the angry denunciations hurled against him. Many were the unfavourable criticisms pronounced on his financial extravagance. In the very midst of the crisis Mr. Mehta read a paper on the Municipal reform question in the F. C. Institute, in which he tried to indicate

the lines on which the reform should proceed. He pointed out the mischief of such an executive Town Council as the leading reformers were advocating, and suggested an elected Corporation, a Standing Committee, and an Executive Commissioner. And these were the lines on which the first Municipal Act of 1872 was ultimately framed. His chief contention, based on the memorable observations of the late John Stuart Mill in his *Representative Government*, was that the executive power should be solely trusted to a single individual on whom would rest the entire responsibility of the administration. Vesting it in the hands of many simply whittled away such responsibility. In short, a divided responsibility was worse than no responsibility at all. But the passion, the prejudice, and also the ignorance of those assembled at the meeting, were so great and over-powering that Mr. Mehta's voice was stifled. He was met with execrations for this statesmanlike speech. He was considered an ardent partisan of the exploded regime, though, like the impartial critic that he was, he endeavoured his best to differentiate between the permanent good rendered to the city by Mr. Crawford and his inexcusable financial lapses. In the hall of that Institute Mr. Mehta first realised the power of mobocracy which he has never since tried to forget. He left the hall with some of his friends who shared his views. But to this important event in his early public life may be fairly ascribed that ardent interest which we see him displaying since, on all questions affecting the best interests of Local Self-Government, specially those which affect its constitution. By the light of the experience of the twenty years that have rolled by since, it cannot, however, but be transparent even to the most prejudiced, that the principle for which he fought so fearlessly and valiantly, amidst a storm of execration and indignation, is the principle acknowledged and admitted as correct, and as such carried out in practice. If in 1870-1, the opportunity was thus afforded to him to make his mark as a public-spirited citizen, battling against the forces of passion and prejudice, and trying to dispel ignorance on a vital point affecting civic management, the well-known Tower of Silence Riot case, in 1872-73, enabled him to make his mark as a lawyer battling against the forces of lawlessness and disorder and the insolence of high-handed authority. So remarkably well did he conduct the defence as junior counsel with the late Mr. Anstey that that distinguished barrister, so chary of praise, handsomely complimented him in the open Court on his legal ability, stating that he was a lawyer in whom lay 'the germs of future eminence.' Mr. Mehta's forensic ability began to be discerned at that early stage in his professional career. He established his reputation in the mofussil in the celebrated Surat Riots Case, from which date forward his practice up-country has been unusually large. He came into great request,

specially as more or less he was lucky and achieved success, whether acting as counsel for the prosecution or the defence. It is needless to say that the same luck still accompanies him, now that he is a senior counsel with twenty-four years of wide practice. The Native States of Kathiawar, small and great, equally value his abilities as a lawyer. There is not a month in which his services are not put into requisition. No counsel has, we believe, been appealed to more for preparing important state memorials on behalf of these States than the subject of this biography—such are the ability and care with which he is known to marshal his facts and argue out his case. A very early specimen of such memorial writing may be traced in the petition which the Parsee community read and adopted at their public meeting to protest against the conduct of the police in connection with the deplorable Mahomedan riot of 1874. The original draft, it is no secret, was prepared by Mr. Maclean, former editor and proprietor of the *Bombay Gazette*, but it was ably revised and settled by Mr Mehta. In the celebrated Wilson case of Cambay fame the *Bombay Gazette* said :—‘Something, too, must be said for the ability and judgment shown by the counsel engaged. Mr. Inverarity showed zeal and industry in conducting a defence which claimed his best qualities as an advocate. Mr. Mehta carried off something more than the honours of winning counsel, and his speech in replying upon the whole case was an admirable example of close reasoning and judicious pleading, as much to be commended for the tact and reticence as for the skill with which he put the case before the Court’

But while Mr. Mehta was rising in the practice of his profession, he was displaying no mean activity in public affairs. The training and experience acquired at the reformed Municipal Corporation, between 1872 and 1880, have been of invaluable service to him. During that period he cordially co-operated on many important matters, though sometimes differing from them, with the late Messrs. Nowrozjee Furdoonjee and V. N. Mandlik, two distinguished citizens, to whom the City of Bombay is greatly indebted, along with Mr. Sorabji S. Bengali, for the reform that was introduced soon after the Municipal revolution of 1870.

The training received during the previous decade in the Municipal school enabled Mr. Mehta to distinguish himself at the Municipal Corporation during the stormy debates on what is known as the Malabar Hill Reservoir Scandal. The history of that miserable engineering failure, which reflected no credit on those who were responsible for the construction of that reservoir, is too well known to require any mention here. Suffice it to say, that despite the fierce and ‘angry billows’ which threatened to drown Mr. Mehta, his heroic resistance succeeded not only in repelling the breakers, but completely laying low

the elements which had strenuously attempted to shield municipal folly, municipal extravagance, and municipal incompetency. He was most prominent in unmasking the affair in its true nakedness. Virtually, the resolution which purported to record a vote of want of confidence in those concerned, though thrown out by a majority of one, was a scathing condemnation of the entire system of administration as carried on in the Engineering department. This important and historical incident may be said to have shewn to the fullest the powers of debate, sarcasm, ridicule, and of impassioned oratory which Mr. Mehta is capable of—powers and oratory which have since acquired greater force, but used with remarkable moderation and judgment. It is these elements which have acquired for him the reputation of being the virtual leader of the Corporation. Many have been the important subjects which since 1880 have come to the front in the halls of the Civic Fathers—from the Imperial Resolution of 1882 on Local Self-Government to the question of the liability of the Provincial Government with regard to primary education, not forgetting the arbitrary mandates regarding the maintenance of hospitals for infectious diseases and the iniquities of the police charges. Each and every one of these broad constitutional questions have shown how invaluable have been Mr. Mehta's services to the City. In short, no member of the Corporation, it may be said without fear of contradiction, has fought so ably, with such a mastery of facts, with such dialectic powers, and forensic eloquence, as he on all questions affecting Municipal independence and Municipal freedom. In 1884 he was elected Chairman of the Corporation, and was again re-elected the next year, an unusual honour.\* The *Times of India* acknowledged that according to both native and European opinion, he made the best Chairman the Corporation ever had.

In the sphere of Indian politics the services of Mr. P. M. Mehta have not been the less invaluable. In conjunction with Mr. Telang, he founded the Bombay Presidency Association. It is owing to his exertions jointly with those of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Telang and Mr. Badruddin Tyabji, that Bombay was able to achieve during the troublous days of the Ilbert Bill agitation the reputation of being the most sober in political judgment. Sir Evelyn Baring (now Lord Cromer), on his retirement in 1883, called it the 'centre of political activity and sobriety.' The meeting held in the Town Hall to protest against the extravagance and antics of the anti-Ilbertites will remain memorable as long as the Government of British India lasts. It will serve as a great object-lesson in politics for many a generation to come. It will remind posterity how a few of their

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\* Sir Pheroze Shah Mehta has been elected President of the Corporation for the third time this year (1905).—Ed.

countrymen, of the highest enlightenment and culture, of great political sagacity and wisdom, rose superior to the passions and blind prejudices of the hour, and by their calm and tempered judgment successfully checked and controlled the surging elements in this city; and how they infused a spirit of tolerance and moderation, when in every part of the wide empire Indians and Anglo-Indians alike allowed themselves to be carried away by a whirlpool of angry recriminations and factions at once calamitous to the very foundations of society

It was owing to this spirit of moderation, afterwards frankly recognised by all India, that Bombay was unique in its demonstrations to Lord Ripon when bidding farewell to India in December 1884. In no other city save Bombay did Englishmen join with Indians in honouring an English Viceroy who had nobly endeavoured to discharge his duties in the full spirit of the Queen's Proclamation—which enjoins liberty and equality to all classes of her Majesty's subjects, liberty and equality which are unto the Englishmen as the very breath of their lives. Sir James Fergusson was the very first to recognize the spirit in which native Bombay had conducted itself during the agitation, and gracefully and honourably discharged the roll of an unbiassed Governor. We owe these to the political sagacity of the Triumvirate of whom Mr. Mehta was one.

In 1886, the Government of Lord Reay appointed Mr. Mehta a member of the Local Legislative Council, the duties of which, it is needless to observe, he discharged with his accustomed ability. The most important piece of legislation which he had to deal with during his two years' term of office was the new Municipal Bill, now known as the Municipal Act (I) of 1888. The experience of twenty-two years' Municipal Government which deservedly earned for Bombay the sobriquet of "The First City in India," made it imperative, in view of its immense progress in the art of managing its own affairs, that the foundation of Local Self-Government should be made broader and its approaches wider. So impressed was Lord Reay's Government with the desirability of conferring larger privileges, consistent with the declarations laid down in the Imperial Resolution of 1882, that a draft bill was directed to be prepared. Unfortunately, the hands to which this responsible task was entrusted were not careful enough. The draftsman fell short of the liberal requirements demanded by the citizens, chiefly owing to the narrow tendencies of the bureaucracy to which he belonged—a bureaucracy which has not yet taken kindly, it is sad to relate, to view with composure or satisfaction Lord Ripon's scheme of Local Self-Government. It was, however, fortunate that at the time of the passing of the measure there were at the Legislative Council Board Messrs. Mehta and Telang, both of whom had ample practical experience of Municipal administration. Aided and guided by their experience, and warmly supported by the voice of the

independent English and Vernacular press, Lord Reay was persuaded to make it a really liberal measure. The work of revising the draft in the Select Committee, however, fell almost entirely on the two non-official legislators. Many were the difficulties in the way, and many were the anxious and toilsome hours employed in bringing the originally conceived illiberal and narrow measure into harmony with the voice of the public. In this hard work Mr. Mehta and Mr. Telang had the largest share. And though it is a fact that they have not been satisfied with the Act in certain respects, it must be conceded that but for their combined exertions and manly opposition the Act would have been worse than it is. In respect of its constitutional part, it is, however, a vast improvement on the older one of 1872, which it superseded. The duties of the triangular authorities have been carefully marked down, namely, those of the Commissioner, the Standing Committee, and the Corporation. The last is distinctly recognised in the Act as the supreme administrative authority and its powers and control over the Municipal purse are firmly laid down. For the first time, the privilege of appointing its own Chairman has been conceded to the Standing Committee. So, too, that of the election of a Deputy Municipal Commissioner, whenever the Corporation may choose to make the appointment. Again, the number of representatives of the rate-paying element has been increased by the addition of four members. The Municipal franchise has also been granted to the local Chamber of Commerce and the University, who elect from their respective bodies two members each; while the electorate itself has been further widened by the inclusion therein of University Graduates.

As to the Presidency Association, it is needless here to speak of the good work that representative body is doing since its formation. Its annual reports bear ample testimony to the numerous important public topics to which it has drawn the attention of the Local and Imperial Governments and of the Secretary of State for India. Though the Hon'ble Mr. Telang was obliged to resign the Honorary Secretaryship of the Association, which he held jointly with Mr. Mehta and Mr. Wacha, it is satisfactory to note that his place has been well filled up by Mr. N. G. Chandavarkar.

Mr. Mehta has been a staunch supporter of the Indian National Congress from the very day of its birth in Bombay. Like Mr. Dada-bhai Naoroji, he had the honour of being elected President of the Sixth Convention, held at Calcutta in the Christmas of 1890. The Presidential address delivered at that sitting will always form a bright page in the annals of the Congress, full of interest as it is, both as a retrospect of the important work rendered by the five Congresses previously held, and as a practical paper on what the 'unconventional convention' should do for its further advancement in the future.

The address was highly appreciated everywhere, and by none more than Messrs. Caine and Schwann, two unbiassed English Members of Parliament who attended the Congress. It is needless to say that high as was Mr. Mehta's reputation as an Indian politician, it was greatly enhanced by the remarkable breadth and liberality of views which characterised the address and the admirable tone of sober statesmanship which pervaded it.

Mr. Mehta's political and municipal activity continue unabated. In the prime of life and full of physical and intellectual vigour, there is yet before him a vast field of greater usefulness. By his fearless advocacy of public interests, imperial and local, great force of character, and sterling ability, he has already made his influence felt in every part of the country. He is a towering personality. He has, like the guinea's stamp, stamped his own individuality on every important public event in which he has had a share. May Providence long spare him to cultivate these public virtues and put them to greater use for the benefit of his countrymen, and may he in the fulness of time leave a name in the annals of this great Empire more enduring than brass or marble.

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## APPENDIX B.

[From the "Pioneer" of March 16, 1895.]

### INDIANS OF TO-DAY.

THE HON'BLE MR. PHEROZESHAH M. MEHTA.

THE Hon'ble Pherozeshah Merwanji Mehta is one of the ablest and most eminent of the political leaders of Western India, and next to Dadabhai Naoroji he is the most intellectual man amongst his set. Like nine-tenths of the Indian political school he is a lawyer, and his professional income is said to be one of the best earned by any of his countrymen in India. Mr. Pherozeshah Mehta is a thorough-going supporter of the Indian National Congress, and was one of those who launched the first Congress at Bombay, in 1885. He has taken a leading part in all the political movements and agitations of the capital of Western India for the last twenty years, and been a prominent figure at the Corporation, the University and the Legislative Council. He is considered one of the very best of Indian speakers. At the same time he has a practical, business-like turn of mind. He takes a warm interest in the cotton industry of the city of Bombay, and has invested a considerable amount of his fortune in the spinning and weaving mills.

The son of a Parsi merchant who had been in his days an active partner of Messrs. Cama and Co., Mr. Pherozeshah Mehta was born in Bombay on 4th August, 1845. His father had some literary tastes, which found vent in a school history and geography of some merit. Pherozeshah received his early education at an ordinary school, and after passing the Matriculation Examination in 1861, joined the Elphinstone College. He brought himself to the favourable notice of that eminent scholar, Sir Alexander Grant, who was then the Principal of the Elphinstone College, by his diligent application to his studies, and passed the B.A. Examination of the Bombay University in 1864. He became an M.A. of the University in another six months, and Sir A. Grant nominated him a Fellow of the College. Sir A. Grant was also anxious to see that Pherozeshah Mehta should be sent to England to complete his education there. He procured for his favourite Parsi pupil one of the scholarships founded by Rustomji Jamsetji Jeejeebhoy, and spoke to Mr. Mehta's father about consenting to send his son to England. Mr. Mehta was sent to England, though ultimately he did not avail himself of the scholarship. He joined Lincoln's Inn, and was called to the Bar in 1868. While in England, Mr. Pherozeshah Mehta was initiated into politics by Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, and was induced by the latter to read a paper on Education in India before the London Literary

Society. Mr. Pherozeshah Mehta at once set himself seriously to achieve success in his profession by diligent study and observation.

The Tower of Silence riot cases of 1873 gave him his first conspicuous opportunity to show to what advantage he had learnt the art of cross-examination. The well-known Mr. Anstey, one of the ablest though most eccentric barristers who ever came out to India, appeared as the leading counsel in the case, and remarked that Mr. Pherozeshah Mehta was bound to attain the highest success in his profession. The success of this case laid the foundation of his extensive criminal practice in the Mofussil and his reputation was considerably heightened by the Surat riot cases, which he conducted, too, with great ability. Within ten years of his commencing his practice his services were in great requisition in important and sensational criminal cases in the Mofussil, and made High Court work a secondary consideration, and in this respect his practice almost resembles that of Manomohan Ghose of Calcutta, or the Hon'ble W. M. Colvin of Allahabad. He is now almost always out of Bombay on professional engagements, and there is hardly a big case in Gujarat or Kathiawar in which his services are not engaged. The small States of Kathiawar often engage him, too, on heavy fees, in political matters, and he was not long ago appointed Legal Adviser to the Junagadh State on a salary of Rs. 2,000 a month—an appointment that probably requires as little work for the money as any in India. His conduct of the Cambay case, in which he appeared for the prosecution, extorted admiration even from his adversaries, and the Press gave him every credit for the great tact and ability with which he had managed a case every step of whose proceedings had been reported in the daily papers and read with interest over a wide area.

Mr. Mehta began his public life by taking part in the agitation against Mr. Arthur Crawford's municipal administration of Bombay in 1871-72. He became a member of the Bombay Corporation in 1872, and took a very active interest in its affairs. With the co-operation of Mr. Mandlik, Mr. Sorabji Shapurji Bengali, and Mr. Nowrozjee Furdoojee, he effected many important reforms in the constitution of the Corporation. For his municipal services he was elected Chairman of the Bombay Corporation in 1884 an honour which was again continued in the following year. As Chairman he had very hard work to do, and public opinion of all sections is unanimous on the point that he made a very efficient Chairman. In politics, too, Mr. Mehta has made a great name. The undoubted powers he possesses as a speaker introduced him early in life to public platforms, and he has been called upon to speak on almost every important political subject of the last quarter of a century. He is one of the founders of the Bombay Presidency Association, and he has been one of the most active spirits in the work of carrying on political agitation in Western India through it. He was appointed a member of the Legislative Council by Lord Reay at a time when the

most important work before the Council was the passing of the Municipal Act, in conformity with Lord Ripon's Local Self-Government scheme. He brought in a string of amendments, and kept up a vigorous fight with the official members with reference to many of its provisions. His views on every subject are in entire accord with those now so fashionable among educated Indians. Always one of the most conspicuous figures in the Congress camp, he was elected its President at the Calcutta sitting in 1890. He is one of the honorary secretaries of the Bombay Presidency Association, standing counsel of the Indian National Congress in Bombay, and he is also a conspicuous figure in the Bombay University.

The Hon'ble Pheroze Shah Mehta lives in the most fashionable quarter of Bombay, on the Cumballa Hill. The Back Bay has here a winding course, and as his house is built on an elevation, his windows give him splendid views of a long front of the Arabian sea. His house is one of the best-furnished in Bombay, and one is dazzled with the variety, the brilliance and the costliness of the furniture of his rooms. When at home he takes a regular walk every day, but his habit in this respect is rather peculiar, as he gets out after breakfast at about nine, and returns in an hour's time. He has his chambers in the Fort, where he usually arrives about two, and is available there for business engagements till about four. But he is regularly out of Bombay in out station cases for half the month, and sometimes for even a longer period, and while out, he spends in reading whatever time he can spare from his profession. Now, in his forty-eighth year, he is in full vigour of body and mind—a very handsome man, with a very fair complexion.

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## APPENDIX C.

[From " *Indian Congressmen* ' by Mr. G. Paramaswaran Pillai, B.A.]

HON'BLE MR PHEROZESHAH MEHTA.

