



THE HON. SIR BROJENDRA MITTER.

INDIAN JUDGES

BIOGRAPHICAL & CRITICAL SKETCHES

WITH PORTRAITS

FOREWORD BY

THE HON. SIR BROJENDRA MITTER, K.C.S.I.

Law Member of the Government of India.

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FOREWORD

SECTION 101 of the Government of India Act provides for the constitution of the High Courts in British India. The four classes of Judges are, shortly speaking: (1) Barristers, (2) Members of the Indian Civil Service, (3) Persons having held judicial office, and (4) Pleaders. This classification was first made in the Indian High Courts Act, 1861 (24 and 25 Vic., C. 104). Sir Charles Wood, Secretary of State for India, in his Despatch dated the 14th May 1862, which accompanied the Letters Patent for the High Court of Calcutta, said: "The Crown by its Letters Patent has sanctioned the establishment of a tribunal as the Chief Court of Justice in India, which in the trained learning of the Judges selected from the Bar, and in the knowledge of the language, feelings and habits of that country possessed by other members of the Court, combines the most material elements of success."

Since 1862, Judges of Indian race have been appointed to all the High Courts in India, and they form a glorious band who have fully justified the anticipation of Sir Charles Wood. By learning, knowledge of the feelings and habits of the people, independence and integrity, Indian Judges have maintained the highest traditions of justice. Their

greatest achievement has naturally been in the realm of the personal laws of the Indians. They have illumined the obscure, elucidated cardinal principles, reconciled differences and helped in the progressive growth of ancient laws through enlightened interpretation. At a time when few of the old texts were available to the uninitiated through translations, they explored original sources and brought to light the structure and organization of the different systems of law which governed the divers communities of India. Their service to jurisprudence has been of great value. The Judges whose memoirs are embodied in this volume, are some of the most distinguished in the roll of great Indian lawyers and Judges. I hope the beginning made in this volume will inspire a future Indian Campbell to undertake more ambitious annals.

New Delhi,
April 3rd, 1932. }

BROJENDRA MITTER.

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welcome to lawyers who aspire for eminence in their profession, as in these pages they come in contact with the story of the trials and struggles and the final triumphs of men who have risen to fame from very modest beginnings. It cannot fail to interest the layman as well by the many inspiring examples of conquest by steady and patient work.

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