

WOMEN OF BENGAL

A Study of the Hindu Pardanasins
of Calcutta. By Margaret M. Urquhart.



THE WOMEN OF INDIA SERIES

that my relation has been not merely that of a spectator or a teacher, but one of friendship and real intimacy. Without this first-hand acquaintance, it would be presumption to attempt a description of Bengali home-life and character ; with it, one may at least essay the task, although conscious of gaps in one's knowledge and of inevitable misinterpretations. The motive of writing at all is a genuine desire to gain and to pass on a better understanding of the life of our fellow-subjects in Bengal than is within reach of most Europeans in India.

No one can become familiar with the women of Bengal without learning much from the simplicity and piety of their lives. The virtues of the olden time still shine in the ways of many a well-ordered Hindu household, and the Hindus have good cause to be proud of their womenfolk. I should like to offer this book as a tribute to the sweetness and strength that I have found within the walls of Calcutta's homes, and as an expression of gratitude for the happiness that has come to me from the intercourse I have been allowed to enjoy with the dwellers in these homes.

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M.M.U.

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