"That is a man who would serve his country with a spade or pickaxe if he could not serve her in any other way." So said Lord Brougham of the Duke of Wellington once. The same is true of the Hon'ble Mr. Pherozechah M. Mehta. There is something distinguishing in his very appearance. His figure is strikingly graceful and commanding, his features are high and noble. If found in a crowd and not known, he is one of those men about whom questions will be asked and whispers will be heard. His handsome face beaming with intelligence is set off to advantage by his perfect manners. Amiable to a fault, affable in the extreme, courteous, accessible, Mr. Mehta has the easy graces of a man of the mode. Nursed in the lap of luxury he looks like a prince and carries himself like a prince. But he is also a prince among men. Physically and intellectually endowed, he is a born leader. Early in the sixties in one of the Inns of Court in London, two Indians of striking features, of marked ability, were eating their dinners and delivering speeches. In a few years, they were both in India, one in Bengal and the other in Bombay. Both worked their way up in their profession. Both became eminent and distinguished. Both came to be recognised as men of light and leading. The one was Mr. Bonnerjee; the other was Mr. Mehta. What Mr. Bonnerjee is to Bengal, that Mr. Mehta is to Bombay. Eminent lawyers, trusted leaders, both are honoured, both are esteemed by the people.

Mr. Mehta is a man of brilliant abilities. Eloquent in speech, excelling in debate, he is one of those who could easily persuade his audience to his own belief by the magic of his voice and the charm of his delivery. His eloquence is not of the boisterous order. Drawn to his full height, he speaks with proper emphasis and proper gesture, smiling when he indulges in light banter, frowning when he resorts to declamation and leaving behind always a pleasing impression of his performance. His eloquence is like that of Lord John Russell of which Moore has given us an apt description :—

An eloquence not like those rills from a height  
Which sparkle and foam and in vapour are o'er  
But a current that works out its way into light  
Through the filtering recesses of thought and of lore.

But Mr. Mehta is greater as a debater than as an orator. It is then that he is seen at his best. What wine was to Addison, the atmosphere of debate is to Mr. Mehta. Few, very few are the

occasions, when Congressmen have had the opportunity of hearing Mr. Mehta in a debate. I remember well one such occasion. It was at a meeting of the Subjects Committee of the Congress held at Poona Mr. Surendranath Banerjea was in the chair: and among those present were Mr. Mehta and Mr. Bonnerjee. A discussion arose in which there was a difference of opinion among the Congress leaders. Mr. Surendranath Banerjea rose and spoke with all the warmth and vehemence he could command and when he sat, he sat amidst cheers. Then rose Mr. Mehta and in his pleasantest manner, he analysed Mr. Banerjea's arguments, made some humorous remarks, evoked some laughter, and in a few minutes won over the Committee to his side. Mr. Surendranath Banerjea rose again and animated by the attack, he flew to higher flights of eloquence and wound up with a magnificent peroration which again elicited cheers. Then rose Mr. Bonnerjee and in a simple and forcible speech attacked Mr. Surendranath and turned the tables on him. It was a lively encounter, a heated debate, a first class performance. It was a fight between a lion, a tiger and a bear. There was but one other Congressman whose presence would have made the debate livelier still, who would have thrown more life and light into it and that was Mr. Eardley Norton. And there was but one historic occasion in the annals of the Congress, when this galaxy of Congressmen met and fought one another under the Congress banner. It was at the Bombay Congress which Bradlaugh attended; and they fought in the Subjects Committee over the scheme for the reform of Legislative Councils. That was a rare intellectual treat indeed—Mr. Surendranath's lofty declamation, followed by Mr. Mehta's pungent and pitiless rallery, to be followed again by Mr. Bonnerjee's simple and short shafts of logic, to be wound up by Mr. Norton's piercing, incisive attacks. These doughty champions of the Congress are like the gallant quadrilateral of musketeers in Dumas' story. But it is difficult to say who is the D'Artagnan of the party.

Mr. Mehta has been in the thickest of some fights. He has led some great fights as well as some little fights, and he has won laurels in many a political game. In the Bombay Municipality, he has fought for reform. In the University Senate, he has fought for progress. In the Bombay Legislative Council he has fought against bureaucratic oppression. In the Imperial Legislative Council he has fought against the pretensions of the Civil Service. He is the *doyenne* of the Bombay Municipality. None is a greater authority on Municipal matters and he rules that honourable civic body. Elected again and again unanimously as its representative in the local Legislative Council, he had the singular honour of being re-elected even when he had resigned. In the Bombay Legislative Council, he is the recognised leader of the non-official members and he has broken many a lance

with the ablest of the Governor's Councillors and always come out unscathed. In the Viceregal Council, he has crossed swords with the haughty Sir James Westland and silenced him by his witheringly sarcastic references to the "most distinguished service in the world." Lord Sandhurst has acknowledged him as a skilled debater who would do credit to any representative assembly in the world and Sir Alexander Miller has publicly avowed his admiration for Mr. Mehta's commanding ability. Ready and willing to fight in every good cause, Mr. Mehta has the great tact of directing his attacks in the most agreeable manner possible. His fiercest onslaughts are couched in the softest of language and his opponents scarcely feel their fierceness. His scathing denunciations are dealt out amidst pleasant wordy surroundings. The bitterest of his pills are coated with the sweetest sugar. His words penetrate like arrows, but they pierce the flesh without pain. He never carried a heart-stain away on his blade. There is a pool of honey about his heart which lubricates his speech with fine jets of mead. Mr. Mehta is also a man of culture. His speeches betray his wide range of knowledge derived from the most recent publications. All the same, there is no parade of his knowledge, no show, no exhibition. Genial, generous : cultured, accomplished : impartial to friend and foe alike, charitable by nature : orator, debater, tactician : Municipal Councillor, University Fellow : member of the Bombay Legislative Council, representative of Bombay in the Imperial Legislative Council : Joint Founder of the East India Association, Founder and First Secretary of the Bombay Presidency Association : Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire, Mr. Pherozeshah Mehta is one of the best loved and most loveable of men in all India.

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## APPENDIX D.

[From the "Statesman" of March 29, 1895.]

### PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT TO MR. P. M. MEHTA.

THE native community of Calcutta assembled last night at the Town Hall to entertain the Hon'ble Pherozechah M Mehta, and to testify their grateful appreciation of the services he has rendered to the country as a member of the Viceregal Council. All sections of the native community were represented, although many prominent men were unfortunately unable to be present, and sent in expressions of regret for their absence. The hall was tastefully decorated for the occasion, the four pillars, two on each side of the *dais* bearing the words in bold red letters—Unity, Progress, Duty, Reform. On the arrival of the honoured guest he was received at the foot of the staircase by the Committee and conducted to the hall upstairs. After some friendly greetings, Mr. Mehta was conducted by Mr W. C. Bonnerjee to the *dais*

Mr. Bonnerjee said that it was his pleasing duty to present Mr. Mehta with an address which had been signed by over 3,500 of the citizens of Calcutta, including Hindus, Mahomedans, Jains, Parsees, and Buddhists, from all parts of the district, such as Howrah, Ramkistopore, Seebpore, Bally, Sodepore, Utterparah, and other places, and, but for the short time in which this demonstration had been got up, the signatures would have been much larger, Mr. Bonnerjee then went on to say that owing to indisposition, the most prominent men were absent, such as Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna, Maharaja Doorga Churn Law, Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, Maharaj-Kumar Benoy Krishna, and others, all of whom had expressed sympathy with the movement and regret at their inability to take part in it. The following address was then read :—

To the Hon'ble Pherozechah M. Mehta, M.A., C.I.E, Barrister-at-law, Additional Member of the Council of his Excellency the Governor-General for making Laws and Regulations, &c., &c , &c.

Sir,—We, the undersigned citizens of Calcutta and its vicinity, beg to approach you, on the eve of your departure from our city, at the conclusion of your arduous labours in the Council, to convey to you our sense of grateful appreciation of the services rendered by you to our common country. The conspicuous success with which not so very long ago, you presided in this city over the deliberations of that great National Institution which, though only founded ten years ago, has brought about a solidarity amongst the peoples, which is destined to play an important part in the history of this country, had led us to

expect great things from you on your election to the Council ; and it is a source of great rejoicing to us that our expectations have been amply realized. The zeal and ability, knowledge and tact, loyalty and devotion to truth you brought to bear on the discharge of your duties, have won for you our lasting esteem and admiration. You, Sir, have introduced a truly new spirit—a spirit of fearless independence—into the deliberations of the Council. To those who, nurtured in bureaucratic traditions, have failed to appreciate, because they cannot realize, the changes that are daily taking place amongst us, this spirit may perhaps be distasteful ; but it is none the less in perfect harmony with the times. Your efforts to shape the Bills presented to Council so as to make them suitable to the circumstances of the country, have not, it is true, been crowned with that measure of success which they deserved ; but you, Sir, laboured in a noble cause, and that at immense personal sacrifice, and your efforts have been fully and heartily appreciated by, and you have the entire sympathy and cordial approval of, a very large body of your countrymen throughout British India. It is unfortunate that representative institutions in the true sense of the word, have not been introduced into this country. If they had been, and you had solicited the suffrages of any constituency in the country for election, we feel assured that, however strong or influential the opposition, you would be triumphantly returned, again and again, at the head of the poll, to serve your country's cause in the Council chamber. Sir, in respectfully bidding you adieu, we pray that a Merciful Providence may grant you health, happiness, and prosperity, so that you may long continue to serve the country as usefully in the future as you have done in the past.

Mr. Mehta replied in an eloquent speech, and said among other things that it was idle for him to deny how gratified he was at the demonstration of approval for the manner in which he had discharged his duties in the public function he had come here to perform, and for the approbation they had pleased to accord him. It had been most gratifying to him that the Indian members of the Council had felt and recognised that they were meeting in a common organisation in response to a common national feeling. A new spirit had indeed been introduced into the Council, but not by him. It was due to the reform of the Council, and he hoped this new spirit would be recognised by the rulers wisely and sympathisingly in the cause of useful progress. Referring to the misrepresentations which were frequently made, Mr. Mehta went on to say that their Anglo-Indian friends must make up their minds to reap as they sow. He, and those who supported him, must perform their own duty if they would be true to themselves unmindful of any differences in caste or creed, knowing that they belonged to the same land. The speaker concluded by expressing the great satisfaction he felt with the address which had been so

generously and kindly presented to him by his oldest friend, Mr. Bonnerjee. He took it as a memento of their kindness of feeling and he thanked them most heartily for their kindness.

The address was presented in a handsome silver casket.

Three hearty cheers were given for Mr. Mehta and the assembly gradually dispersed. Light refreshments were provided and the town band played a selection of music at intervals.

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## APPENDIX E.

[From the "Statesman" of March 29, 1895.]

### THE DINNER TO MR. P. M. MEHTA.

THE following is a full report of the speech of the Chairman (Mr. Manomohun Ghose) at the dinner in the Town Hall on Tuesday evening -

Gentlemen,— It now devolves upon me to discharge that pleasant duty with the performance of which you have been kind enough to entrust me on so interesting and so important an occasion. (Hear, hear.) In the first place allow me to congratulate you my friends, on the public spirit which you have shown by coming together in right English fashion to do honour to one of the foremost public men of India, for the zeal and independence with which he has discharged his public functions. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, thirty years ago when our honoured guest and I were fellow-students at Lincoln's Inn, I could not have possibly conceived that I should live, not only to be present, but also to preside in this great hall of Calcutta to-night where I see around me Hindus, Mahomedans and Parsees ignoring racial prejudices and customs and dining publicly to do honour to one of their public men. This, indeed, is a sign of the times; and to my mind it has a great moral of its own. (Hear, hear.) It marks the progress which a conservative country like ours has been able to make under English rule and under the influence of English civilisation during the period of a very short time. (Cheers.) But, apart from its social aspect, the demonstration of to-night has a very important significance in another way. It shows that the educated classes in this country, who have been agitating for a fair share in the administration of their own country, are not indifferent or apathetic as regards the manner in which their own representatives and public men discharge their public functions. (Cheers.) The enlargement of the Indian Councils marks an important epoch in the history of British rule in India. It is a concession to popular demands for which I am sure we cannot be too grateful to the Government. It is a concession which has been made after much deliberation, and not without considerable hesitation. It is too early in the day to pronounce any definite opinion as to the success or otherwise of this great experiment. But I think I express the sentiments of the educated classes of my countrymen generally, when I say that, considering the difficulties of their position, our elected members, throughout India, have, as a body, won our esteem and

proved themselves worthy of the great trust reposed in them. (Loud cheers.) I believe we are all anxious that, having regard to the important character of the experiment, we should try to elect for seats in Council the best men available in the country. By the expression 'best men' I mean 'best men' not only as regards education and culture, but also men of character and of fearless independence. (Hear, hear) I do not wish to be understood as having exhausted all the necessary qualifications. Fearless independence, in my opinion, should undoubtedly be an indispensable qualification; but it should be combined with a sense of moderation, with sound judgment and discretion, and I might add that a sense of judicial fairness ought always to guide the person who accepts the very responsible duty of representing his countrymen in the Legislative Councils of India. (Cheers.) I may be permitted to go even further. In my humble opinion in the present state of the country, and having regard to the unfortunate relations which unhappily exist between the governing classes and the people, our elected representatives should, if possible, be men capable of making due allowances even for official prejudices and susceptibilities, carefully avoiding invective of every kind and personalities of every description. (Cheers.) This is the high ideal which we desire our representatives to have before them. And I think our elected non-official members as a body have already shown that they fully recognise the importance of attaining that ideal. And none of them has by his acts and utterances done more to attain that ideal than our distinguished and honoured guest of the evening, notwithstanding the fact that on a recent occasion he was so grievously misunderstood. (Loud cheers.) No one who has carefully and dispassionately read his speeches, as delivered in Council, can discover in them a single sentence or remark to justify the conclusion that Mr. Mehta had so far forgotten himself as to make a general attack on the Indian Civil Service or any particular branch of it. The misunderstanding to which I have just alluded, and the consequent attacks to which Mr. Mehta was subjected, can only be accounted for by supposing that the real sentiments and views of the class to which Mr. Mehta belongs, and to which indeed we all belong, are so grievously misunderstood by the official classes, that they are apt to take offence where none whatever is meant, and also to assume, at the slightest show of independent thought or criticism on our part, that we are actuated by a desire to run down the official classes. (Cheers.) This is a most deplorable state of things, and I venture to suggest that it is the duty of our public men and representatives to do all in their power to disabuse the official mind in this respect. I am sure there is not one amongst us who has read the history of British rule in India to any purpose who is ignorant of what the Indian Civil Service in times gone by has done for this country, or

who would minimise the benefits which some of the members of that Service have conferred upon the people of India ; but the Indian Civil Service with all its glorious traditions, is after all a human institution and like all such institutions, it must move on with the times, and its members must adapt themselves to the changes which the country is undergoing, if they wish to command the regard, nay, the affection which the *ma baps* used to command in the olden days. If our rulers of the present day will make due allowances for the changes which English education must produce among the ideas of the people, and show their sympathy for our natural and legitimate aspirations to acquire gradually the rights of British subjects, I am sure there is nothing to prevent them from winning from us that respect, almost verging upon adoration, which we Oriental races are accustomed to accord to our own *ma baps*. (Loud cheers.) They must not imagine on every occasion, whenever we agitate for any reform or oppose any legislative measure as uncalled for or inappropriate, that our object is either to overthrow British rule in India or to attack the ruling classes. (Cheers.) You all know that for sometime past we have been agitating for a very important reform, namely, the separation of the Judicial from the Executive functions of magistrates in India. This reminds me that in this agitation our honoured guest has taken a leading part, and rendered to the country very valuable service. (Loud cheers.) Personally I have been an earnest advocate of this reform, but it never entered my head that by asking for this reform we were trying (as has been recently alleged by a high official in the columns of an English magazine) to undermine the mainstay of British power in India. (Laughter.) Anxious as I am to see this great reform carried out, my anxiety does not prevent me, for instance, from acknowledging what I had to acknowledge the other day while addressing a jury of my own countrymen, that the wonder to me is not that civilian judges sometimes go wrong, but that, having regard to the enormous difficulties on the part of foreigners to elicit truth in this country, the wonder to me is that they are so often right ! And I unhesitatingly declare this to be my feeling after many years of practice at the Bar. Gentlemen, I fear I have digressed too long from the particular subject on which I intended to address you, but the remarks I have made will, I trust, not be considered as altogether irrelevant. Our primary object to-night is to bear testimony to the fearless independence and devotion to duty which have characterised the short career in Council of our honoured guest. But the reason, I take it, which has led us especially to distinguish his case from that of the other elected members who are equally entitled to our thanks, is this : Our opulent noblemen who are in Council, such as our esteemed countrymen, the Maharaja of Durbhanga or the Maharaja of Ajudhia, would probably not consider it much of a sacrifice to spend

a few months in Calcutta while the Council is sitting, but to a professional man in large practice belonging to another Presidency, like our friend Mr. Mehta, absence in Calcutta for several months is indeed a heavy sacrifice which we professional men can well realise, and Mr. Mehta has not hesitated to undergo this sacrifice for the public cause. (Cheers.) He has stuck to his honest convictions with a degree of fearlessness and independence hitherto almost unknown in the Councils of India, at the risk of his motives being misunderstood and misjudged. (Loud cheers.) It is right, therefore, that we should thus publicly acknowledge on behalf of the country the service which Mr. Mehta has rendered us. I have, therefore, great pleasure in proposing the health of the Hon. Mr. Pherozechah Merwanjee Mehta. (Continued applause.)

The health of Mr. Mehta was drunk with all honours.

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## APPENDIX F.

[*Proceedings of a public meeting of the inhabitants of Bombay, held on Saturday, the 20th day of April 1895, for the purpose of adopting an address to the Hon'ble Mr. Pherozeshah M. Mehta, M.A., C.I.E.*]

On Saturday evening, the Novelty Theatre was the scene of a crowded and enthusiastic public meeting, convened under the auspices of the Bombay Presidency Association, to adopt an address to the Hon. Mr. Pherozeshah M. Mehta, M.A., C.I.E., in recognition of the important, valued, and varied services rendered by him to India generally and to this city in particular.' The theatre was crowded by the representatives of all classes of the Native community, Hindus, Mahomedans, and Parsees, who displayed unusual enthusiasm all throughout the proceedings.

On the motion of Mr. Vurjiwandas Madhowdas, seconded by Mr. Abdulla M. Dharamsi, Sir Dinshaw Manockji Petit, Bart., was called to the chair.

The Notice convening the meeting having been read, the Chairman who was lustily cheered, addressed the assemblage as follows :

Gentlemen,—I beg to thank you most heartily for calling me to preside at this meeting. The occasion is indeed as important as it is rare. Let me assure you that nothing has afforded me greater pleasure than to be present among you this day, and personally testify to the worth of that distinguished citizen and patriot whose long and varied services to our community and the country at large you have assembled to acknowledge. (Cheers.) I believe, gentlemen, I am simply echoing the universal sentiment expressed in all parts of her Majesty's Indian dominions, when I say that, in thus rendering honour to the Honourable Mr. Pherozeshah M. Mehta, we are not only paying homage to ourselves, but to the empire at large, whose permanent interests he has uniformly striven to promote for over a quarter of a century with a devotion and single-mindedness of purpose which are beyond praise. What these services are, will, no doubt, be recounted here later on. But I may be permitted to say that I yield to none in my admiration and esteem for all those sterling qualities, which have so largely contributed in making him a conspicuous figure in the front rank of eminent Indians, at whose head worthily stands our veteran statesman, Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, M.P. for Central Finsbury. (Loud cheers.) Whether it be on the public platform or in the hall of the Municipal Corporation, or whether it be in the University or the Local and Imperial Legislative Councils, the

Honourable Mr Mehta has invariably acquitted himself with credit and elicited the highest encomiums from friends and adversaries alike. He possesses a rare combination of those gifts which make the genuine statesman. (Cheers.) We admire his eloquence, and appreciate his culture as much as we applaud his incisive logic, his great constitutional lore, his political intuition, and above all, his sobriety of judgment. Add to these his lion public spirit and fearless independence, and I believe you have a full and fair portrait of the eminent citizen, whose services we have all met to acknowledge to-day. (Cheers.) I am sure the address which will be submitted to you for adoption will be carried by acclamation, for you could not present it to a more deserving citizen than Mr. Mehta. (Applause.)

