LETTERS TO A FRIEND.
Rabindranath Tagore

From the dry point by Muirhead Bone
Rabindranath Tagore

LETTERS TO A FRIEND

Edited with
Two Introductory Essays by
C. F. ANDREWS

London
GEORGE ALLEN & UNWIN LTD
Museum Street
TO

THE MEMORY OF

W. WINSTANLEY PEARSON
PREFACE

The letters contained in this volume were written to me by Rabindranath Tagore during the years 1913–1922. Many of them were published in India, in the Modern Review, and also in book form, under the title Letters from Abroad. The present volume represents an entire revision and enlargement of that book, of which only a few copies reached England. The material has now been divided into chapters, with a brief explanatory summary of the circumstances in which the letters were written.

It is a pleasure to me to thank Mr. Ramananda Chatterjee, editor of the Modern Review, and Mr. S. Ganesan, publisher, Madras, for permission to use the letters included in this volume, which have already appeared in India. I would also thank Messrs. Macmillan for leave to quote in full the poem on page 52, and Mr. Kelk for his kind help in proof correction.

With the Poet’s sanction, this volume has been dedicated to the memory of my own dear friend and fellow-worker at Santiniketan, William Winstanley Pearson. He accompanied me on journeys undertaken with Rabindranath Tagore in different parts of the world, and also was my companion when I travelled with him alone to South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. He was with the Poet in Europe and America at the time
when many of these letters were written, and is often referred to in them. His death, owing to a railway accident in Italy in 1923—just when he was at the height of his powers of service and love—has made the fellowship between East and West, for which Santiniketan stands, doubly sacred to us all. He had two homes, one in Manchester and one at Santiniketan, both of them very dear to him. In each his memory is still fresh after the lapse of years.

Any profit from this book will be devoted to the Pearson Memorial Hospital at Santiniketan, which is open to our neighbours, the Santal aboriginals, as well as to the members of the Asram. Willie Pearson’s great joy at Santiniketan was to visit these Santal villagers along with the boys of the Asram. He built a school and a well for them and did other acts of service. There could be no more suitable way of preserving his memory than such a hospital.

In conclusion, my special thanks are due to Muirhead Bone and Mukul Dey for their kindness in allowing me to use their drypoint etchings, and to William Rothenstein for the facsimile of the Poet’s handwriting. They all shared with me the friendship of Willie Pearson, to whose memory this book is dedicated.

C. F. ANDREWS

October 1928
# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEDICATION</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREFACE</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSAY ON THE BENGAL RENAISSANCE</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSAY ON THE PERSONALITY OF TAGORE</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF INDIAN NAMES TRANSLATED</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER I</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER II</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER III</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER IV</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER V</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER VI</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER VII</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER VIII</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX I</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX II</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ILLUSTRATIONS

ETCHING OF RABINDRANATH TAGORE  
*Frontispiece*

*From the drypoint by Muirhead Bone*

FACSIMILE OF TAGORE'S MSS.  
32

ETCHING OF RABINDRANATH TAGORE  
80

*From the drypoint by Mukul Dey*

ETCHING OF RABINDRANATH TAGORE  
120

*From the drypoint by Mukul Dey*
INDEX OF NAMES

Agra, 49  
Allahabad, 50  
Amal, 172  
America, 69, 83, 98, etc.  
Amritsar, 83  
Antwerp, 96  
Arab, 13  
Aryan, 157  
Aryanism, 144  
Australia, 80  

Bankim, 17  
Belgium, 46  
Benares, 100  
Bengal, 9, 13, 14, 15, 20, 23, etc.  
Berlin, 170, 171  
Bokhara, 84  
Bolpur, 35  
Brahman, 131  
British Empire, 187  
Brussels, 96  
Buddha, 76, 106, 109, etc.  
Buddhism, 174  
Burke, Edmund, 153  

Calcutta, 53, 127, etc.  
Canadian, 174  
Chandidas, 23  
Chatterjee Ramananda, 9  
Chicago, 125, 127, 128, etc.  
China, 58, 69, 98, etc.  
Chitra, 180  
Christ, 134, 143, 154, 192  
Christmas, 52  
Czecho-Slovakia, 170, 171  

Darjeeling, 25  
Darmstadt, 173  
Datta, Satyendranath, 147  
Denmark, 168  
Dey Mukul, 55, 68, 69  
Dinu, 173  
Druid, 91  
Dutt, Michael, 17  
Dutt Toru, 17  
Dyer, 151  
Dyer, Dyerism, 87, 91, 511  

