

MEMOIRS AND ANECDOTES
OF
THE
EMPEROR OF INDIA

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REMINISCENCES AND ANECDOTES
OF
GREAT MEN OF INDIA,

BOTH OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL FOR THE
LAST ONE HUNDRED YEARS.

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EDITED & PUBLISHED
BY
RAM GOPAL SANYAL.

AUTHOR OF THE LIFE OF THE LATE BABU KRISTO DAS
PAL AND OTHER WORKS.

PART I.

Calcutta.

PRINTED BY WOOMA CHURN CHUKERBUTTY,
AT THE HERALD PRINTING WORKS.

189, Bow BAZAR STREET.

1894.

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Price Cloth-bound Rs. 2-8.

Paper-bound Rs. 2.

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DEDICATED

TO THE

Sacred Memory.

OF

SREEMUTTY MON MOHINY DABEE,

AND

SREEMUTTY RAJUBALA DABEE,

*My first and Second Wives whose untimely
death in Rapid Succession had made the life of
this poor contented Author miserable for ever.*

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PREFACE.

It has been said that the 'Reminiscences and Anecdotes' of the great men of a nation are the "marrows and bone" of its true history. If the aphorism be true, why should not the educated natives India store up in their minds the reminiscences and anecdotes of the immortal Hurish Chunder Mukherjea, Ram Gopal Ghose, the Rev. K. M. Banerjea, Dr. Bhau Daji, Sir Monguldas Nathubhai, the Hon'ble Biswanath Mundlik, Mr. Patcheapah Moodelly, Sir Mathuswami Iyer and others equally distinguished. Most of the educated natives can recite, with perfect ease, what Boswell had said and Macaulay written about Johnson for instance, but they know not, whether Patcheapah Moodelly or the Hon'ble Bishwanath Mundlik was a Hindoo or a Christian.

For the last thirty years, since my connection with the Metropolitan press, I have been collecting these materials from various newspapers from the year 1837 down to the present time. In the absence of a well-written and authentic Indian History from a purely native point of view, I have ventured to publish this my humble work, with a view to rescue these precious Anecdotes and Reminiscences of the Great men of India, from the dark shade of oblivion, with what success, it is for the readers to say. The main portion of my materials having been picked up from nearly a hundred isolated old files of newspapers that are to be found in the Metcalfe Library, I have failed to arrange them in a strictly chronological form.

In arranging these materials, I have, in certain places, reproduced the extracts verbatim, and in other places abridged and annotated them for the sake of brevity. For these and other and defects, of which no one is more conscious than myself, I crave due indulgence from my readers.

No one who has had experience in hunting up old records will under-rate the trouble that has been incurred. This is a country in which records themselves are few and meagre, so indifferent are our countrymen to the necessity of preserving a history. And such records as existed at one time it is difficult to lay hands on, so little care has been bestowed on their custody. This little work, therefore, has no pretension to exhaustiveness, and it does not claim to be monumental. But for its shortcomings I may be permitted to plead in all humility that the fault is not wholly my own. To make a full use of existing materials it is necessary that the compiler should have some facilities given to him and

should have the necessary material resources. I have not received help enough in either of these directions. My efforts to obtain information concerning the distinguished men of other presidencies than my own, have been very little successful, owing to the indifference of the gentlemen appealed to, and the difficulty of obtaining access to the newspapers of those presidencies. About Bengal Celebrities I believe I have made a fair collection, but I regret that I have not been able to present the full results of my researches in this volume. Should the present effort receive due encouragement I would be in a position to give to the world all that I am now compelled to withhold, with such additional information as I may be fortunate enough to collect in the meantime. It is unfortunate that we have no Dictionary of National Biography nor a National History, and I trust it will be no presumption if I say that my humble volume and its successor, if one should appear, may in some small measure lighten the work of the future historian. A nation never makes progress or grows in self-respect without an appreciation of its great men. We have, as a rule, shown little appreciation so far, for we have generally allowed our great men to be forgotten, and I trust that my poor effort, whatever its literary worth, may at any rate be found to have a moral value. One word only it is necessary to add, to close a preface already too long for a work so little. History is no respecter of persons, and I hope I shall be pardoned if I have unearthed some records the memory of which will be a sad one to all who care for the good name of great men, official or non-official.

It would be ingratitude on my part, if I did not take this opportunity to acknowledge that the publication of this book is greatly indebted to the munificence of Her Highness the Maharanee Surnomoye C. I., Sir Maharajah Jotindra Mohun Tagore, the Hon'ble Justice Gurudas Banerjea, and the Hon'ble Doctor Rash Behary Ghose.

CALCUTTA,
23, Doctor's Lane, TALTOLLAH, }
15th August, 1894.

RAM GOPAL SANYAL.

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