On behalf of the Chairman Mr. Dinsha Edulji Wacha then announced that a telegram had been received from the Poona Sarvajanic Sabha, heartily joining in the expression of gratitude to the Hon. Mr. Mehta for his splendid services in the Viceregal Council at great personal inconvenience and sacrifice. Mr. Wacha also read another telegram from Ahmednagar, appreciating Mr. Mehta's conspicuous services to the country.

The Hon. Mr. R. M. Sayani then proposed : 'That in the opinion of this meeting it is highly desirable on the present occasion to place on record its high sense of the important, valued, and varied services which the Hon. Mr. P. M. Mehta has rendered to India generally and to this city in particular.'

In support of his motion the Hon. Mr. Sayani, who was received with loud cheers, said : Mr. President and Gentlemen,—In moving the resolution which is entrusted to me, I do not propose to trouble you with any lengthy remarks, which are only necessary when we have to prove the propriety of the proposal we intend to submit for acceptance or where difference of opinion has to be combated. Happily in Mr. Mehta's case we are simply following public opinion, which, on this occasion, has been so wonderfully unanimous. (Cheers.) In fact there is a consensus of opinion, in which all classes agree, that Mr. Mehta has fully realized the expectations formed of him, and has acquitted himself most ably as our representative in the Supreme Legislative Council—(cheers)—and our city has accordingly, on his return from Calcutta, already received him with a warm and hearty welcome, and he has been already congratulated on all sides for having discharged his arduous duties with honour to himself and advantage to his country. (Loud cheers.) The resolution, gentlemen, asks you to place on record in as public a manner as possible your high sense of the important, valued, and varied services, which the honourable gentleman has rendered, not only to this city but to the country generally for nearly a quarter

of a century, and I dare say that no lengthy observations are needed from me to commend it to your approval. But I may briefly state to you the reasons of the proposal. It is but natural and fair that before we resolve to bestow such honour, it should be established well in the light of day and in the face of the public that the gentleman who is proposed to be the recipient of such a rare distinction, well deserves the honour for his distinguished and eminent public services, and that in bestowing the honour upon him, we are honouring ourselves and our country as our venerable and distinguished chairman has properly observed in his opening speech (Cheers)

To begin at the beginning, we find Mr Mehta at the Elphinstone College, that proud *alma mater* of so many distinguished citizens of this Presidency, under the able and sympathetic guidance of that great and good man Sir Alexander Grant—(cheers)—whose memory is cherished with gratitude by all Elphinstonians who came under the touch of his magic wand. Mr. Mehta was noted at the College as an able, energetic, and promising student, already displaying and fostering germs of future eminence, under the guidance and teaching of Sir Alexander Grant and his brother-professors and in the company of fellow-students like Mr. Ranade. We next find him translated to England, where he further prosecuted his studies and came into contact with fellow-Indians like Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee. On his return to this country he at once began to take part in public matters, and in 1871. he read a paper on Bombay Municipal Reform at the Framji Cowasji Institute. He advocated an elected corporation, a standing committee, and an executive commissioner, and though his opinions were not at once accepted, they ultimately had their effect, as may be observed in the Act of 1872 and the present Municipal Act of 1888, both of which largely run on the lines chalked out in Mr. Mehta's speech. Thus Mr. Mehta's important, valuable, and varied services as a public citizen commenced nearly a quarter of a century ago. His interest in the general question of local self-government and especially in its constitutional aspect, and for a more broadly based and liberal constitution of our Municipal Corporation is well-known and forms a part of our local history, which is too fresh in our memory to recall in this place. (Hear, hear.) In fact on important questions in connection with the local Corporation Mr. Mehta has invariably fought most ably, displaying a wonderful mastery of facts, keen powers of debate, fearless independence, and forensic eloquence, carrying conviction to the hearts of all around him. His marked ability and sound discrimination, his moderation, and rare public spirit and devotion to the public cause combined with his boldly and fearlessly voicing the people's true sentiments, have succeeded in his recognition as the prince of the local Corporation. (Loud cheers.) His constitutional lore and thorough grasp of facts, mastery of details and correct appre-

ciation of statistics, have elicited the admiration of the executive and his knowledge, culture, and experience, and above all, his practical and statesmanlike manner have won public approval. His expositions have always been lucid, his criticisms well-informed and trenchant, and on many an occasion he has solved intricate matters to the reasonable satisfaction of the executive as well as the ratepayers. In short, Mr. Mehta is as much strong in constructive powers as he is in destructive criticism. He possesses the rare gift of discernment, he is sagacious in advice, unselfish in motive, strong to urge the right, and undaunted in action. (Cheers.)

In 1884 he was elected chairman of the Corporation and re-elected the next year, and in the opinion of the Corporation and of the executive and the public at large alike he made the best chairman the Corporation ever had. Whilst he has been thus devoting himself to the interest of the city in the Corporation, Mr. Mehta has simultaneously taken a warm interest in the Bombay Presidency Association, of which he was one of the founders along with Mr. B. Tyabji and the late lamented Mr. Justice Telang, and the spirit of moderation which Bombay showed during the Ripon demonstration in 1884, was partly due to the political sagacity of Mr. Mehta. (Hear, hear.) He is now the honoured President of that Association which, as the most influential representative organisation of the Presidency, has called this public meeting. In 1888 the Government of Lord Reay appointed Mr. Mehta a member of the Local Legislative Council, and during his two years' term of office we find him loyally assisting Government in their arduous and most difficult task of rightly understanding the wants and wishes of the people. It was also during his tenure of such membership that the present Municipal Act was passed, in which we find the impress of his master mind. No citizen fought harder to obtain the broad and liberal constitution we now possess than he, of course ably supported by his lamented colleague, the late Mr. Telang, whose premature loss we must ever deplore. (Hear, hear.) Two years ago he was elected to the local Council, where he successfully grappled with the great question of public finance. Outside the City of Bombay Mr. Mehta has been a staunch supporter of the Indian National Congress, and Provincial Conference, and enjoyed the honour of being elected President of the Sixth Congress in Calcutta in 1890. By his fearless advocacy of public interests, imperial and local, great force of character, and sterling ability, he has made his influence felt in every part of the country, and stamped his own individuality on every public event in which he has had a share. Gentlemen, such was the man, whom the non-official members of the Local Legislative Council elected as the representative of this Presidency in the Imperial Legislative Council eighteen months ago. (Cheers.)

Now, gentlemen, it is admitted on all hands that the grant of the privilege of electing to the Local and Imperial Legislative Councils, the right of interpellation and the discussion on the Financial Statement, whether involving fresh taxation or not, marks a new era in the political history of the country. The concession to the popular opinion, however small, is nevertheless a very important concession, and I am firmly persuaded that if properly, continuously, and skilfully handled, it is bound to result in the ultimate concession of the most important principle, that it is the people who have the right, of course under proper check and control, of guiding their own destinies and managing their own affairs, and that the voice of the people is the final arbitrament in this matter, and it was but in the fitness of things that Mr. Mehta was at this important juncture, on the recommendation of the unanimous voice of the non-official members of the Local Legislative Council, nominated to a seat on the Imperial Legislative Council in the hope that on the Imperial Council he would render equally valuable services to the country and sustain the reputation he had already acquired for himself by a continued devotion to duty and to the interests of his countrymen. Our expectations were more than realised. Our representative was not only able to stand up shoulder to shoulder with the other eminent men, delegated by the other parts of India, which fact in itself would have been adequate cause for confirming our choice and feeling proud of him, but has come to be regarded as *primus inter pares* and has won their confidence and admiration. (Cheers.) The thorough manner in which he discharged his duties on the select committee, the effective mode in which he interpellated, the statesmanlike way in which he took a prominent part in the discussion of the bills in Council, the varied knowledge and legal acumen he brought to bear upon such discussions, marked him out as a born legislator and politician fit to cooperate with the best legislators and the highest politicians of the day. In fact his advent to the Imperial Legislative Council was felt even by people born to rule to be the beginning of a new era in which official opinion would have to be tempered with popular views, thus giving rise to a new regime more liberal in spirit and more popular in practice, rendering Government stronger and the people more contented and happy. (Cheers.) Such is briefly the man whom we, in public meeting assembled this day, desire to honour, and I am sure therefore that the resolution I have moved will be carried by acclamation. (Loud applause.)

The Hon. Mr. Javerilal U. Yajnik, who was received with cheers, in seconding the resolution, said : Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I think that a citizen who does honest, good work for his country and its people is entitled to their warmest gratitude. If, gentlemen, you ask me what are the qualities which have gained for Mr. Mehta the hold

he has on the love and esteem of the people not only of Bombay but of the country at large, I will simply say they have been conspicuous throughout his public career of twenty-five years. His boldness and independence, his ability, his culture, courtesy, and refinement of manners, these have been his distinguishing traits. He is a lawyer and a successful lawyer. As such he knows how to put the best face on any matter that he takes up. But his interests are not confined to the advocacy of his client's cause. He is a citizen imbued with patriotic feelings. His sympathies are broad-based, and not confined to this or that class or community. He is, moreover, an effective and brilliant speaker. It is a pleasure to hear him, whether in the hall of the Municipal Corporation, in the Senate, in the Legislative Chamber, or at any of the public meetings. The charm of his speeches lies in fine, sonorous phrases couched in nervous English. They invariably bring down the house he addresses (Cheers.) As a debater he shows tact, judgment, and ability. He is scrupulously courteous to those who differ from him, while addressing even pungent remarks in opposition. It is well known that Lord Harris offered him a seat on the formation of the enlarged Legislative Council in Bombay under the Indian Councils Act two years ago, but he thankfully declined the compliment, preferring to be returned by one of the elective bodies—the Municipal Corporation of Bombay,—and they with one voice elected him as their representative to the Local Council. And when the time came for choosing a member to represent Bombay on the Imperial Council, Mr. Mehta was unanimously regarded as one than whom this Presidency could not find a worthier representative. Circumstances prevented him from attending the Imperial Council during the first year of his term, but he has made up and more than made up for it by his services in course of this year, and by the self-sacrifice he has made in giving up for a time his lucrative practice at the bar. During the present session of the Council there was hardly an important measure before the Legislature on which Mr. Mehta had not some useful hints to offer. You know how one fine morning in February last we were startled by a telegram from Calcutta in the daily papers of Bombay, reporting the remarks of Sir James Westland on Mr. Mehta's speech in connection with the Police Act Amendment Bill. When I read it I began to rub my eyes and ask myself, whether all that Sir James Westland said about the introduction for the first time into the Imperial Council Chamber of a new spirit of criticism was borne out and justified, especially in the case of one who, in our opinion, invariably bore the character of being a most sober, discreet, and sensible speaker. (Hear, hear.) But the next day's report which gave the substance of Mr. Mehta's speech dispelled the delusion. The text of Mr. Mehta's speech showed that the language of Sir James Westland was exaggerated, and that the

new spirit animadverted upon was nothing more than an attempt to show what the other side of the question before the Council was. Gentlemen, I put it to you to say whether the main object of having enlarged Legislative Councils would be fulfilled, if in the discussion of a Bill or Financial or Budget Statement the non-official members failed to point out respectfully but firmly what the popular standpoint was. Gentlemen, let us hope that there is a wider field of usefulness for our honourable friend. Long may he be spared to give this country the benefit of his valuable services. (Loud cheers.)

Mr Daji Abaji Khare, supporting the proposition amidst many cheers, said: Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I have very great pleasure indeed in supporting this proposition, which has been ably put before you by the speakers that have preceded me. Gentlemen, it is indeed a gratifying sight to see you all assembled here, in this place, to express your sentiments about and do honour to the Hon'ble Mr. Mehta. It is always gratifying to see real merit appreciated and valued at its proper worth. But amongst several circumstances there is one which renders my gratification all the more strong, and that circumstance is this. It has been often said by some people that in this country there is really no public, that we have no real discrimination, and that we take our opinions at the dictation of some wire-pullers. Now you, by assembling here, I am glad to say, have given a lie to that assertion. You have well demonstrated that at all events in the city of Bombay a strong discriminating public opinion does exist. Let me ask since you have come here, were any circulars sent round to whip up this gathering? Have any private visits been paid to induce attendance here? Or, was it considered necessary to confine this gathering to friends and admirers alone? (Laughter.) No. The fact is, and nobody can deny it, there was only an announcement of a public meeting to do honour to Mr. Mehta, and we all flocked to this place entirely unsolicited and with one accord. (Loud cheers.) We have met here to recognise real merit and give a spontaneous acknowledgment for public services. We have not met here to do an enforced homage to a big name. (Hear, hear.) Gentlemen, I need not describe to you the qualifications of Mr. Mehta, and the claims he has upon your gratitude. As a lawyer, as a politician, and as an orator, he has shown that he is second to none in this country. His services and merits have been already detailed to you by the previous speakers, and I do not think it necessary to add to their statement. I must say, Mr. President, that the Parsee community which owns Mr. Mehta as a member has great reason to be proud of that circumstance. But no; I am liable to be found fault with. Mr. Mehta belongs to no community in particular. He is neither a Parsee nor a Hindu nor a Mahomedan. He is a cosmopolitan citizen of India. (Cheers.) He

belongs to all races and castes and communities that inhabit this vast country. He is a member of them all. And consequently we are all proud of him. I therefore earnestly hope that you will accept what the Hon'ble Mr. Sayani said a few minutes ago and carry this proposition by acclamation. (Applause)

The Resolution was put to the vote and carried by acclamation.

Mr. N. G. Chandavarkar, who was most cordially received, proposed the next Resolution which ran as follows:—"That with a view to giving public expression to the high esteem and regard in which the Hon. Mr. Mehta is held by the community, this meeting resolves to adopt the following address".--

To—THE HONOURABLE PHEROZESHAH M. MEHTA, M.A., C.I.E.

SIR,—We, the citizens of Bombay in Public Meeting assembled, embrace this opportunity to accord to you a most hearty welcome on your return from Calcutta after having discharged, with honour to yourself and advantage to the country, your arduous duties in the Imperial Legislative Council, to which you were unanimously called by the suffrages of the elected Members of the Bombay Legislative Council.

The important, valuable, and varied services which you have rendered to India in general, and to this city in particular, during the last twenty-five years in your capacity as a public citizen, are too well-known to need enumeration here. You were among the first of Bombay's foremost citizens, who fought the battle of Municipal reform for this city, and the suggestions which you made in the year 1871 for placing our Municipal constitution on a more satisfactory and durable basis than that on which it rested at that time were so well-conceived in the spirit of wisdom and moderation that it could not but have been a source of gratification to you to find that it was upon the lines indicated by you that that constitution was subsequently improved. From the platform of our civic hall and elsewhere, in company with such colleagues as Mr. Badruddin Tyabji, the Hon'ble Mr. Javerilal U. Yajnik, and the late lamented Rao Saheb V. N. Mandlik, Nowrozjee Furdoonji, and Mr. Justice Telang, you have defended the measures of the most sympathetic and far-sighted Viceory that India has had for many years past. You have, as a Member of the Bombay Legislative Council, along with Mr. Telang, fought on our behalf for the liberal and broad-based Municipal constitution, which we now enjoy. Your persistent advocacy of the cause of Higher Education as against the repeated attacks made upon it by its traducers; your intrepid opposition to the iniquitous Police charges which are still the subject of controversy, but which, we rejoice to notice, the sympathetic intervention of H. E. Lord Sandhurst promises soon to bring to a happy termination, and your zealous and continuous efforts to promote in every way you could

the welfare of your countrymen and improve their political status have justly earned for you our most heartfelt gratitude, and have enabled you to occupy a leading place among the best and foremost of our public men. It is but the barest truth to say of you that with nearly every public movement of the last twenty-five years your name stands prominently identified. But, above all, we desire to acknowledge in particular the catholicity of spirit which has consistently marked your devotion to the public cause, and which has secured to you the esteem, confidence, and good will of all classes of your countrymen.

But eminent as have been your past services it is no exaggeration to say that those which you rendered to the empire at large during the recent session in the Viceregal Legislative Council, are more important and valuable still. Whether we look at the marked ability, moderation, and forensic eloquence with which you discussed the important measures introduced into that assembly, or at the public spirit and fearless independence which you displayed in criticising those measures, we are bound to say, you realised, and more than realised, the expectations formed of you. That sterling independence, sound discrimination and unflinching devotion to the public cause which characterised in so marked a degree your conduct in the local Legislative Council, had led us to expect that you would be able to discharge your duties with equal credit and satisfaction in the highest deliberative assembly of the empire where grave questions of imperial policy and imperial administration are brought to the test of the legislative anvil. The session from which you recently returned was no doubt an important one. At the very commencement of the sittings, the Council had to deal with a large legislative measure which contemplated new taxation and which led to strong agitation, both in this country and in England. The financial embarrassment in which the Imperial Government found itself at the close of last year, chiefly, we regret to have to state, by reason of its unfortunate foreign and military policy, compelled it to introduce the Bills on Cotton and Excise duties. You were able to take a part only at the third reading of those Bills. But even at that stage you amply succeeded in boldly voicing the people's true sentiments in reference thereto, namely, that but for the iniquitous measure which permitted, during a period of great financial embarrassment, grant of compensation allowance of over a crore of rupees to the public servants who were already in receipt of salaries having no parallel in any part of the civilised world, the necessity for the duties might not have arisen. We need not say that those sentiments found an echo in the heart of almost every tax-payer whose pocket, it must be acknowledged, has been seriously encroached upon since 1886-87. By your well-informed and trenchant criticism on the

much abused Cantonment Bill you rendered no mean service to the empire. You lucidly expounded, with all your constitutional lore and impressive eloquence, the imperative necessity for healthy Parliamentary interference in the affairs of India. You correctly pointed out the important consideration that Parliament would be woefully wanting in the discharge of its sacred trust if it failed to interpose its august authority where it was convinced that its supreme wishes had been frustrated or ignored, or that the policy it had deliberately laid down for the guidance of the servants of the Crown in the country had been deviated from or set aside. On this measure also, which involved a great constitutional question, vitally affecting the permanent interests and welfare of your fellow-countrymen, you instinctively carried the Indian public with you. The time was ripe for giving currency to such a healthy pronouncement of public opinion in the Council Chamber, and it is gratifying to acknowledge that you expressed it in your usual eloquent and effective manner. But, Sir, it is no exaggeration to say that you surpassed yourself when on behalf of your countrymen you raised your potent voice in the same Chamber against the retrogressive and mischievous principles underlying some of the provisions of the Police Act Amendment Bill which, it is a matter of profound regret to see, has passed into law by a purely numerical majority of official votes in face of overwhelming arguments to the contrary and of the universal condemnation it met with.