East, Far, 57, 68  
Egypt, 98  
England, English, 13, 17, 37, 62, etc.  
Eucken, 163  
Europe, 9, 13, 63, 84, 98, etc.  
Fiji, 58, 66, 70  
France, 94  

Gandhi, Mahatma, 55, 92, 95, 127, 152, 153, 165  
Gandhi, Mrs., 55  
Ganesan, 9  
Ganges, 27, 159  
Geddes, Dr. Patrick, 89  
Geneva, 161  
Germany, Germans, 93, 94, 123, etc.  
Gitanjali, 23, 103  
Greece, 98, 100  
Greenwich (America), 117  

Hafiz, 85  
Hamburg, 94  
Harnack, 163  
Hauptmann, 163  
Himalayas, 26  
Hinduism, 109, 144  
Holland, 94  
Houston, Texas, 124  

India, Indian, 62, 67, 70, 76, etc.  
Innisfree, 120  
Ireland, 91, 152, 153  
Islam, 9  
Italian, 136  

Jallianwala Bagh, 83  
Japan, 58, 63, 69, 83, etc.  
Jorashanko, 115  
Judaism, 134  

Kabir, 110, 165, 166  
Kali, 61  
Kensington Gardens, 88  
Kensington, South, 21  
Keyserling, Count, 173  
Koreans, 154
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index of Names</th>
<th>195</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macaulay, 14, 15</td>
<td>Ramgarh, 35, 42, 43, 44, 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macbeth, Lady, 49</td>
<td>Ram Mohun Roy, 15, 16, 109, 165, 167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madras, 9</td>
<td>Rheims, 94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharshi (see Tagore, Debendranath), 16, 57</td>
<td>Rhynard, s.s., 139, 141, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maitra, Dr., 47</td>
<td>Rolland, Romain, 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester Guardian, 189</td>
<td>Rome, 98, 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manu, 138</td>
<td>Rudra, Principal, 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marseilles, 84</td>
<td>Rudra Sudhir, 89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediterranean, 161, 171</td>
<td>Russia, 123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesopotamia, 91</td>
<td>Sadhana, 180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milton, 17</td>
<td>Sahara, 113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitra, Santosh, 74</td>
<td>Samarkand, 85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Review, 49</td>
<td>Sanskrit, 33, 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morea, s.s., 174, etc.</td>
<td>Santal, 19, 34, 78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morris, 106</td>
<td>Santiniketan, 9, 28, 33, 37, 47, 57, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muhammadan, 109, 144</td>
<td>Saxons, 144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mukul (see Dey)</td>
<td>Scott, C. P., 189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumtaz, 148</td>
<td>Seeley, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munich, 170</td>
<td>Shah-Jehan, 148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naini Tal, 36</td>
<td>Shileida, 28, 33, 72, 73, 75, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanak, 110, 165, 166</td>
<td>South Africa, 36, 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nandanal, 55</td>
<td>Srinagar, Kashmir, 70, 71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narayan, 128</td>
<td>Stockholm, 168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal, 75</td>
<td>Strasbourg, 159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevinson, H. W., 152</td>
<td>Sudha, 172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York, 101, 103, 104, etc.</td>
<td>Sujata, 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normans, 144</td>
<td>Surul, 35, 36, 47, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway, 89</td>
<td>Sweden, 168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otto, Dr., 172</td>
<td>Switzerland, 69, 163, 168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sydney, 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pabna, 75</td>
<td>Tagore, Debendranath, 16, 57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific, 69</td>
<td>Tagore, Rabindranath, 13, 16, 19, 21, 59, 101, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Padma, 35, 53, 58, 61, 75, 138, 175, 176</td>
<td>Texas, 124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paris, 89, 90, 91, etc.</td>
<td>Thadani, 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearson, W. W., 9, 10, 36, 58, 60, 70, 75, 81, 88, etc.</td>
<td>United States, 187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persian, 85</td>
<td>Upanishad, 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plato, 145, 147</td>
<td>Uttarayan, 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth, 150</td>
<td>Vaishnava, 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prabasi, 123</td>
<td>Vichitra, 35, 131, 172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prague, 170</td>
<td>Vidyapati, 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjab, 64</td>
<td>Visva-bharati, 35, 82, 98, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quaker, 103</td>
<td>Zürich, 160, 163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajput, 55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Indian Philosophy
By S. RADHAKRISHNAN
George V Professor of Philosophy in the University of Calcutta

"It is among the most considerable of the essays in interpretation that have come from Indian scholars in recent years. English readers are continually on the look-out for a compendium of Indian thought written by a modern with a gift for lucid statement. Here is the book for them."—New Statesman.

