

Dr. Sir. CHIMANLAL H. SETALVAD

A Biography

By

J. R. B. JEEJEEBHOY, J.P.,

Editor,

*Some Unpublished Speeches & Writings of Sir
Pherozeshah Mehta*

With a Preface

By

A. N. JOSHI, B. A., LL. B.,

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BOMBAY

1939.

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D. B. TARAPOREVALA SONS & CO.
BOOKSELLERS & PUBLISHERS
"TREASURE HOUSE OF BOOKS"
HORNBY ROAD, FORT, BOMBAY

1939.

Printed at
VAKIL & SONS PRESS,
by
K. R. SUDDER,
Narandas Building, 18, Ballard Estate,
BOMBAY.

and Published by
Prof. CHANDRAKANT H. MEHTA, M.A.,
at Ratilal Building, Bhat Wadi,
Opera House, BOMBAY 4.

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Mr. Ambelal N. Joshi, Advocate,
the author of Sir Chimanlal's biography in Gujarati.

P R E F A C E

A word or two as regards the origin of this volume and the motive which has led me to publish it at this juncture will, I think, not be out of place.

As an admirer of Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, the veteran politician and lawyer, I made up my mind five years ago to compile materials for an extensive biography of him in *Gujarati* and survey his public career which would interest the public. Great as he is as a politician he is greater still as a man and a lawyer. He is above all a magnificent architect of his own fortune. The biography of such an individual will necessarily have an educative and inspiring effect on the rising generation of the country.

I had requested a distinguished Liberal of Northern India and my friend Mr. J. R. B. Jeejeebhoy to write a Foreword and an Introduction, respectively, to this *Gujarati* work and to my great satisfaction both these gentlemen acceded to my request. Mr. Jeejeebhoy with his characteristic courtesy and diligence, and out of respect for his leader, wrote out such a compact and self-sufficing Introduction that it formed, as it were, a comprehensive biography in miniature of Sir Chimanlal in English. I showed this literary composition to some of my colleagues at the High Court Bar and to several of Sir Chimanlal's intimate friends all of

whom agreed that while it will form a part of the *Gujarati* biography as originally conceived, it might usefully be separately printed for the English reading public and hence I decided to publish it in book form at this stage in anticipation of my *Gujarati* book.

Mr. Jeejeebhoy, the learned author, needs no introduction to the public. He is well known to them by his contribution to the Bombay papers on historical subjects. Suffice it to say that he is a student of Parsee history and culture and is an authority on the history of Bombay, old as well as new, of which he has made a special study. Modest, unassuming and outwardly reserved, he is a typical product of Western education. He writes in mid-Victorian style, catching and inimitable and I feel confident that the public will fully appreciate the justice he has done to Sir Chimanlal's public career extending over well-nigh half a century.

The author is a staunch liberal having sat at the feet of Sir Pherozeshah Mehta whose Unpublished Speeches and Writings he has edited. He also gave a Broadcast Talk on this great patriot from the Delhi Radio Station in 1937. By his long connection with the Liberal School of thought, he has been able to appreciate and interpret the contribution made by Sir Chimanlal to the political evolution of the country by maintaining faithfully and nobly the glorious traditions of his political *Guru* Sir Pherozeshah under whose guidance he took his first lessons in public life.

A well-written biography of Sir Chimanlal was indeed a desideratum and Mr. Jeejeebhoy's illuminating and artistic life-sketch of him, though short yet so interesting and readable, will, I trust, be appreciated and welcomed by the reading public and especially by his colleagues at the Bar, by politicians of all shades all over India and Sir Chimanlal's friends and admirers both in this Presidency and the country at large. I have great pleasure therefore in publishing this excellent volume and I really thank him in all sincerity for obliging me by devoting his valuable time in delving into old newspaper files and government records and writing this life-sketch which will also form the Introduction of my *Gujarati* biography of Sir Chimanlal expected to be out early in June.

*High Court, Bombay, }
20th April, 1939. }*

AMBELAL N. JOSHI



Mr. J. R. B. Jeejeebhoy, the author.

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