Last, though not least, you may be said, without fear of contradiction, to have covered yourself with glory by the complete grasp of financial facts and the mastery of details you displayed in the course of the debate on the current year's budget, and the marked ability, acumen, and correct appreciation of statistics which you brought to bear on the fatal policy which it is admitted on all sides, has been the principal cause of the overgrown expenditure of the empire. The practical and statesmanlike speech you made on the subject would have done credit to any citizen and skilled debater in the House of Commons or any other enlightened assembly of a self-governing country. It shows how far Natives of India of your culture, knowledge, and experience can successfully grapple with great questions of public finance, and assist the Government in its arduous and most difficult task of solving them to the reasonable satisfaction of the tax-payer. Nothing, we feel, could more enlighten the proceedings of the newly expanded Legislative Councils, give weight to their deliberations and add strength to their enactments than the wider association therein of Indians of your ability and independence. It would generate in the hearts of the people a sense of trust and confidence the far-reaching influence of which on the stability of the empire it is impossible to over-rate. At the same time the states-

men who are entrusted with the duty of carrying out important measures of administrative reform should be prepared to frankly welcome outside opinion with dignified patience and generous sympathy which are so essential to make our Legislative assemblies greater realities than they are at present, and to render them true embodiments of the genuine and living representation of our people.

Such are the valuable and varied services you have rendered to your countrymen for which, we repeat, you have laid them under your deepest obligation. We have nothing to offer you but this public acknowledgment of our praise and admiration for them. It is only a slight recognition of your sterling worth as a public citizen and prominent leader. By all those whose goodwill is worth having, you are recognised as one who is gifted to discern and strong to urge the right, sagacious in advice, unselfish in motive and undaunted in action. These are the splendid qualities that have adorned your public career and laid the solid foundation of that confidence which you enjoy. You have set a shining and an admirable example to your fellowmen, and shed lustre on the whole country. May you long live to render equal, if not greater, services to your country in future and bind fresh laurels to your brow.

In moving the adoption of the above address Mr Chandavarkar said : Gentlemen,—I think I may fairly say that the purpose for which we have assembled here this evening and the enthusiasm by which we are inspired on this occasion are in accordance with the best and most honourable traditions of this city. (Cheers.) No one can look back upon the history of the public activity and popular enthusiasm of Bombay during the last twenty-five years without being impressed by the fact that this city has not been wanting in public men possessing strong common-sense, who by their sobriety of judgment and their ability to grasp public questions in a practical spirit have enabled it to take a leading place in the councils of the Indian Empire. (Loud cheers) Nor should it be forgotten that the citizens of Bombay have rarely failed in their duty to acknowledge with gratitude the services of its public men, whenever those public men have discharged their public trust in a public-spirited manner. (Hear, hear.) Among such, the Hon'ble Mr. Mehta deserves to occupy, as he does occupy, a foremost place, and the history of his public career during these twenty-five years is the history of that progress which we have been able to make during that period, for he has played in that history a prominent and useful part. (Cheers.) He has all along been to the front in our public activities and risen steadily in public estimation and in the estimation of Government by the fearless and self-sacrificing manner in which he has devoted himself to the public cause. (Loud cheers) It may, in the slightly altered language of a poet,

be aptly said of him that he has served the public with a strength which his service could not tire, with a faith in the cause which doubt could not dim, with a heart of love for his country, and with a life of fire. The address which I am now asking you to adopt for presentation to him makes reference, among other points, to the catholicity of spirit with which he had worked for the public good. I wish to lay particular stress upon this feature of his public career, because Mr. Mehta has throughout been above all class or caste prejudices (hear, hear, and cheers), and has set a healthy example, which deserves special acknowledgment in this country of many castes and creeds. (Hear, hear.) Speaking at the Ripon Club the other day of the complimentary terms in which Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy (cheers) mentioned his services to the public, Mr. Mehta tried with the ingenuity of special pleading to minimise the value of those services. He spoke there, as if we, the public, were his creditors, and he was our debtor. (Laughter.) But that, I think, is not a fair way of representing the state of the account as it has stood between him and us. That account, truly speaking, is not by any means one-sided—it is, what lawyers would call, a mutual, open, and current account. (Laughter and cheers.) It is mutual, because, while, on the one hand, Mr. Mehta has owed to the public a duty, on the other, the public stands indebted to him for the faithful manner in which he has discharged his duty ever since he entered public life. It is open because he has openly and fearlessly advocated our cause, and we have as openly accepted him for one of our best leaders. (Cheers.) It is current, because the account is not yet closed, and let us hope and pray that it may not be closed, for many many years to come. (Loud cheers.) Reference has been made in the address now submitted for your adoption to the speeches delivered by Mr. Mehta in the Imperial Legislative Council and the plucky fight he made there on our behalf. Those speeches drew from certain quarters unsympathetic and unjust criticism, but I welcome that criticism for the reason that, as the late Mr. Bright once said to his friend Mr. Potter in connection with the corn law agitation, when your opponents lose their temper, it is a sign that your cause is bound sooner or later to win. (Hear, hear, and applause.) I need not say much about the fearlessness and fairness with which Mr. Mehta opposed a certain clause in the Police Act Amendment Bill. Public opinion has almost unanimously sided with him in that matter and the amendment which he proposed in the provision in the Civil Procedure Code Bill as regards the execution of decrees for restitution of conjugal rights was so well conceived in the spirit of moderation that it is difficult to understand the reasonableness of the ground on which it was rejected. All that he proposed was that it ought to be left to the discretion of the court to say, in each particular case,

whether a defendant against whom a decree for the substitution of conjugal rights is passed should be sent to the civil jail for not obeying that decree. I do not see why the Legislature should give a discretionary power to our judicial tribunals, which enjoy the confidence of the people. Our courts of first instance are presided over by native Subordinate Judges, who have an intimate acquaintance with the habits and customs of the people; and I know as a fact that our District Judges and High Courts and the Privy Council rarely upset the decision of our Subordinate Judges in matters of discretion of this kind. The amendment proposed by Mr. Mehta was, therefore, very sensible, and it sought no more than to make a wise improvement in a law which was imported into this country from the English law. (Cheers.) On the financial position, Mr. Mehta spoke in a spirit of animated moderation, and defended the interests of the Indian taxpayers with a freedom and frankness which the criticism of that question justly demands at this juncture. (Loud cheers) The new expansion of our Legislative Councils cannot but prove a blessing so long as we send into our Councils representatives like Mr. Mehta. Now that fresh elections to our Legislative Councils are soon to take place, it may not be amiss to point out to the electors that there is a heavy responsibility lying upon them, that they should not discharge their duties with a light heart, but should try to send into the Council men who can bring to bear upon the duties of the office of legislator a sound and cultured judgment combined with experience. (Cheers.) Mr. Mehta has shown us by his example what an elected Councillor should be and try to be. (Cheers.) And I ask you to adopt this address because he has discharged his duties loyally to the Empress and lovingly towards the people of India. (Loud cheers)

Dr. Bhalchandra, who was received with loud cheers, in seconding the motion, said: Mr. President and Gentlemen,—The *Pioneer* in one of its recent issues remarks: ‘The Honourable Pherozeshah M. Mehta is one of the ablest and most eminent of the political leaders of Western India and next to Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji he is the most intellectual man amongst his sect. Like nine-tenths of the Indian political school he is a lawyer, and his professional income is said to be one of the best earned by any of his countrymen in India.’ This is a testimony of the worth of the Honourable Mr. Pherozeshah Mehta from the opposite camp, and is peculiarly valuable just at this time. (Cheers.) Mr. Mehta’s public services not only to Bombay and to the Bombay Presidency but to the whole of India have been very valuable and of lasting importance. There is not a single public movement in Bombay during the last twenty-five years, in which Mr. Mehta has not figured most prominently, and in which he has not taken a deep, sympathetic and effective interest. His eloquent and thundering speeches

on the occasions of the public meetings in support of the Ilbert Bill, the Fawcett Memorial and the memorials in honour of those distinguished statesmen whose names are a watchword in India, I mean Lord Ripon and Lord Reay, as well as his addresses on the platforms of the National Congress as President of that body in Calcutta, and of the Provincial Conference at Poona, and other public functions too numerous to mention, are matters of such recent history that they must almost be still ringing in the ears of the public. As a member of the Bombay Municipal Corporation he has rendered the most distinguished services to this great city. In fact he has been one of the prime movers in bringing the present constitution of that body to the perfection it has attained now, and in stimulating the healthy growth of local self-government in Bombay. (Cheers.) He has fought many a fierce battle on the floor of the Municipal Council Hall, and has invariably come out successful, vanquishing his opponents with courage, with sturdy independence, and with fearless and powerful eloquence. It is mainly due to him and to the late Mr. Justice Telang that the Municipal Corporation has got its present reformed Act. (Hear, hear.) He leads the opposition with his wonderful and persuasive eloquence and towering intellect and is deservedly held in high esteem by all the different representatives of the various communities in Bombay. As a reward for his distinguished services to the Corporation, he was elected twice to the office of President of that body, which he filled with rare tact, skill, and judgment. (Cheers.) It is no exaggeration to say that he has been rightly styled 'the uncrowned king of the Corporation.' (Loud cheers.) His unanimous and unopposed election to the Local Legislative Council on two successive occasions bears eloquent testimony to the very high esteem in which he is held not only by his friends and followers in the Corporation, but by those who are usually arrayed on the opposite side, and who do not always share his political opinions. His effective and persistent advocacy of the cause of the rate-payers in the matter of the much-vexed question of the police charges—a question which, it may be safely said, no member of the Corporation has been able to handle with greater grasp, and which, I am glad, is likely to be soon amicably settled during the promising regime of the present popular Governor, H. E. Lord Sandhurst (cheers)—deserves to be specially noted. His services in the Supreme Legislative Council have, indeed, been of the highest value to the whole of India. They have been so fully described to you by the previous speakers that it is needless for me to further dwell on them.

It has been asked in certain quarters, what has Mr. Mehta done in the Viceroy's Council to deserve this public recognition at the hands of the citizens of Bombay? Several gentlemen of eminence, it is said, have sat in that Council before as representatives of this Presidency. Why should Mr. Mehta alone be selected for this rare

honour? Gentlemen, my answer to this question is, that whereas his predecessors sat in that Council as the nominees of Government Mr. Mehta was elected by the people and sat there as the first representative of this Presidency under the new Councils Act. Even if his services were less brilliant than they have been, it would be the privilege of the citizens of Bombay to call upon Mr. Mehta to give an account of his stewardship as it would be Mr. Mehta's duty to respond to the call. But since he has fought in that Council the cause of the people in the conspicuously brilliant manner he has done, it is fitting that we should express our gratification on account of those services and give a public assurance of our confidence in him. (Cheers.) When the address we have adopted is presented to him, we shall have an opportunity of hearing from Mr. Mehta's lips an account of his experiences and the services he has done in the Council. I look upon this meeting as an analogy of the electoral meetings held in England at the close of a Parliamentary session, where a member meets his constituency, and gives an account of his work there. Such a meeting will be an useful precedent in the future for bringing together the electors of Bombay and their representatives in Council and creating a mutual interest and a lively sense of mutual responsibility. We have been peculiarly happy in electing Mr. Mehta as our first representative. He has shown an amount of independence, self-sacrifice, and assiduous work in the Council which will be a stimulating example to his successors. His services should, therefore, be publicly recognised for introducing a new spirit into the debates of the Viceregal Council (Loud cheers.)

Mr Ibrahim Rahimtoola, who was well received, supported the Resolution as follows :—

I have very great pleasure in supporting the resolution so ably moved by my friend Mr. Chandavarkar and seconded by Dr. Bhalchandra. Gentlemen, we have met here to-day to do honour to a countryman who has always been entirely free from the petty prejudices of colour, caste and creed. The Honourable Mr. Mehta is a thorough Indian (cheers) and as such, has rendered valuable and important services to the cause of this country. He has earned our lasting gratitude by the manner in which he has championed our cause in every direction. (Cheers.)

Gentlemen, Mr. Mehta has identified himself with all the political movements of this country. In certain quarters all political movements, however legitimate and constitutional, conducted with the greatest possible moderation and sobriety, are looked upon as disloyal. Gentlemen, is the Honourable Mr. Mehta disloyal? (Cries 'no,' 'no'.) The answer depends upon the interpretation you place upon the word. If it be disloyal to warn you of the pitfalls that surround you, if it be disloyal to point out the dangers that menace you,

if it be disloyal to render eminent services to the cause of your country, if it be disloyal to contribute your level best towards the permanence and stability of the British rule in India, then, gentlemen, Mr. Mehta is truly a most disloyal subject. (Laughter and applause.) I am sure you will join with me in saying that we would all be very proud to be considered equally disloyal. (Cheers.)

As sufficient has already been said by the previous speakers regarding the valuable and varied services rendered by the Honourable Mr Mehta, I consider it unnecessary to dilate further on the subject—and will therefore content myself by supporting the resolution without further remarks, trusting that you will accord it your hearty acceptance. (Applause.)

Mr. Sundarnath D. Khote in support of the Resolution said as follows—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I feel it a high honour in having been permitted to say a few words in support of this resolution and thus having got an opportunity of paying my own humble yet emphatic tribute of praise and gratitude, to the honoured gentleman to do honour to whom we are met here this evening. For I suppose you are all aware, that we are assembled here to mark our high esteem for the many sterling qualities of head and heart, and the various public acts of usefulness of our '*ferocious*' patriot (laughter), the Honourable Mr. Pherozeshah M. Mehta, C.I.E., and I consider this meeting itself, consisting, as it does, of the most enlightened portion of the town and island of Bombay, to be the most complete and unimpeachable evidence of the high esteem and regard in which Mr. Mehta is held by all classes of the vast and varied Indian community, and the demonstrative manner in which you have already received this resolution and the previous speakers, leads me to the conclusion that but few words of mine are necessary to commend it to your unanimous acceptance.

Gentlemen, Mr. Mehta is a many-sided man. It is not the province of one like me, a layman, to say anything as regards the great success he has been able to achieve, in his own profession, but as regards his public life I shall say this—that, in whatever he has undertaken, be it in the direction of Municipal reform, political reform, or financial reform, he has invariably and all along exhibited his strong personality, and still stronger common sense, which, as we all know, is an uncommon commodity, and cannot be found in mediocrities howsoever exalted they may be; and if there is one trait more than another in his character deserving of special mention, it is his keen and intense desire always to maintain an even equilibrium, in the midst of the most warring elements, and to take a dispassionate and unbiassed view of every question. In this he, in my opinion, rather overshoots the mark and generally takes the charitable view in preference to the real view.

At the Municipal Corporation, he is simply indispensable. The address enumerates the many disinterested services he has rendered to that body, and I am only repeating what has been oft repeated that the meetings of the Corporation are 'tame' without him, because his great experience and sound knowledge of Municipal affairs is always in great request, and the fact that the Corporation which is a fairly representative body has unanimously and with one voice re-elected him to the Legislative Council is another testimony, if testimony were needed, of the high esteem and regard in which he is held by one and all. The Corporation in honouring him have simply honoured themselves, for it were impossible to find a truer and better representative than he. His services in the two Councils are too fresh to require any allusion; besides they have been spoken of, in terms more eloquent than I could do, by the previous speakers; but I shall beg your indulgent patience when I say that his recent gallant advocacy of the cause of the natives in the Supreme Legislative Council is the best service he has done to our country—the crowning act, so to say, of his usefulness. Gentlemen, the memorable occasion on which he made our Finance Minister show his characteristic intolerance of criticism, which is the general failing of the twice born service, and on which they pride themselves; must be regarded as a red-letter day in the annals of our political struggle—because if anything was wanted to justify our contention and to reveal to the gaze of the public the narrowness of the policy of our administrators, which, in this respect, appears to be the narrow policy of narrow-minded statesmen, that want was supplied by that hot-tempered and, to us, timely effusion of Sir James Westland. This I regard as the most brilliant service which Mr. Mehta has done to our cause and for which we cannot be too grateful to him. And it is in honour of such a man that we are gathered here, a man of towering intellect, sturdy independence, unflinching devotion, wise moderation, and sound and judicious sobriety, and we devoutly pray to the Almighty to spare him long, to fight our battles with greater vigour and assiduity.

Calcutta has already forestalled us by showing her appreciation of real merit by 'feting' him, as some have it, and we, the inhabitants of this city, which has the honour to own him as her most dutiful and devoted son, ought not to lag behind in the performance of what, in the light of truth, is a stern call of duty, but which, by some legal fiction, is construed into an act of honour.

Let us then pass with resounding acclamation this resolution and thus show to a really critical public that we know how to honour one to whom honour is due, not by the patchwork vote of friends and admirers, but by the solid and genuine vote, given with one voice, of all classes and creeds of the people. (Applause.)

The Resolution was then put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Mr. W. A. Chambers then proposed amidst prolonged cheers 'That the address just read and adopted be publicly presented to the Hon. Mr. P. M. Mehta on an early day which the President may fix, and that the arrangements in connection therewith be entrusted to Messrs. D. E. Wacha, N. G. Chandavarkar and A. M. Dharamsi.' He said that he fully recognized the necessity of honouring a citizen like Mr. Mehta, but if Mr. Mehta were to do them good either in Bombay or on the Viceregal Council, they must support him by holding meetings like the present and show that he was one in whom they did repose infinite trust and confidence. (Cheers) It must be in the recollection of all that sometime ago a telegram had been received in Bombay which practically said that Mr. Mehta had been guilty of very great foolishness; but when they received in due course Mr. Mehta's own remarks, they found that the foolishness was on the other side. (Laughter and cheers.) But even if Mr. Mehta had said that the officials were not what they pretended to be, he (Mr. Chambers) did not think that Mr. Mehta was very far wrong in making such a statement. Government officials were sinners like themselves, and made errors like other men. The difference between Government officials and themselves was that the former had all the power and authority, while they had merely their voices. If the Government of India, like the Government at home, wished to govern wisely and well, they must take the people into their confidence—(cheers)—and if they took them into their confidence, they would not possibly make the errors which undoubtedly they had been making of late in connection with the scientific frontier, the exchange question, and last though not the least the mill industry of the country. Just now the officials were spending lakhs and lakhs of rupees in fighting a man who did not want to fight (laughter); they had been sending thousands of men to relieve a man who was possibly in no need of relief. (Renewed laughter.) And they had in the bargain crippled the chief industry of the country. Under the circumstances they might be quite justified in making use of harsh expressions, and it would certainly not be too much to say that such conduct was lamentable. (Cheers.) If they desired to effectually put a stop to this muddled state of affairs, they must return men of Mr. Mehta's personality, but at the same time they should call upon them to give an account of their stewardship, and they might then have great hopes of India's political future. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Rustom K. R. Cama seconded the resolution in the following speech:—Every average citizen of Bombay, be he ever so humble, ought to feel proud to have an opportunity of contributing in some way or other to the success of this evening and as such, I do feel proud in seconding this proposition, however unqualified or unfit I may be to

discharge that duty, and therefore in doing so I only crave your indulgence and hope you will take the wish for the deed. Gentlemen, it is needless for me to eulogize the many high qualifications of our able leader acknowledged to be so on all hands by all castes, creeds and classes. To do so would be, in the words of one of our contemporaries, equivalent to painting the lily. But I cannot help on this occasion briefly touching upon his valuable services in the cause of higher education. You have already acknowledged these services in the address you have adopted. His has been a persistent and staunch advocacy for a wider and more liberal policy towards higher education and loud denouncement of the retrograde policy of those in whose hands the destinies of India are placed, that policy of doling out a niggardly pittance tantamount to starvation diet for the mental food of the millions of Indian souls. Gentlemen, the Hon'ble Mr. Mehta has always taken an active part and warm interest in all educational matters. He has advocated the cause of higher education whenever he had an opportunity of doing so. He has in all Budget speeches, whether in the Local or in the Supreme Council, drawn the attention of our enlightened British Government to their halting and retrograde policy towards higher education and insisted upon their following the lines so beneficially laid down by such illustrious men as Macaulay, Bentinck, and Mountstuart Elphinstone. Lately, at the Graduates' Association's meeting, Mr. Mehta denounced the present policy of Government and exposed by facts and figures the fallacies and specious arguments put forward by Government and its officials during the regime of Lord Harris. He boldly took up the cudgels at the Council meeting against the withdrawal by Government of the grant to the University of this Presidency and against the unrelenting indifference of Government to the Fergusson College. But to Mr. Mehta's credit be it said, he was successful in staying the hands of Government from applying its shears for financial purposes to the University, and the Fergusson College. Gentlemen, it now remains for me to add that higher education is the life and soul of a nation. On it depends its rise or fall. Education is the birthright of every human being; it is the only means of making the man approach the image of his creator. But you must remember, Gentlemen, that the rays of the light of knowledge can never illumine the base before illuminating the top of the mountain.

