

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE'S
INDIAN LETTERS

*A glimpse into the agitation for tenancy reform,
Bengal, 1878-82.*

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TO
MY FATHER
PRASANNA KUMAR SEN
TO WHOM THESE LETTERS HAD BEEN ADDRESSED
BY
FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE
WHOSE LOVE FOR HUMANITY
TRANSCENDED GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITATIONS



PREFACE

The fame of Florence Nightingale as a Servant of Humanity has spread all over the world, but her interest in India is not so widely known. The letters that form the contents of the present volume were found by me in my father's papers years ago. They had been addressed to him and they contain sufficient indication of her concern for the Indian peasant. They are now published in view of the fact that tenancy problems are receiving public attention at the present moment and the interest felt may be stimulated by the knowledge that the cause of the ryot was dear to the heart of such an illustrious personality as Florence Nightingale.

I take this opportunity to thank the management of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and the proprietor of the *Hindu Patriot* for kindly allowing me to consult their old files. My thanks are due also to the Editors of the *Calcutta Review* and the *Modern Review* for permission to reprint here some of these letters that had appeared in their journals during 1930-31.

The excellent biography of Florence Nightingale in two volumes by Sir Edward Cook (Macmillan, 1913), it is needless to say, has been of considerable help to me.

This work owes much to Professor P. C. Ghosh for his kind interest in the subject, and to Srijut Jyotish chandra Ray for his going through the proofs.

PRIYARANJAN SEN