

14 JUN 1928

# INDIAN CHRISTIANS

BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL SKETCHES

OF

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MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH.*

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## • INTRODUCTION.

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THIS is a companion volume to the Publishers' recent book of Sketches of EMINENT MUSSALMANS. An attempt is here made to record the lives and achievements of some Indian Christians who have contributed their bit to the making of Modern India. India, it has been said, is the meeting place of diverse cultures and civilizations which have profoundly influenced the course of her history. Not the least of such influences has been due to the impact of Christian thought and ideals.

Evangelization and education have been the principal features of missionary effort in India. Once a negligible community both socially and numerically, Indian Christians have now attained a position of considerable influence and conscious strength. And the pick of them have shed lustre on the country in their several avocations. For poets like Michael Madhusudan Dutt and Narayan

Vaman Tilak, educationists like Krishna Mohan Banerji and Principal Rudra, scholars like Prof. Ramachandra and Mr. Swamikannu Pillai, Ministers of the Church like Lal Behari Dey, Nehemiah Goreh, Sathianathan, and the Bishop of Dornakal, publicists like Kali Charan Banerjee, mystics like Sadhu Sundar Singh, social servants like Pandita Ramabhai and public workers like Dr. Datta and Mr. K. T. Paul—to mention only a few names from different parts of India—are ornaments to any community, nay to any country, to which they may belong. Indeed, the days are long gone by when to be a Christian was to be outlandish in spirit and in mode of life. Indian Christians now happily feel the country to be their own quite as much as members of other communities ; and, in fact, some of their leaders have been in the vanguard of our struggle for political emancipation. More than that, even those who had not felt impelled to take part in politics have stood by the principle of nationalism in its subtler and more spiritual aspect. They have withstood the one-time craze for

western habits and European languages and rigorously vindicated the beauty of the culture and civilization of their Motherland. Indian missionaries have not hesitated to fight for the nationalisation of the Church, and the movement for self-government within the Church will probably be sooner realised than the movement for self-government in the State. One has only to recall the efforts of Rev. Sathianathan and Dr. Chatterjee to realise how intensely patriotic have been the Ministers of the Church and how the spirit of nationality is permeating every sphere of our public work.

It is hoped that this attempt to chronicle the lives and achievements of some noted Indian Christians will meet with the recognition it deserves.

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