We are glad to note that our sympathetic Governor, H. E. Lord Sandhurst, has in one of his public utterances declared that the words 'too much' can never have any application to true education. Gentlemen, with such a Governor at our head of affairs it will, I hope, be an easy task for our champions of higher education, headed by our great and mighty leader, the Hon'ble Mr. Mehta, to obtain a liberal and generous policy in matters educational. (Cheers.)

Mr. V. K. Samarth supported the resolution as follows: I do not think I have much to add to what has been said by those who have already addressed you. I propose to make only a few remarks on what I consider to be the significance of this large and enthusiastic gathering that I see before me. Gentlemen, you are aware that the new Councils Act has been framed with the intention of infusing into the debates of our Legislative Councils a spirit of free, fair and fearless criticism of the Government and its doings by those whom the people of this country nominate as their recognised spokesmen. To the Honourable Mr. Mehta we are indebted for having effectually introduced that spirit into the Supreme Legislative Council a few weeks ago. Gentlemen, small wonder that upon the advent of this spirit, a voice of weeping was heard and loud lament. I dare say many of you in common with myself were not surprised to see that those who hitherto held unquestioned sway became discomfited one after another when they saw this hallowed, but to them uncongenial, spirit making its way into the Council Hall. But let us hope they will soon learn to reconcile themselves to it. I trust this meeting, as also the one which our brethren of Bengal held the other day, and for which it is our duty to heartily thank them,—I trust these meetings will prove an object-lesson to our official friends and will make them feel that somehow they must accommodate themselves to this new spirit, that they cannot any longer afford to trifle with it, that they are powerless to stifle it. The sooner they recognise this, the better for them and for us and for the empire. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, this meeting again, is in honour of one who has not only secured the confidence and esteem of those who belong to his political persuasion, but who has extorted the admiration of even those in the opposite ranks,—this meeting will, I trust, prove also an object-lesson to those few amongst us who delight to take reverse positions on the branches of the political tree, slumbering while the sun shines, and intermittently opening their eyes only to look vertically down upon those noises they thoughtlessly condemn as disloyal and seditious. (Cheers.) They forget that though we may make noise, and, mayhap, sting when attacked, we are nevertheless busy kneading up the honey, which adds sensibly though slowly, to whatever blessings the main stem of our political constitution already vouchsafes to us. (Cheers.) I trust the appreciation of the Hon. Mr. Mehta's political services by friend and foe alike will serve to open their eyes and transform them into what they really should be. But, gentlemen, this meeting, to my mind, is significant chiefly in this that by thus expressing our approbation of the services of one who has been disinterestedly working on our behalf, we not only strengthen his hands and stimulate his activities,—that, by the way, is a small matter in Mr. Mehta's

case, for a man like him scarcely needs any stimulus from us,—but show ourselves worthy of some of those privileges of citizenship which have been tardily and grudgingly bestowed upon us of late. (Cheers.) I do think, gentlemen, that a meeting of this nature indicates that we are entering upon a political life which is healthy and-vital. Finally, gentlemen, the moral of an ovation of this kind which must needs force itself upon our mind is that we can scarcely have a better ideal of citizenship before us than that illustrated by the political career of our firm friend, trusted tribune, and cautious counsellor, the Hon. Mr. P. M. Mehta. (Loud cheers.)

The Resolution was then put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Dr. K. N. Bahadurji, who was lustily cheered, proposed a hearty voté of thanks to the Chairman for his able conduct in the chair. He said: Gentlemen,—It is my pleasant duty now to ask you to accord a hearty vote of thanks to Sir Dinshaw Manockji Petit, Bart., our venerable chairman, for his presence here this evening, and I have no doubt you will do so with great enthusiasm and acclamation. (Loud cheers.) It is not at all necessary to recount Sir Dinshaw's many acts of public usefulness—so well known they are to us all. If there be one thing more than another that marks the patriot and distinguished citizen we are honouring to-day, and in which every young son of the soil ought to emulate his example, it is the catholic spirit and nature of Mr. Mehta's services to the people of this country. He is above all considerations not only of self-interest but of clannishness, and a Parsee though he is by religion, his first and foremost thought in his work for the country is, as he said the other day with pride and praiseworthy spirit, that he is an Indian of Indians, no less a brother to a Hindu or Mahomedan, to a Sikh or Madrasee, than to a Parsee. And like Mr. Mehta who has been ministering to the political wants of the people of this country without distinction of race or religion, our venerable Chairman, Sir Dinshaw, has been distinguished for his great and catholic work to meet the physical wants of his fellow-subjects and fellow-men. (Cheers.) His charities—and they are numerous—breathe the same feeling of fellowship and regard towards his neighbours—be they Parsees, Mahomedans, Hindus, or Christians—that has been such a characteristic feature of Mr. Mehta's work. But Sir Dinshaw's presence here this evening has a most noteworthy significance. And it is this. It most unmistakably demonstrates the fact, often sought to be suppressed or misrepresented, that wealth and culture, intelligence and industry, and even the church of India,—for witness the presence this evening of our venerable Dasturs along with our merchant princes and members of the liberal professions—are at the back of that great National Movement that is making itself felt not only in this country but also in England, and of which the Hon. Mr. Mehta is a most distinguished and devoted

champion and exponent. (Loud cheers) Sir Dinshaw's presence among us therefore, is not only agreeable but most invigorating to workers for the country's cause. It may be that Sir Dinshaw has not been able to take the same direct part in Congress meetings, but it should not be forgotten that he was for many years the distinguished predecessor of Mr. Mehta himself in his office of President of the Bombay Presidency Association, from which he retired only on account of ill-health, and as such, he certainly has been one of our most trusted, though silent, supporters and sympathisers of our National Movement. (Cheers.) But, indeed, let people say what they will, every true Indian, be he a Parsee, Hindu or Mahomedan, however much he may stand aloof from, or be afraid to show open sympathy with the National Movement, from personal or temporary considerations, at least he cannot but wish it well and rejoice in its onward march. (Loud applause)

The vote was carried by acclamation.

The Chairman, after having cordially thanked the Meeting for so enthusiastically voting thanks to him, declared the Meeting dissolved.

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## APPENDIX G.

*Address resolved upon by the Eighth Provincial Conference, held at Belgaum, on 4th May, 1895.*

RESOLVED :—‘That this Conference desires to place on record its high appreciation of the masterly services, rendered to the country by the Hon. Mr. P. M. Mehta in the last session of the Supreme Council at great personal inconvenience, and it authorises the President to draw up and present on its behalf an address to Mr. Mehta embodying this expression of opinion, at such time and place as may be determined hereafter in consultation with the honourable gentleman.’

The above Resolution was proposed amidst loud cheers by Professor G. K. Gokhale (of Poona) in the following speech :—

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—The resolution which I have to propose to-day for your adoption is one, which it is not only a pleasure but a privilege to move, and I feel sure when it is put to you from the chair, you will carry it with unanimity and enthusiasm. Gentlemen, the brilliant abilities of Mr. Mehta and the great services which he has rendered, not only to our Presidency but to the country at large, during a public life of nearly a quarter of a century, are now so well-known that his name has really and truly become a household word with us. The grasp and vigour of Mr. Mehta’s intellect, his wide culture, and his fearless independence coupled with dignity and judgment, have won for him to-day a most commanding position in the public life of the Presidency, and a position of singular eminence in the public life of Bombay. Gentlemen, when a person has attained so prominent a position, it is inevitable that the fierce light of comparisons, to vary the beautiful expression of the late Laureate, should beat on him. And I think no person has suffered less than Mr. Mehta by these comparisons. A friend of mine in Bombay, a shrewd observer of men and things, once said in speaking of Mr. Telang and Mr. Mehta and Mr. Ranade, that Mr. Telang was always lucid and cultured, Mr. Mehta vigorous and brilliant, and Mr. Ranade profound and original. I think, gentlemen, you will agree that there is much in that observation. At the same time it must be said that, though some men think that Mr. Mehta’s particular qualities are vigour of intellect and brilliancy, it does not follow that he is in any way deficient in the other qualities. To my mind it has always appeared that Mr. Mehta to a great extent is a happy combination of the independence and strength of character of the late Mr. Mandlik, the lucidity and culture of Mr. Telang, and the originality and wide

grasp of Mr Ranade. And these qualities which have always shone well, never shone more brilliantly or to greater advantage than in the work done for us by Mr. Mehta in the last session of the Supreme Legislative Council. Gentlemen, I do not mean to recount in any detail the services rendered by Mr. Mehta during that session. In the first place, they are so fresh in our memory, and, secondly, they were only the other day recapitulated so well by speaker after speaker at a public meeting in Bombay. I will, however, say this, that in those discussions in the Council Mr. Mehta showed himself to be a match for the ablest of his Anglo-Indian opponents and a match for them in their several elements. Those who have read those discussions will agree with me that Mr Mehta's contributions uniformly displayed the highest ability and skill as a debater, and that his speech on the Budget was calculated to raise even his reputation for grasp of principles and mastery of details. Member after member on the Government side rose on that occasion to demolish Mr. Mehta. Sir Charles Elliott, the Military Member, Sir Antony MacDonnell and Sir James Westland, each in his turn attacked Mr Mehta, thereby only showing how strong was the case made out by Mr. Mehta in the opinion of Government themselves. The attempt of Sir James Westland to browbeat Mr. Mehta only recoiled on himself. He lost his temper when Mr. Mehta spoke in his vigorous manner of the defects of the Civil Service, and complained bitterly that Mr. Mehta was introducing a new spirit in the discussions in the Legislative Council, and ended by accusing him of uttering a calumny. When, however, the speeches of the two were published, the public was in a position to judge who it was that had uttered a calumny. The remarkable coolness with which Mr. Mehta behaved on the occasion elicited the admiration of the *Calcutta Statesman*. Throughout Mr. Mehta showed himself, as I have already said, to be a match for his opponents on their own ground, and, as the correspondent of a Madras paper well expressed it, he returned argument for argument, invective for invective, banter for banter, and ridicule for ridicule. Gentlemen, we are proud that our representative should have achieved so much glory. We are proud that even our friends in Calcutta thought his services to be so signal that under the leadership of Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee they presented a public address to Mr. Mehta to express their sense of gratitude, although they had their own member in the Council. Those of us who know Mr. Mehta know that he cannot much care for these compliments. We are aware that services such as he has rendered are their own reward. But we owe to ourselves a duty in the matter, and we shall best perform that duty by authorizing our President to convey an expression of our gratitude to Mr. Mehta in the manner suggested in this resolution. (Loud applause.)

Mr. R. P. Karandikar (of Satara) seconded the resolution in Marathi, and it was carried by acclamation. Mr. Karandikar said :—

It is but in the fitness of things that the Provincial Conference, voicing as it does the views of the Bombay Presidency, should proceed to pass a Resolution like the one which has been placed before you. The Provincial Conference forming an important factor of the great National Assembly, the National Congress has every reason to rejoice at the confidence reposed by the entire nation in our Bombay representative. Ever since the institution of the Congress, Mr. Mehta's name has been connected with all that was great and good in it. Those who have observed the powerful growth of popular opinion as represented by the Congress must have observed how steadily Mr. Mehta deserved the trust confided to him from time to time by this august assembly. If it is true that the present expansion and re-constitution of our Legislative Councils is largely due to the strenuous efforts of popular movements, of the Congress and the Conferences, this Conference has every reason to be proud of the present occasion when it has the opportunity of honouring Mr. Mehta, their first elected member of the Viceregal Legislative Council, and therefore honouring itself. It was in 1886 that the Congress advocated a scheme which was calculated to enable the elected members of the Local Legislative Council to elect members for the Viceregal Legislative Council. This hope has been realized. As soon as the Provincial Legislative Council was constituted, the choice fell on Mr. Mehta.

It is a matter of supreme satisfaction to see how completely at one were the Provincial Legislative Council and the Congress in this respect. For, gentlemen, the 5th Congress by Resolution No. 13, unanimously appointed Mr. Mehta as Standing Counsel for the Bombay Presidency, as it did Mr. Ananda Charlu for Madras. This in a measure is an index of how faithfully the Congress represents Indian public opinion. By various Resolutions the Congress in 1889, 1890 and 1892, appointed Mr. Mehta among others at some time to awaken public opinion in England in favour of India, and at others to draw up important documents such as India's petition to the House of Commons about the Public Service Commission. I have thus been able to place before you how steadily the confidence of the entire communities of India in Mr. Mehta is increasing, both in volume and quality, and it is equally satisfactory to note how scrupulously Mr. Mehta in his turn has been endeavouring to faithfully discharge the trust reposed in him. His public utterances, including those as Chairman of the Bombay Reception Committee, the President of the Provincial Conference, Poona, 1892, the President of the National Congress at Calcutta, have already given the pledges which were but a reciprocation of the confidence reposed in him. His career at Bombay is as glorious as the substantial march of whatever is noble and public-spirited in almost every public

institution. One and all were prepared to see what we have now so gladly to note.

Ever since the appointment of the Hon'ble Rao Saheb V. N. Mandlik, of whom we have every reason to be proud, public attention is closely devoted to the doings and sayings of our representative in the Legislative Council of India, and it is manifest we are not wanting either in outspokenness when there is an occasion to justly censure, or readiness when the occasion is of rejoicing.

We are equally jealous of the treatment that is accorded to our representative, especially to one of Mr. Mehta's standing and credentials. For any treatment afforded him is one actually to the whole nation. When members of the Executive Council therefore grow impatient of the attitude of our representative, the attitude of the entire Indian nation is as much impatient. And we are justly indignant at the treatment which in a weak moment a member of the Executive offered to our trusted representative. But a treatment of this kind may in one sense only heighten the value as fire enhances that of gold. He who stands out bold and unbaffled is really entitled to fame lasting and sure. This brings us to the scene in the Viceregal Legislative Council on the occasion of the Police Bill discussion. We have very great pleasure in testifying to the many excellent qualities which so highly fit Mr. Mehta for the honourable post, and Mr. Mehta may very well be likened to a big gun placed on one of the ramparts of the Fort of Unswerving Loyalty which the Indian Nation has built up. His was a responsible post, but the responsibility of the constituents was more than double. The President of the Conference has already stated the yeoman services rendered by Mr. Mehta to the country, and it is but proper that the Conference should pass the resolution with acclamation. Our only regret is that Mr. Mehta is not able to speak owing to indifferent health.

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*Address presented by the Eighth Provincial Conference, held at  
Belgaum, in May 1895.*

TO—THE HONOURABLE PHEROZESHAH M. MEHTA, M.A., C.I.E.

SIR,—We, Delegates of the Eighth Bombay Provincial Conference assembled at Belgaum, beg to offer you a hearty welcome and tender to you our warmest thanks for your kind presence on this occasion. We are deeply sensible of the worry and inconvenience you have had in coming to this distant place at this time of the year. But great as may be your loss, our gain on the other hand is infinitely greater. Your presence has added prestige and honour to this Conference,

your counsels have guided and strengthened our deliberations, and your example as well as your word of encouragement have inspired us with faith and confidence in the success of our cause. Your commanding personality, your brilliant intellect, your captivating eloquence, your far-reaching sympathies, and your unceasing devotion to the service of your countrymen, have all contributed to give you a unique place among the public men of Western India, and we consider it a high and valued privilege to have the opportunity of welcoming you as a brother-delegate to this gathering of political workers of the entire Presidency.

2. Glad as we are to greet you here as a fellow-worker, our joy is infinitely enhanced when we recollect that you have come fresh from fighting the battles of the country in the Councils of the Government. Permit us on this occasion, to humbly express to you our sincere admiration and esteem, delight and satisfaction, gratitude and thankfulness for your services through a long career of a quarter of a century and notably during the last session of the Viceregal Council. We have met here as representatives of the Native public of this Presidency, and we deem it our duty on this occasion to signify to you and to the public at large as well as to the Government, our unabated confidence in you as a representative leader and spokesman of this Presidency and as the chosen advocate of the Indian people in the Councils of the Empire.

3. It is hardly necessary for us to recount the numerous services you have rendered ; how you have raised yourself in the public confidence and esteem step by step by honest, arduous and meritorious work, how by your sterling qualities of head and heart you have made yourself indispensable in all public movements ; and how at the present time, in the prime of manhood and fulness of honours, you stand almost alone as the trusted representative of the people. From the very outset of your public career, when you first appeared in the Framji Cowasji Hall, to speak on the subject of Municipal reform, you marked yourself out as a champion of popular rights of uncommon promise, and as a new political force of great power. Your paper at that early age showed a remarkable depth of learning, grasp of political principles and a wide range of political foresight. You fought the prevalent idea of Government by boards and drew up a scheme of Municipal government the wisdom of which was verified by its bodily adoption by the Bombay Legislature. At that early age you sounded the clarion note of the elective principle, a note which has since resounded and reverberated throughout the country. From that time forward you were in the front rank of Bombay political workers. You were always at the post whenever any work calling for bold and fearless action was on hand. You have borne a leading and honourable part in the new political awakening which came into

being since the glorious days of the Ripon regime, and which has found its permanent expression in the Indian National Congress. Ever since the dawn of this period you have been a conspicuous and effective worker in the political regeneration of this country and have achieved for yourself a position of unquestioned eminence as a leader of Indian political thought. When that first great triumph of the National Congress, the reform of the Legislative Councils, was carried out, you were chosen, with one accord, Bombay's representative in the Local as well as the Viceregal Councils.

4. Your work in the Viceregal Council during the last session calls for special acknowledgment. It adds one more title to our admiration and gratitude for your fearless championship of the popular cause. You were always ready at your post to guard our interests and to represent to our rulers the popular view of the different measures before the Council. Whether it was the Import Duties or Agriculturists' Relief, the Contagious Diseases Act, or the Police Act Amendment, the Restitution of Conjugal Rights or the Financial Statement that the Council considered, you were perfectly at home, always watchful how they affected the people, always alert to propose modifications, and to resist oppression and encroachment on popular liberty. Your command of political principles, your familiar acquaintance with law and constitutional history, added to your eloquence and ready retort, made you a formidable opponent and roused the fears of the officials as they surely must have won their respect. The bold stand you took in reference to the Police Bill was especially remarkable. You rightly brought into the debates of the Council 'a new spirit,' the spirit of just and fearless criticism which caused much needless alarm and fluttering in the official doves. But however vehement their protests, the dignified and well-balanced and yet firm attitude you took, disarmed their opposition and vindicated your action in the judgment of the public. Your survey of the Financial Statement describes with precision the true causes of our financial embarrassments. You have boldly challenged the Government position that Exchange is the only cause of such difficulties and affirmed that the growth of military expenditure, the frontier wars, the unequal distribution of the Home military charges and the Exchange Compensation Allowance are the chief rocks and shoals on which the vessel of Indian finance is likely to founder. We earnestly hope that the wholesome warnings you have given will be heeded by the Government for the welfare of the people.

5. You have thus by your vigilant, fearless, and able advocacy of the popular cause fully discharged the trust reposed in you and fulfilled the most sanguine expectations formed of you. The time for a fresh election of members to the Viceregal Council is not yet near, but we have every confidence that you will once more be

triumphantly returned as Bombay's elected representative. It is our earnest prayer that Providence may endow you with health and happiness and spare you for many a long year to serve your country with the same zeal, ability and singleness of purpose which have characterized your career in the past. May He bestow on you the choicest blessings of honour and reputation and may the country long enjoy the inestimable privilege of your leadership.

BELGAUM,  
*May 14, 1895.*

For and on behalf of the Delegates,  
DINSHA EDULJI WACHA,  
*President.*

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## APPENDIX H.

[From the "Bombay Gazette" of December 21, 1895.]

### PRESENTATION OF ADDRESSES TO THE HON'BLE

MR. PHEROZESHAH M. MEHTA.

In recognition of the 'important, valuable, and varied services' rendered to India in general and to this city in particular, during the last quarter of a century as a public citizen, an address was voted to the Hon'ble Mr. Pherozechah M. Mehta, M.A., C.I.E., at a public meeting of the citizens of Bombay, held in April last, under the presidency of our worthy citizen, Sir Dinsha M. Petit, Bart.; and it was resolved to present it to the honourable member at a public meeting. Owing to numerous calls on Mr. Mehta's time, it was not found possible to arrange an earlier meeting, and hence the delay in the presentation of this address, and also another one adopted by the Eighth Bombay Provincial Conference, held at Belgaum in May last, under the presidency of Mr. Dinsha E. Wacha. Both addresses were, however, formally presented at a large and representative meeting of the Native community held last evening in the Gaiety Theatre, which was crowded to its utmost capacity. Long before the appointed time, large numbers of people arrived, and by half-past four the Theatre was so crowded that many late arrivals could not even find space to stand. Every inch of space had its occupant, and the galleries and the platform were filled almost to suffocation. On the platform were not only the friends and admirers of the honourable member, belonging to the Mahomedan, Hindu, and the Parsee communities. The meeting was a thoroughly representative one, and it can be safely said that such a large assembly has seldom taken place in this city. The boisterous cheers of the spectators, who had collected outside the Theatre, was a signal of the arrival of Mr. Pherozechah Mehta, who on entering the hall was received with deafening applause. The following gentlemen were noticed amongst those who were accommodated on the platform :—The Hon. Mr. R. M. Sayani; the Hon. Mr. C. H. Setalwad; The Hon. Mr. Daji Abaji Khare; Khan Bahadur Muncherji Cowasji Murzban, C.I.E.; Messrs. N.G. Chandavarkar; C.M. Cursetji; Dr. Bhalchandra Krishna Bhatawadekar; Messrs. Dinsha Edulji Wacha; Bhaishanker Nanabhoy; Luxmidass Khimji; Furdunji M. Kanga; K. R. Cama; Mansukhlal Mugutlal Munshi; N. V. Gokhale; Dr. Ismael Jan Mahomed; Dr. Atmaram Pandurang; Dr. A. D. Mody; Messrs. Maneckshah Jehangirshah Talyarkhan; Cursetji D. Shroff; Vandravandass Purshottamdas; Mulji Bhowanidas; J. C. Cama; Cowasji Dadabhoy Banaji; Dr. K. N. Bahadurji; Dr. Shantaram Vithal; Dr. M. G. Deshmukh; Dr. A. P. Cama; Dr. B. S. Shroff;

Dastur Pherozi Mullah Pherozi; Messrs. Nanabhoy R. Ranina; Rustom N. R. Ranina; Manchershah Sorabji Mehta; Cowasji Merwanji Shett; Jeejeebhoy Edulji Modi; P. D. Kanga; Ghellabhai Haridas; Sorabji N. Cooper; Ruttanshah Dadabhoy; Damodar Tapidass; Abdulla M. Dharamsi; Currimbhoy Ibrahim; Currimbhoy Nensy; Budroodin Abdoola Kur; Goculdas K. Parekh; and Naranji Dwarkadas.

After the cheering, which was continued for some moments, had subsided, Dr. Bhalchandra Krishna rose and proposed that the Hon. Mr. Sayani should take the chair.

Mr. Sayani, then, amidst much applause, took the chair.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said :—I beg to thank you most heartily for calling me to the chair this evening. I hope you will all agree with me that we should have been all very much pleased if Sir Dinshah M. Petit, Bart., (cheers) who presided at the public meeting that voted the address to our esteemed friend, Mr. Mehta, would have been here to preside at this evening's proceedings—(applause)—but I am sorry to say that on account of the present state of his health, he was not able to attend this meeting. May his health be soon restored. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, you know that the business of this evening is to present two addresses to the Hon. Mr. Mehta. One of these addresses was voted by you in your public meeting in April last, the other being voted by the Provincial Conference that was held in Belgaum in May last. Gentlemen, I will not detain you by saying how heartily I agree with these two addresses, and with everything and anything that can be said in praise of our well-known fellow-citizen. I will not, therefore, detain you any longer, and I will at once proceed with the business of the evening and call upon my friend Mr. Chandavarkar, to read the address which was voted by you. (Cheers.)

Mr. Chandavarkar stepped forward, and read the address, which was published in these Reports at the time it was adopted at the public meeting, presided over by Sir Dinshah Petit, in April last. Mr. Dinsha Wacha, Chairman of the Eighth Provincial Conference, next came forward and read the address voted by that body at their annual meeting, held at Belgaum in May last.\*

The Chairman then placed the addresses in two different silver caskets, which were beautiful works of art, and presented them to the Hon. Mr. Mehta, and in doing so he spoke as follows :—‘ I consider it a very high honour, in fact I deem it to be a privilege, that I should be the medium of handing over the addresses voted by the public of Bombay and by the Provincial Conference of Belgaum. I will reiterate the hopes and the prayers which have been mentioned in these two addresses, and which are the prayers and hopes of all your fellow-countrymen, that merciful Providence may give you long

\* Vide Appendices F & G.

life and health—(cheers)—so that you may continue to render the useful and valuable services which you have rendered to this country for a number of years. (Cheers.) I have, no doubt, and all your countrymen will agree with me, that there is a still more glorious and brilliant career before you yet, and that you will still win higher honours. (Cheers.) But I have not the slightest doubt that you will consider that the approbation of your fellow-countrymen is the highest reward that a citizen can wish for. (Cheers.) I do trust that the addresses which are now being handed over to you, you will keep as heir-looms in your family, and that all our fellow countrymen in their own way, and according to their own ability and powers, will follow your example and render our country a peaceable, peaceful, and united whole.' (Loud cheers)

The addresses were then handed to Mr. Mehta, who duly accepted them, and delivered his speech in reply, which is printed in the text (pp. 473-93).

At the close of the address, the Chairman announced that he had received a telegram from the President of a meeting held that day at Satara, heartily sympathising with the movement.

Amirchand, a native poet, stepped forward and recited some verses specially composed for the occasion, in which the various and valuable services rendered by Mr. Mehta to the people of India were set forth. The recital was much appreciated, and elicited warm applause from the audience.

Mr. Wacha proposed a vote of thanks to the proprietor of the Theatre for placing it at their disposal on the occasion, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

The Hon'ble Mr. Setalwad proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and in doing so observed that the presence of Mr. Sayani showed that so far as this Presidency was concerned, Mahomedans, Hindus and Parsees were all combined in movements of that sort. (Applause.)

The motion was carried by acclamation, and this terminated the proceedings, which lasted for nearly two hours.

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## APPENDIX I.

### ANGLO-INDIAN APPRECIATION.

When the title of K.C.I.E. was conferred on the Hon'ble Mr Mehta on June 26, 1904, several Anglo-Indian papers published appreciations of him. Three of these are reprinted here as particularly noteworthy.

The *Englishman* wrote:—'The honour conferred on Mr. Pherozeshah Merwanjee Mehta, who receives the well-merited decoration of the K.C.I.E., will come perhaps upon certain people as a surprise. Mr. Mehta is the leader and representative of the Congress movement on the Bombay side, and used to be looked upon as something of a firebrand. He has, however, a most genial personality, which has broken through the reserve of the most cautious officials, and his brilliant abilities as a lawyer and a leader of thought will lend a distinction to the title which he now wears.'

The *Times of India* wrote:—'Perhaps the most interesting feature of the list is the Knight Commandership of the Order of the Indian Empire conferred upon the Hon Mr. Pherozeshah Mehta. There have been frequent occasions when we have found ourselves in antagonism to Mr. Mehta upon controversial questions; but we have never failed to recognise that he is unquestionably the ablest representative of the non-official native community now in public life in India. This Presidency is proud to claim him as one of her sons, but his reputation and his work alike have extended over the whole country. To great experience, sound judgment, a cool head, and an exceptional gift of eloquence, he adds a sturdy courage in opposition, and a resolute and unswerving independence which have long earned for him the admiration of his supporters, and the respect of those who sometimes differ from his views. Time has mellowed and chastened the perhaps unrestrained ardour of Mr. Mehta's earlier years, but one honourable characteristic has been exemplified throughout his whole career; he has never stooped to palter with his own convictions in order to win official approval, but has fearlessly fought for the right as he conceived it. An alert and strenuous antagonist, he has never forgotten that meed of courtesy to opponents which is one of the finest traits of English public life; and in that respect, as in many other ways, he has set an example which some of his compatriots might well profit by. Possibly the greatest of Mr. Mehta's labours has been the sincere and devoted work he has done for many years for the advancement of the city of Bombay. Despite the attractions of the larger arena of Imperial politics, he has with

untiring industry and striking self-abnegation sacrificed a great portion of his time in the narrower sphere of local self-government; without him the Bombay Corporation as it exists to-day, would be a body commanding in an appreciably less degree the confidence of the public. Had he done nothing else than exalt this high ideal of true citizenship before his countrymen, he would have deserved well of the Government. And in commending him to the notice of the Crown, Lord Curzon has shown that generous appreciation of great ability and strength and honesty of purpose, which one would have expected from a statesman of his reputation.'

The *Indian Daily News* wrote :—'The outstanding circumstance of the Birthday Honours List issued at Simla yesterday is the K. C. I. E. conferred on Mr Pherozeshah Merwanjee Mehta. When in 1894 Lord Lansdowne made him a C. I. E., all the country wondered; one-half why the honour was given, the other half why it was accepted. Lord Lansdowne's administration had no more vigilant and trenchant critic than Mr. Mehta, whose connection with the Indian National Congress and the Bombay Presidency Association made his name *anathema maranatha* among the officials of India. The Viceroy, however, had a soul above petty bureaucratic spite, and Lord Harris, the Governor of Bombay, was a thorough sportsman with all a sportsman's instincts of fair play and generous admiration for a puissant antagonist. Mr. Mehta's labours in the Imperial and Bombay Legislative Councils were singularly disinterested, and he had only the public welfare at heart. His criticism of official measures was not all destructive, on the contrary both rulers admitted its helpfulness. No distinction could have been better deserved, and Mr. Mehta displayed his magnanimity by accepting it, his acquiescence in the official procedure being in pleasing contrast to the ungracious refusal of a smaller boon by another Zoroastrian public man. The popular statesman's friends applauded his action when they were acquainted with the motive, and even in their first surprise they knew that his patriotism was proof against a bit of ribband. His subsequent conduct has justified their confidence. He is still an active member of the Congress, whose annual meeting he will engineer at Bombay in December next. The Government have not found him more complaisant than before he was decorated; but Lords Elgin and Curzon have both publicly acknowledged the value of his watchful, intrepid, and independent criticism in the conduct of public affairs, and three Governors of Bombay, namely, Lords Sandhurst, Northcote, and Lamington, have given him their unstinted admiration. Lord Northcote was a close personal friend in spite of Mr. Mehta's vigorous and unusual protest against the great Land Bill which was passed in the teeth of an unanimous unofficial opposition. Pherozeshah M. Mehta is the first Indian of the

day in the eminence of a practical intellect, the ascendancy of popular estimation, and the weight of achievement both in his private capacity as a Barrister-at-Law and in his public career as a statesman. In Bombay itself, the Parsee stronghold, he is an autocratic and uncrowned king as Parnell was in Ireland during the Land League agitation; and it must be recorded to his credit that he has used his great power in the best interests of the city. Bombay has a municipal constitution unique in the whole scheme of local self-government. It gives the rate-payers a franchise possessed by no others in the East. Mr. Mehta was the father of that Municipal Act, and he has guided the administration with marvellous tact and ability since the time of Lord Reay. There are few Municipalities in which popular representation has so justified itself as in Bombay, and that result is due to Pherozeshah Mehta. His new title will not increase the affection of his countrymen or the admiration of Englishmen, but both sections of the population will applaud Lord Curzon for a measure as disinterested as it is acceptable.'

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## APPENDIX J.

### APPRECIATION BY MR. J. MACDONALD, PRESIDENT OF THE CORPORATION.

An adjourned meeting of the Bombay Municipal Corporation was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Office, Mr. J. Macdonald presiding.

The President said :—Gentlemen,—It is my duty and privilege, as a humble occupant of this chair, to make a short reference to a matter about which I am sure there is a perfect consensus of opinion—the honour which Government has conferred upon itself as well as on us, as a Corporation, in conferring upon our esteemed colleague, the Hon. Mr. Pherozeshah M. Mehta, the dignity of a Knighthood of the Indian Empire. (Applause.) I cannot deny myself the gratification of expressing the satisfaction I feel that this marked distinction should have been conferred in the year in which I have the honour to be President. It certainly is to me, and I dare say to you, the most interesting feature of the Honours List that one who is unquestionably the ablest representative of the non-official native community now in public life in India, should at length receive the distinction to which his many valuable services have so long entitled him. (Hear, hear, and applause.) India is proud of him—(hear, hear)—the Western Presidency, particularly so; but how much more intimately should we feel pride in the recognition of the merits of our fellow-citizen, our fellow-Corporator. (Loud applause.) We in this Corporation well know, and very highly value, his exceptional gift of eloquence, clear insight, sound judgment, cool-headedness, resolute courage, unswerving integrity and independence, crowned with unique practical knowledge and experience of Municipal matters, all combined with unfailing courtesy to friend and foe, and a spirit which rises to an occasion in proportion as he meets a foeman worthy of his steel, possessing, in short, every disposition becoming a man who has with the greatest self-denial devoted himself to public service. (Cheers.) Knowing all this, does it not come well within the sphere of our duty while leaving the larger outside to its own expressions of satisfaction, that we keep in faithful remembrance the marvellous amount of time and of trouble so long, so capably, and so devotedly given up to guarding and promoting the best interests of this Municipality. (Hear, hear.) Gentlemen, let not the fewness and feebleness of my words mar the unanimous and full expression of approbation of this reward to one whom the King-Emperor has delighted to honour for very excellent services. (Applause.) I am done, gentlemen, and in

honour of the occasion I would that I could now with propriety call upon you to give such a cheer for Sir Pherozechah Mehta as will shake our walls to their foundations (Loud and prolonged cheers)

Sir Pherozechah Mehta, who was received with loud cheers, said :—Gentlemen,—I am not going to make at present a long reply except to say that I am grateful to the President and members of the Corporation for all that has been said about me. (Cheers)

The President. For the present, Sir, this is all we shall allow you to say. (Laughter and applause)

Among those present as outsiders was the Hon. Mr. G. K. Gokhale, C. I. E.

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## APPENDIX K.

### MUNICIPAL CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW PARSI KNIGHT.

[From the "Times of India" of July 15, 1904]

A special meeting of the Bombay Municipal Corporation was held yesterday in the Council Hall of the Municipal office for the purpose of passing a resolution congratulating Sir Pherozeshah M. Mehta on his being created a Knight Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire. There was a full attendance of members of the Corporation, and the strangers' galleries were packed with the general public. A large number of well-known citizens were also accommodated in the Council Hall.

Exactly at 3 p. m., Mr. James Macdonald, the President, rose and in addressing the meeting, said :—Gentlemen, you have heard so much of my voice on the subject of this meeting on a previous occasion that I shall not attempt to inflict upon you the task of hearing more from me at present, and I am the more reconciled to limit the expression of my sentiments, as I know, and full well, that every sentiment of approbation and admiration which I might weakly attempt to express will be more fully and eloquently placed before you, by other and abler councillors. I, therefore, call upon Sir Bhalchandra Krishna to move the resolution entrusted to him. (Applause.)

#### THE RESOLUTION.

Sir Bhalchandra Krishna said.—Mt. President,—We meet to-day to express our gratification and offer our hearty congratulations to Sir Pherozeshah M. Mehta on his appointment as Knight Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire. I esteem it a highly valued privilege to be called upon to lay before you the following proposition :—

‘That this Corporation desire to place on record their sense of gratification at the appointment as Knight Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, of the Hon. Mr. Pherozeshah Merwanji Mehta, C.I.E., M.A., who, besides the great and valuable work done by him for the country and Empire in manifold directions for a long series of years has, with exemplary self-sacrifice and integrity of purpose rendered unique services to the city of Bombay as a member of this Corporation for the last 32 years ;

‘That this Corporation tender their warm and hearty congratulations to Sir Pherozeshah M. Mehta for the honour done to him by his Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor ;

‘ That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Sir Pherozechah M. Mehta, K.C.I.E.’

Sir Bhalchandra, continuing, said : The K.C I E. is a rare honour, and when bestowed on a private citizen it marks conspicuous merit. But valuable as is the honour, it was never more fitly bestowed. The only point about it is that it was so long in coming. By its bestowal upon our fellow-councillor we feel a kind of reflected glory falling upon us. We feel we are ourselves honoured in the person of our friend and colleague. We feel a personal pride and pleasure at the honour having been conferred on one we all esteem so highly, and one whom we have the privilege to count as one of ourselves. Sir P. M. Mehta’s public services have been many and various, but this is not the time to dwell upon his services to the country at large. On the present occasion I must confine myself to his municipal services rendered to this city during a period of over 30 years. In the midst of a most active public life and a busy professional career he has given ungrudgingly his time and talents to the service of this city. He may be fitly called the Father of the Corporation. If I mistake not, he is the only member of the Corporation, now living, who was connected with the old Bench of Justices.

#### SIR PHEROZESHAH’S WORK.

He became a member of that body in November 1870. At that time there was a considerable discontent about the work of the Justices, and Sir P.M Mehta read a paper on Municipal Government in which he sketched with remarkable prescience a scheme of an elected Municipal Corporation almost identical in constitution with the one adopted in the Act of 1872. In shaping the Act of 1888 also he bore a personal part as member of the Bombay Legislative Council. Thus in bringing into existence the present constitution of the Corporation, Sir P. M. Mehta took a conspicuously active and helpful part. In the meetings of the Corporation itself he has been a most regular, painstaking, and useful member. With a singularly clear head and almost unerring judgment, with unrivalled and persuasive eloquence and readiness in debate, with consummate mastery of the Municipal history of the city, and with the prestige which comes from long standing and experience, he has been an indispensable guide in all our deliberations (applause), one who without party considerations has held the balance evenly between the Municipal Executive and the so-called opposition, and has led the Corporation on many an occasion to take practically sound views on important questions. He has been so unremitting in his attendance that in the course of 32 years he had occasion to seek leave of absence only on three occasions, on two of which he was engaged in the Viceregal Council. When in town, he is invariably present at the Corporation meetings. How much our

debates benefit by his tactful guidance, his practical common sense, his clear judgment and his convincing eloquence, every one here will testify to by personal knowledge. Among the numerous subjects which have received special attention from him I may note : (1) Government contribution in aid of primary education, (2) the relative responsibility of Government and the Corporation as to the *cost* of medical relief in Bombay, (3) the apportionment of plague charges and the powers of the plague committee, (4) drainage, (5) the apportionment of the police charges, (6) the Corporation's share of the liquor license fees, (7) the fight with the Tramway Company, and (8) water supply. Outside the Corporation, too, he has loyally supported the Corporation's interest. He has been the Corporation's representative in the Bombay Legislative Council ever since the amendment of the Indian Councils Act, and in that capacity he has never failed to stand up by the Corporation whenever the occasion required it. When the Bombay Improvement Trust Bill was before the Council, Sir P. M. (then Mr.) Mehta was in England. His Excellency Lord Sandhurst was so impressed with the value of his presence in the Council that he offered to postpone the reading of the Bill if Sir P. M. Mehta would return and take his seat in the Council. It was then arranged that Sir P. M. Mehta should expedite his return. The Corporation elected him as its representative in the Council, and he was able to return in time for the second reading. How well he did his work and how he proved a tower of strength to the popular side in the Council only those who were intimately associated with him can fully appreciate.

#### HIS CHARACTERISTICS.

Whether in or out of the Corporation Sir P. M. Mehta has been characterised by one quality more than another, and that is his fearless independence. (Applause.) Not a mere man of ideas but of convictions, he has the rare gift of asserting those convictions in the face of difficulties whether they came from officials or non-officials. His public career is remarkable for this, that he has stood on occasions against his own people as he has stood against Government whenever he thought the public or Government was wrong. This is a trait of character which deserves to be appreciated particularly because it shows that we have in him a public man who thinks for himself and is not swayed by personal considerations. He is a brilliant criminal lawyer, and if he had chosen he might have commanded a roaring practice in his profession, but his love for the Corporation has been greater than his love of self-interest, and he has often preferred to be in his seat in the Corporation Hall rather than in his seat in the Court. In the Viceregal Legislative Council he showed a degree of fearlessness and independence in his criticism of Government measures that it called forth some resentment on the part of some of the Govern-

ment members, but he was unmoved in his course and the fearless criticism which he then made on the introduction of the new spirit in the august Council Chamber was made the occasion of a popular demonstration in his honour on his return to Bombay. (Applause.) The recognition of his sterling merit and life-long work by the Government has come after all, and it is all the more grateful to us, his friends, in so far as it is an assurance of genuine appreciation. Sir P. M. Mehta has endeared himself to us all by broad-minded sympathies and the utter absence of pettiness or sectional bias in him. He is always actuated by lofty principles and genuine patriotism. His unremitting attendance at the meetings of the Corporation as well as its numerous committees has involved an amount of self-sacrifice on his part which few outside the circle of his intimate friends can have any conception of. (Applause.) With such brilliant antecedents Sir P. M. Mehta will have a long and yet more brilliant career in the future. His powers of head and heart are still unabated, and let us pray the Almighty will long spare him to serve the city as well as the country as zealously as he has done in the past. With these few observations I commend this proposition to your unanimous acceptance. (Loud applause.)

#### HIS SERVICES UNIQUE

The Hon. Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtoola said :—Mr. President,—I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution which has been moved by Sir Bhalchandra Krishna, and, in doing so, echo the sentiments to which he has given expression. It is asked why the Corporation has taken the unusual course of having a special meeting on this occasion. I say it is because Sir Pherozechah's services are unusual, nay, they are unique, and it is but right that such pre-eminent services should be recognised in a befitting manner. We all know that the consideration of important subjects has had at times to be postponed in the absence of Sir Pherozechah. Meetings have been called to suit his convenience when really important questions have had to be discussed. But such occasions have been very few. Sir Pherozechah is one of those Councillors who make it a point of attending almost every meeting from beginning to end. It is not unknown to the Councillors that the proceedings of an unfinished debate have been prolonged on two or three occasions, when through some unavoidable cause Sir Pherozechah has been unable to attend at the commencement of a meeting. I mention this merely to show that the Corporation as a whole consider his presence indispensable when really important matters are to be discussed and decided. The question arises how he has attained that position. I say, he has done so by his great abilities, his extensive experience and judicial mind, coupled with untiring energy, whole-hearted devotion to duty, his single-

ness of purpose, and above all his self-sacrifices. In Sir Pherozeshah we find both the Bench and the Bar combined. He is both a judge and an advocate. He approaches every question with an open mind and bestows careful consideration on every argument for and against before making up his mind. When once he has formed his conclusions he becomes an advocate, and fearlessly espouses the cause with a vigour and a strength of argument well-nigh unanswerable. His success is due not so much to his ability as an advocate—though that goes a great way—but to his invariable practice of judicially weighing all arguments beforehand with an open mind and not coming to hasty and immature conclusions (Hear, hear.) And, gentlemen, he has never shrunk from paying the penalty of having an open mind on all questions. There is a certain class of the public who imagine that real public service lies in opposing everything that emanates from the officers, be they Municipal or be they Government. If any one has the temerity at times of speaking in favour of such officers, however just their cause may be, he is charged by this class with vacillation. Sir Pherozeshah has never cared for the opinions of such people. We all know how at times he has been an uncompromising critic of the officials and how on other occasions their doughty champion. His sense of justice revolts against undue blame or censure being passed on any one, be he an official or a non official.

#### APPRECIATION OF THE HONOUR.

What a noble example to emulate. It is with a view to placing on record our appreciation of such a career that the unusual course of calling a special meeting has been adopted, and I feel sure you will all agree with me when I say that we are fully justified in convening it. I will now refer to another question, viz., Why do the public rejoice at the honour of knighthood that has been conferred upon Mr. Mehta? What difference does it make whether the honourable gentleman is called Mr. Mehta or Sir Pherozeshah? I will say at once that it makes not the slightest difference whether our popular citizen is called Mr Mehta or Sir Pherozeshah Mehta. The difference lies in the recognition by the King-Emperor of a career which is held in high estimation by the people. (Applause.) We Indians are essentially a conservative people and we hold the ruling sovereign in great veneration. We value very highly any mark of appreciation and recognition that emanates from his Majesty. It is because the services of a man like Mr. Mehta have been so appreciated and recognised that we all rejoice and wish to offer him our sincere and hearty congratulations. We congratulate him because he has set a noble example of public usefulness, which has won the appreciation of both the rulers and the ruled, an example which will serve for emu-

lation for a very long time to come. The value of a life like Sir Pherozechah's is not to be gauged merely by the amount of useful work done by him, and this is very great, but by the example he sets for others to imitate and try to do the same. In conclusion, I readily admit that our rejoicings are not free from a tinge of selfishness, because in honouring Sir Pherozechah we desire that all the other public men should endeavour to act up to him and thereby prove more useful to their country, and further we desire that Sir Pherozechah should continue to serve his country as ably and as zealously for very many years to come. (Loud applause)

#### STATESMANLIKE QUALITIES.

Colonel H. P. Dimmock said he had great pleasure in rising to support the motion that had been moved by Sir Bhalchandra in such eloquent terms and seconded by the Hon. Mr. Ibrahim in equally eloquent words. He was sure that all of them by the expression which they had given to their appreciation of those remarks showed how very much they were in accord with the object of that meeting that day which was to show the appreciation of that body—a public representation of the city of Bombay—of the eminent services that Sir Pherozechah had rendered to the city of his birth. Those of them who had sat upon that board and had had an opportunity of listening to the eloquent speeches that Sir Pherozechah had so frequently favoured them with, had always been struck with the objects he had at heart, and of those objects the interests of the great city of Bombay came first and foremost. He thought that was the reason why they had a full gathering that day. Not only in that Corporation had his services called forth the admiration of his friends, but even beyond the precincts of the Bombay Municipal Hall the Hon. Sir Pherozechah had shown all those characteristics of statesmanship, which had conduced to this ultimate result, the honour that had been conferred upon him. His powers of debate had no doubt been of very great service to the Municipality, because very often they had some very knotty subjects to discuss, and it was of very great importance that they should have a man who had the grasp of all municipal subjects so closely as Sir Pherozechah had, and who was able to unravel the tangled web which sometimes led them into confusion. However, it was not alone in debate that Sir Pherozechah showed his power of rendering assistance to the City. The very lowest of the citizens might be sure that if there was any difficulty, and if there was any point upon which justice should be administered in the Corporation, they might depend upon Sir Pherozechah to give the utmost of his powers to it. (Applause.) In conclusion, he asked the Corporation to accept his hearty support in favour of the motion. (Loud applause.)

Mr. T. W. Cuffe said he supposed never in the whole history of the Corporation had such a complete unanimity of feeling prevailed in regard to a proposition in which they desired to express their keen appreciation of an honour done to a distinguished member of their body. He could not go back to the earlier days of local self-government, but if it had passed through the period of infancy, and if it was established on the solid footing which they all believe it had occupied, there was no man living who could be more honestly said to have contributed to that end than his friend Sir Pherozechah Mehta. (Applause.) The City and the Corporation combined lay under a considerable debt of obligation to Sir P. M. Mehta, whose name would always be associated with all that was best in local self-government. (Applause.) He (Mr. Cuffe) had the privilege of being associated with him in the Municipal work for a number of years, and that which always appealed to him was that broad, tolerant attitude which he assumed in all matters relating to the various communities of that city—that complete absence of sectarian spirit, which alone would render it possible to work in that harmony which they all desired to see to be the distinguishing feature of their debates. He was sure that every member of every community in Bombay desired to join Sir Bhalchandra in expressing the hope that Sir Pherozechah might be spared for many years to come to aid the Corporation with his ripe experience which had been of such immense value in the past and which was absolutely indispensable for the future. (Applause.)

#### FACTORY FOR PUBLIC MEN.

Dr. N. N. Katrak, in further supporting the resolution, said if honour, and especially public honour, was to be regarded as a mark of recognition or appreciation of the public services of an individual, never was it more richly deserved and more aptly bestowed than in the present instance. They, the seventy-two members of the Corporation, were called the Fathers of the City. Whether such a term was appropriately applied to them was a matter of opinion, but Sir Pherozechah was a civic father in every sense of the word. (Applause.) Not only was the present Municipal constitution Sir Pherozechah's own handiwork, but he ventured to say that a considerable number of members of this Corporation, who had any Municipal career to speak of, owed a great deal to the encouragement and the sound and wholesome advice given to them by Sir Pherozechah. (Hear, hear.) In fact, it was stated that the chamber of Sir Pherozechah was a factory where public men were turned out. (Applause.)

Mr. Hormusji S. Chothia said, since the formation of the Municipal Corporation about half a dozen members had been knighted by the Government, but this was the first occasion when a special meeting had been called to express the approbation of the Corporation at the

honour bestowed upon a member. He was glad that a precedent was now created, and trusted that it would be followed on future occasions when any of their colleagues were similarly honoured.

Mr. D. E. Wacha observed that he intended to speak very little on the present occasion owing, as members of the Corporation were aware, to his life-long and intimate relations with the distinguished person whom they were specially called together this afternoon to honour. Those relations began in the early fifties. They were school companions till they nominally parted for a time and lost sight of each other, while pursuing their respective avocations. But they had come again by a happy conjunction of stars to be once more closely associated not only in the public life of this Presidency but that of all India. He ventured to think that in this Corporation he could safely lay claim, therefore, to speak with his larger experience and greater authority than any one else. (Hear, hear.) It was superfluous for him to add his own tribute of praise to the many deserving eulogies pronounced on the sterling worth of Sir Pherozezshah by his friends, Sir Bhalchandra, Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtoola, Colonel Dimmock, and the other speakers. In the public life of the whole country, Sir Pherozezshah might be considered as a gem of the purest ray serene. (Loud applause.) But he was going to confine himself strictly to only one or two important landmarks of Sir Pherozezshah's Municipal career. The invaluable work which he had done in connexion with the city for fully thirty years was inscribed in letters of the deepest gold on the pages of the annual Administration Reports. In Mr. Wacha's opinion the two persons above all others, to whom Bombay was vastly indebted for her present civic greatness, were Mr. Arthur Crawford and Sir P. M. Mehta. (Cheers.)

#### PUBLIC-SPIRITED CITIZENS.

Mr. Crawford was the 'facile princeps' of Municipal Commissioners, but in advance of his times. He had high ideals of municipal greatness for Bombay. In his days only primitive ideas prevailed as to sanitary and other municipal requirements, and Bombay primarily owed her sanitary progress to his energy and organising talent. He laid the first solid foundation of it. No doubt, his extravagance cost him dearly, yet he (Mr. Wacha) ventured to say that that Commissioner really deserved a statue. (Hear, hear.) After him came a stalwart band of public-spirited citizens who greatly helped the cause of municipal progress at an important stage. These were Messrs. Forbes, Maclean, Geary, Nowrozjee Furdoonji, Mandlik, Sorabji Shapurji, Martin Wood, Colonel Hancock, Dr. Peterson, Major Selby, and others. Many of these were gathered to their majority. Only a handful remained. Sir Pherozezshah was associated with them. But another period of greater and more salutary progress came and the

city owed it almost entirely to Sir Pherozechah the liberal civic charter she now possessed. The Municipal Act by which she was now governed was his handiwork and that of Mr Telang. Originally the Bill was drafted by Sir Charles Ollivant, based on a mischievous principle. The Commissioner was to be the master of the Corporation, and the Corporation was to be his slave. (Hear, hear.) But Sir Pherozechah scented the evil of such a reactionary measure and strove hard to cast over-board the Bill framed on those lines, and he amply succeeded. He made the Municipal Corporation the administrative body while the Municipal Commissioner was its executive. The ultimate tribunal and supreme authority was the Corporation. It was because Sir Pherozechah was the real author of the present Act that he had been able to interpret so many knotty points that had arisen from time to time. Throughout all these fifteen years that the Act had been in operation, there had been no more cautious navigator of marked ability, great sagacity and judgment than he. Times out of number had he steered the Municipal bark from many a dangerous Scylla and more dangerous Charybdis, and brought it to a haven of safety. (Loud applause.) These were the important services rendered by Sir Pherozechah to the Municipality, not to say aught of the numerous weighty memorials to Government which were framed by him ; and it was on that account that he deservedly enjoyed to-day the hegemony of the Corporation. (Applause.)

WHERE LAWYERS ARE VALUABLE.

It had been said in and out of the Corporation that in that body there were too many lawyers and doctors. He left the latter alone for the present. But as to the former he could inquire whether there was any deliberative assembly in the world where lawyers were not numerous and prominent. Of course there were doctors and lawyers. He was not there speaking of the briefless lawyers with only sawdust in their brains. (Laughter.) He was speaking of those trained and disciplined lawyers, men of great ability, juridical lore, eloquence, and well versed in constitutional history. What might have been the history of England but for lawyers of that class ? Let him name a few of the past. There were Mansfield, Seldon, Romilly ; again there was Hampden. Who could forget the great Burke ? Coming nearer to our times there were Lord Selborne and Lord Herschell. Even in the present Parliament had they not a Harcourt and an Asquith ? What power and influence they wielded ! Well, Mr. Wacha observed, Sir Pherozechah really belonged to that eminent class of constitutional lawyers. Like them he was the champion of the rights and liberties of the people. (Loud applause.) Had his lot been cast in the House of Commons, he would say without fear of contradiction that Sir Pherozechah would have made his mark there

and remained one of the shining lights of the front bench. (Cheers) It was this distinguished citizen whom the Corporation had met that day to honour. And if Mr. Wacha might be permitted to summarise the popularity and success of Sir Pherozechah, he would do so in the words of Lord Selborne, better known in England as Sir Roundell Palmer. Some might think that the words that that Lord High Chancellor applied to Mr Gladstone might be over-much when applied to Sir Pherozechah. But Mr Wacha firmly believed and felt that they could be most aptly and deservedly applied to Sir Pherozechah. Said Lord Selborne of Mr. Gladstone years ago when he was at the zenith of his fame : " It does not lie in his great accomplishments, his wonderful ability, his extraordinary eloquence, though all these things do demand our admiration. But the people understand him. They know that he has a profound sympathy with them, that he has nothing at heart but duty to promote their interests according to his honest views of them, and whether he judges rightly or wrongly about this question or that, and, of course, all of us are liable to error and none pretend to infallibility—they know that he is a man actuated only by the purest motives and that he presents the highest example of private integrity.' (Cheers) Let the rising generation of young men profit by the example of Sir Pherozechah, and let each of them strive to emulate his brilliant and unique Municipal career. Let all cordially wish that Sir Pherozechah might long be spared to govern the destinies of this great civic organisation which has been a model to all other local self-governments in the country and leave footprints behind him in the sands of time which those coming after him might tread and follow and nobly strive to maintain for the city that proud motto which was emblazoned on her banner. (Loud applause.)

#### OTHER SPEAKERS.

Khan Bahadur M. C. Murzban said Sir Pherozechah always obeyed the ruling of the President, however much he might differ from it at the time. This was an example, which, he thought, should be followed by all the members of the Corporation.

Dr Jehanghir J. Cursetji referred to the spirit of fairness which Sir Pherozechah evinced during the discussions in the Corporation

Dr. Naik said the younger members of the Corporation found in Sir Pherozechah a most valuable guide and adviser.

Dr. N. H. Sukhia referred to the various services rendered to the Corporation by Sir Pherozechah, who, he said, was the uncrowned king of the Bombay Municipal Corporation. He then proceeded to comment upon the manner in which Government bestowed titles on citizens, and while he was on this subject, frequent points of order were raised by members, who asked whether Dr. Sukhia was there

to deliver a lecture before them. The President having pointed out the inadvisability of entering into such a question, Dr. Sukhia dropped the subject, and proceeded to speak on 'the virtues and failings,' as he said, of Sir Pherozeshah. He observed that Sir Pherozeshah's virtues far outweighed his failings, which were his supposed infallibility, his intolerance and his absolutism. The latter part of the remarks was met with hisses. Continuing, Dr. Sukhia said he not only admired and respected Sir Pherozeshah, but also loved him. (Loud laughter.)

Mr. Mulji B. Barbhaya said the one great thing he had admired in Sir Pherozeshah was his loyal attitude to the Government, even while discussing a subject in which he took sides against the Government.

The Hon. Mr. H. S. Dixit said Sir Pherozeshah was always accessible to any one who sought his advice. He knew that many corporators consulted Sir Pherozeshah in his chambers on important questions relating to the Municipal affairs, and he treated them with admirable patience and courtesy. (Applause.)

The proposition was then put to the vote and carried with acclamation.

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## APPENDIX L.

### APPRECIATION BY SIR JAMSETJEE JEEJEEBHoy, BART.

[From the "Oriental Review" of Bombay.]

Never before in the history of the Parsis in India have so many distinguished members of the community met around the festive board as at the public dinner given on the 11th August 1904, by the Ripon Club to the Hon'ble Sir Pherozechah Merwanjee Mehta, K.C.I.E., to congratulate him on the honour of Knighthood conferred upon him by his Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor in celebration of his birthday. Not only was the *creme de la creme* of the community, with some of the most distinguished citizens belonging to other creeds, present, but so intense was the enthusiasm, and so genuine the ovation accorded to this greatest of the citizens of the continent of India, as to be tangibly felt by all who had the privilege of taking part in the entertainment.

The guest of the evening arrived a few minutes before eight o'clock and was received by Mr. C. M. Cursetjee and Mr. Rustom K. R. Cama, the Secretaries of the Banquet Committee. After a short interval passed in conversation in the extemporized hall, there was a sort of a march past to the dining hall on the second floor. Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, Bart., who is President of the Club, was in the chair, the Hon'ble Sir P. M. Mehta occupying a seat on the President's right hand. Among the guests invited by the Club were the Hon. Mr. Justice Badruddin Tyabji, the Hon. Mr. Justice N. G. Chandavakar, Mr. Currimbhoy Ibrahim, the Hon. Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtoola, the Hon. Mr. Daji Abaji Khare, the Hon. Mr. C. H. Setalvad, Rao Bahadur Wasudev Jugganath Kirtikar, Mr. K. R. Cama, Mr. Mahomedali Adamji Peerbhoy, Mr. Sassoon J. David, and Mr. Ahmedbhoy Habibbhoy. A regimental band was in attendance and played a selection of music.

After the *menu* had been discussed, the Chairman gave the toast of the King-Emperor which was enthusiastically acknowledged, the band playing a bar of the National Anthem.

Sir Jamsetjee, before giving the toast of the guest of the evening, read out the following telegram received from Mr. Framroz E. Punthaky of Karachi:—'I am requested by a meeting of the Parsis of Karachi to send hearty congratulations to the Hon'ble Sir Pherozechah Merwanjee Mehta, K.C.I.E., on the honour conferred upon him by the King-Emperor and to wish their distinguished co-religionist, success, prosperity and a long and happy life.'

The Chairman who was received with cheers then said :—Gentlemen,—The Ripon Club has before to-day played the host to many notabilities, some of them ruling Princes and Chiefs; but I can say without exaggeration that rarely has it had a guest more popular, or standing higher in the public estimation than Sir Pherozechah Merwanjee Mehta, whom it is our good fortune to entertain this evening. My task therefore of submitting this toast for your acceptance is rendered easy as its cordial and enthusiastic reception is assured without any effort of rhetoric on my part. The welcome news that H. M. the King-Emperor was pleased to honour Sir Pherozechah by conferring on him the well-merited distinction of a Knight Commandership of the Indian Empire was as we know received with universal gratification throughout the length and breadth of the country, but my fellow-members of the Ripon Club will bear me out when I say that their joy on the occasion was even greater. It could have been only exceeded perhaps by the announcement that each individual member had been gazetted a K. C. I. E., straight off. That the Ripon Club should rejoice over Sir Pherozechah's elevation was only natural, for unless I am very much mistaken, if the Club does not owe its inception to Sir Pherozechah alone, he certainly was amongst the foremost of those instrumental in bringing it into existence.

Talking of things which owe their existence to Sir Pherozechah reminds me of his many-sided activity. Hardly had our guest returned from England after being called to the Bar when he entered public life. To Sir Pherozechah belongs the credit of foreshadowing in the early seventies the present Municipal constitution of Bombay and for him may be claimed the unique distinction of having helped more than most of his non official colleagues on the Legislative Council, in the framing of the Municipal Act now in force. The intimate knowledge possessed by our guest is patent to all who are on the Corporation, or who read its proceedings. Scarcely a question regarding the construction or meaning to be put upon any provision in the Act arises that Sir Pherozechah Mehta is not looked up to and is able to furnish an answer to the satisfaction of his colleagues. To be always clear, cool and decided in helping to determine knotty points that arise from time to time with a courteousness and sweet reasonableness all his own; to wade through a mass of papers on the numerous weighty matters that frequently come before the Corporation for discussion, and to sum up and help the members to a decision in reference to them as Sir Pherozechah Mehta invariably does is no light task even for the ablest of Corporators. Friends and opponents alike will admit that more than any other citizen has our distinguished guest helped in the proper and equitable administration of the Municipal law he has had so large a hand in giving to the City of Bombay. Whilst ever ready to see the authority of the

Municipal Commissioner upheld, and ever alert in putting the Corporation on its guard against interfering in his executive functions, Sir Pherozechah has been the staunch and unswerving supporter of popular privileges and jealous of the slightest encroachments on the rights of our Civic Parliament. If you consider Sir Pherozechah's regular attendance at meetings of the Corporation, with which he has now been connected for upwards of the past 30 years; if you also bear in mind the number of important committees of the Corporation on which he has sat because his presence at their deliberations was indispensable; and if you at the same time recall the number of questions of vital importance to the City effectually dealt with, with his help; and the number of questions still under consideration with the assistance of Sir Pherozechah's ripe experience and sound judgment, you will get some idea of the time and trouble he has devoted to the City's interests. To a lawyer, and a lawyer of Sir Pherozechah's calibre with an extensive practice at his back, time and trouble, as you can well understand, means a great deal. The hours spent and the trouble, taken from week to week, from month to month, and from year to year in the Municipal Hall for the past three decades, if computed at their value would amount to, I am afraid to say how much. Calculate it for yourselves, gentlemen, and you will get some idea of the sacrifice Sir Pherozechah Mehta is making and also of the extent to which the City of Bombay is beholden to him and has to be grateful to him for. It is this self-sacrifice, this devotion to duty, this spirit of patriotism, this love for the City of his birth that constitute Sir Pherozechah Mehta's claim on the respect and admiration of his countrymen. It is all these that endear him to them, and in my opinion furnish the true cause of his popularity and account for the fact of the news of the honour conferred on Sir Pherozechah Mehta by H. M. the King being everywhere received with the utmost satisfaction and without a discordant note from any quarter whatsoever.

Speaking of Sir Pherozechah Mehta as a Corporator reminds us also of his career as a member of the Supreme Legislative Council and of the Council of H. E. the Governor of Bombay. The latter office Sir Pherozechah Mehta has held off and on for about the last 20 years and regularly for upwards of the last 10. You will all join me in the expression of the hope that he may continue to belong to it for many a year to come doing, if it be possible, greater credit to himself and more useful service to the public. The wisdom and foresight displayed by our guest in both these assemblies has been remarkable and such as to shed lustre on any individual. His career in both may well be studied by those already in public life as well as those desirous of entering it. Endowed with great powers of independence and eloquence, Sir Pherozechah has never abused his gifts to embarrass Government or to set up the rulers and the ruled one against the

other. He has refrained from putting forward before Government unreasonable demands for the sake of adding to the already existing, many difficulties of administration. He has never allowed himself to be the advocate of negative and carping criticism of Government measures or of opposing them for the sake of opposition. He has never been known to abuse the right of interpellation and to take up the time of the Council by irrelevant questions or questions of departmental detail. Just as Sir Pherozezshah Mehta at times has been an unsparing critic of the measures of Government, so also has he been generous in properly appreciating their motives. Occasions may be remembered in which he has supported the official view of things just as, availing himself to the full of the freedom of speech and right of debate, he has subjected it at other times to severe handling.

Gentlemen, I could say a good deal more that you would have no difficulty to endorse about our distinguished guest, but for the present I shall content myself with the observation that Sir Pherozezshah Mehta has throughout his life acted on the saying: 'Do noble deeds, not dream them all day long.' The purity of his motives, his singleness of purpose, his high standard of public morality, his extreme disinterestedness, his life-long public service remind me on the present occasion of the words of the author who says:—'Princes and Kings may confer honours or rather titles and names of honour, but it is a man's own action which must make him truly honourable. Every man's life is the herald's office from which he must derive and fetch that which must blazon him to the world, honour being but the reflection of a man's own actions showing bright in the face of all about him and from thence rebounding on himself.'

I now ask you, gentlemen, to join with me in congratulating Sir Pherozezshah Mehta on behalf of the Ripon Club for the honour that has been conferred upon him and in the expression of the hope that he may long be spared to enjoy it and to continue his career of public usefulness. I ask you to drink with honour the health of Sir Pherozezshah Mehta of whom I may well say: First amongst the Indian Bar; First amongst Indian Councillors, and First in the hearts of his countrymen.

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## APPENDIX M.

### ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE CORPORATION.

[From the "Times of India" of April 7, 1905.]

The ordinary monthly meeting of the members of the Bombay Municipal Corporation was held at the Municipal Offices yesterday afternoon.

On the motion of Sir Bhalchandra Krishna, Mr James Macdonald was voted to the chair and said the first business before the Corporation was the election of the President for the ensuing year.

Sir Bhalchandra Krishna, in accordance with a notice of motion, proposed that the Hon. Sir Pherozechah Merwanjee Mehta, M. A., K. C. I. E., etc, be appointed President of the Corporation for the year 1905-06. He said :—Mr. Chairman, I consider it a special privilege to have the honour to propose for occupying the presidential chair during the current year the name of a councillor who has for many years enjoyed our highest confidence, esteem and respect, and who has, from year to year, himself exercised the privilege of proposing other councillors to that high civic honour. As you are aware, three councillors other than the councillor I am proposing were aspirants this year for this office. But having regard to the forthcoming visit of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to India and anxious that our beloved city should offer its welcome to the Royal guests by the hands of her best and most distinguished representative and citizen, several of our councillors in a body made a pressing request to the Hon'ble Sir P. M. Mehta, the illustrious and worthy leader of the Corporation, to consent to be elected as our President, and he was good enough to comply with the request, though not without considerable reluctance. (Applause.) In proposing Sir Pherozechah as President, it is hardly necessary for me in this hall to do anything more than merely to name him. To recount his services is to recount the history of this Corporation. Sir Pherozechah has been connected with the Corporation from a time when several of us were in our teens and some of us were yet unborn. He took a prominent part in the stormy debates of the Justices, and in a paper on Municipal Reform, read before the Bombay Branch of the East India Association, he foreshadowed an elective constitution for the Corporation which it is not too much to say served as a basis for the legislation of 1872, and later on for that of 1888. He has already been twice our President, in 1884-85 and 1885-86. His previous presidentships have been marked by some notable events in

the history of this Corporation and his third Presidentship will, it may be expected, be no less memorable. His services in bringing into shape the present Municipal Act of 1888, can never be forgotten. His unique familiarity with the past history of the Corporation, his grasp of details, his mastery of the Act, his quick judgment and his strength of character make him an ideal president. During his Municipal career extending over nearly 35 years, he has taken the deepest interest and the most active and intelligent part in the Municipal government of this city, and many and varied are the questions which have engaged his earnest attention and which have been so far satisfactorily dealt with. The settlement of the police charges, the Government contribution in aid of primary education, the apportionment of plague charges, the question of the Corporation's proper share of the revenue derived from liquor and tobacco licenses, the defining of the powers of the Plague Committee, the proper drainage of the city and the distribution of the water supply, the purchase of the tramways, these and other questions too numerous to mention, have from time to time as they came up before the Corporation, been dealt with in a most masterly manner by the Hon'ble Sir Pherozeshah who has applied to the consideration of them, energy, wisdom, far-sightedness, legal acumen, and perseverance such as to command the admiration of all. This Corporation owes him a deep debt of gratitude for his disinterested and valuable services in the cause of local self-government, and I may mention without any fear of contradiction, that he has justly earned the high position of the leader of this Corporation by his perfect mastery of the facts and details of every important question, his persuasive and convincing eloquence and his readiness in finding out the true issues of every question, and guiding the debates of the Corporation. In his attendance at the meetings of the Corporation and its numerous committees he has been remarkably regular, which for a man of his profession means a considerable self-sacrifice. His work in the Corporation has, however, been to him a labour of love. It has moreover not been confined to what he has been able to do in the Corporation itself. For we all know that as the representative of the Corporation on the Local Legislative Council from 1893 he has always zealously guarded the interests of the city especially in connection with the Amendment Act and the passing of the City of Bombay Improvement Trust and the Police Acts. In my remarks to-day, gentlemen, my object has been to limit myself strictly to our friend's services to our Corporation only, and I have therefore not alluded to his eminent work as a member of the Supreme Legislative Council or in any other capacity. No Indian occupies a more commanding or a more universally trusted position in the country to-day than Sir Pherozeshah and all the great influence which he thus wields and all his great distinction, he has

freely and unreservedly placed at the disposal of this Corporation. His Majesty the King-Emperor was pleased last year to recognise his valuable services by conferring on him the Knighthood of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, an honour which this Corporation regarded as a signal distinction conferred on itself and for which it signified its appreciation and thankfulness in a becoming manner. Gentlemen, it is such a great man and distinguished colleague that I have the honour to propose as President of this Corporation for the current year. It means in one way a loss to us. When he is locked up in the chair he will not be able to join in our debates, and we shall thus be deprived of the guidance which as an ordinary member he has ever been ready to give. But this loss will doubtless be more than made up for by the elevated tone which our deliberations will receive under his presidentship. I have every hope that you will carry this proposition with acclamation. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Sassoon J. David, in seconding the proposition, said after what had fallen from Sir Bhalchandra Krishna he felt he had very little to say. Sir Pherozezshah had had a long and honourable connection with the Municipality, and the great and valuable services he had rendered to the city were very well known, and therefore it seemed superfluous to refer to them. It was very proper that Sir Pherozezshah, who had done so much for the Municipality, should be the President of the Corporation for the year and to have the honour of receiving on behalf of the Corporation their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales on the occasion of their visit to India. They all knew that Sir Pherozezshah had occupied the President's chair on two former occasions and it was acknowledged that he had done so with ability, and there was every reason to believe he would again occupy the chair with even greater fitness. He hoped the proposition would be carried with acclamation

The Hon. Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtoola said he would add one word in support of the resolution that had been placed before them. It appeared to him that both the mover and seconder of the resolution had very fully referred to the excellent services Sir Pherozezshah had rendered to the city. He thought that every councillor was fully aware of the nature of those services and considered Sir Pherozezshah, in accepting the request of the councillors to preside over their meetings had placed them all under a deep obligation. It was not without some hesitation that Sir Pherozezshah had been requested to occupy the chair, because it was felt that the loss of the services which he had given to the Corporation as a member would be a loss to the city, but it was trusted that while he occupied the chair he would extend to them his help and guidance in the disposal of important questions that would come up for discussion. Mr. Ibrahim did not think that any further introduction was needed for them to accept

the proposition which had been placed before them with loud and prolonged cheers.

Dr. K. E. Dadachanji, in supporting the resolution, said that when the history of the Corporation came to be written, Sir Pherozeshah would be its central figure, for by his great ability and the tone he had introduced in municipal life he would stand out to posterity as the greatest man of his time. People might say that by appointing Sir Pherozeshah they were going to muzzle him ; if that was so, they were going to muzzle him and to show what a great man he was by keeping him at a distance for a whole year. (Laughter)

Dr. N. H. Sukhia thought that he would be wanting in his duty if he did not say a few words. He said there might be differences of opinion in the municipal debates, but as the year had started afresh, he had expected briefness of speeches, whereas he found twenty five minutes had been taken up in proposing the election of a president.

Mr. Jehangir B. Petit considered that by honouring Sir Pherozeshah the members would be honouring themselves. He had guided members of the Corporation in the methods and performance of their duties and now they were going to see him in a new phase altogether in which he would be able to teach them how to do their duty as a president. His great ability and coolness had brought him forward among the citizens of Bombay and had made a name that would lead people to say ' here is a true Indian.'

Dr. Jehangir Cursetjee described Sir Pherozeshah as one who had always been regarded as a respected leader.

Mr. D. E. Wacha alluded to the fact that Dick Whittington had thrice been elected Lord Mayor of London, and now Sir Pherozeshah was being elected ' Lord Mayor of Bombay' for the third time.

The resolution was then carried with acclamation.

Mr. James Macdonald said the resolution had been carried very unanimously and with prolonged acclamation and he had nothing to do but to welcome Sir Pherozeshah to the chair. (Applause.)

Sir Pherozeshah in taking the chair said he was sure they would allow him to say that he had been scarcely able to recognise himself for the last few minutes in the extremely ideal pictures which had been placed before them as the person whom they were going to elect their President. However, he was perfectly sure of one thing, and it was that he should be setting a very bad example to them for the rest of the year, if he were to make a lengthy speech in reply to the exceedingly kind observations which had fallen from the gentlemen who had proposed and supported his nomination. His friend, Sir Bhalchandra, was quite right when he said, and he confessed it, that it was with considerable hesitation that he had brought himself to undertake the task which they had thought fit to impose upon him. He could assure the Corporation he was extremely touched and was

very greatly indebted to them for the friendliness of the feeling, the kindly appreciation and the generous confidence which had always been extended to him by the members of the Corporation, past and present, and which, he believed, had led them to propose him as the person to preside over their deliberations during the ensuing year. He trusted and prayed that they would extend to him the same friendly feeling, appreciation and confidence in trying to discharge the duties which belonged to this high and honourable post ; and working and co-operating in that spirit, he was perfectly sure, they would maintain the high and honourable traditions that had always belonged to this chair and to this Corporation. (Hear, hear.) He would only say one word more, and it was that every member had a right to expect at his hands the utmost and entire fairness and courtesy in the conduct of the chair, and he hoped that when he retired from this office they would be able to say that he had used his best endeavours to conduct his presidentship with entire fairness and courtesy. (Applause.)

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