"We are fortunate in that Professor Radhakrishnan is evidently deeply read in the philosophy of the West, and shows considerable acquaintance with general Western literature; a happy blend of Eastern conceptions with Western terminology makes the book intelligible even to the inexpert and, it need hardly be said, instructive."—Times.

The Hindu View of Life
By S. RADHAKRISHNAN
Cr. 8vo. Upton Lectures, Oxford, 1926 5s.

"It should be studied by missionaries and others who have the high and responsible task of representing our culture in the East... An admirable exposition of the basis of Aryan philosophy."—Spectator.

The Search
By J. KRISHNAMURTI
La. Cr. 8vo.

In this book of poetry there is an inspiring message for millions of the sore in spirit who are searching for a true inward road to happiness. That marvellous mysticism of the East which, in spite of poverty and physical privation, has made people happier and more contented than in the wealth-swollen West, pervades these poems. They seem like the writing of a man who has been somehow strangely close to his God.

The Kingdom of Happiness
By J. KRISHNAMURTI
La. Cr. 8vo. With Photograph. Fourth Impression 3s. 6d.

"His simplicity of expression makes him easy to understand, and the little book will doubtless bring fresh stimulus and comfort to many hundreds of readers."—Westminster Gazette.

"He has written a beautiful little book which can be read with profit by all who care for the deeper things of life."—Western Daily Press.
Mystic Lyrics from the Indian Middle Ages

TRANSLATED BY R. T. GRIBBLE

La. Cr. 8vo. About 5s.

The poems of this interesting collection are strongly individual, and vary enormously in style and content. They are marked by beauty, simplicity, and originality; above all, by sincerity. The poems of the various authors are prefaced by interesting short biographical notes.

Light from the East

Being Letters on Gñanam, the Divine Knowledge

EDITED BY EDWARD CARPENTER

Cr. 8vo. With Two Portraits in Photogravure 6s.

"We owe Mr. Carpenter a debt of gratitude for giving us these letters. ... They are altogether delightful."—Spectator.

The Divine Songs of Zarathustra

BY D. J. IRANI

Introduction by RABINDRANATH TAGORE

Cr. 8vo. 5s.

"A wonderfully clear and succinct account of Zarathustra's monotheistic system. ... The versions show, in their simplicity and harmony, an extraordinary control of English."—Irish Independent.

Seven Days with God

BY ABRAHAM MITRIE RIHBANY

Cr. 8vo. Author of "The Syrian Christ," etc. 7s. 6d.

This book is dedicated to "my inspirers, those whose supreme quest in life is the study and practice of spiritual truth," and the writing of it is in perfect accord. There is a real danger of civilization becoming more and more materialistic in its development, and it is Dr. Rihbany's argument that God must be found and served in the office and factory as well as the church if civilization is not going to be a mere misnomer for the worst kind of barbarism. Dr. Rihbany also discusses, among many other things, the relation of religion and science and the religious practices of the East and West.
The Nature of Christianity

Vol. II. Christianity as Truth

By EDWARD GRUBB, M.A.

La Cr. 8vo.

The author here follows up his previous examination of "Christianity as Life" by a study of the world outlook which has always been implied therein, and frankly faces the question whether this outlook, with its assumptions as to the nature of Christ and God, can be harmonized with our present knowledge of the world. It is suggested that an affirmative answer demands not only thought but resolute practice of Christianity.

Vol. I. CHRISTIANITY AS LIFE

The Light of Christ

By JOHN S. HOYLAND, M.A.

Cr. 8vo.

The teaching of the Inward Light is here reviewed in connection first with Platonism, then with certain elements in Indian religious thought, then with the Christian belief in Incarnation and the Cross. The attempt is made to show how these elements combine to form the ever-new Evangel of the Living Christ, the only Hope of the world.

The Warfare of Reconciliation

By JOHN S. HOYLAND, M.A., F.R.Hist.S.

Author of "Faith and History," etc.

Cr. 8vo.

This book deals with the elements of division and hatred which endanger modern civilization, and urges the necessity for a new impulse of reconciliation if mankind is to be saved from self-destruction.

"A sincere and earnest book."—Church Times.

Civilization Remade by Christ

Social Applications of Christ's Moral Teaching

By REV. F. A. M. SPENCER, B.D.

Author of "The Ethics of the Gospel."

Cr. 8vo.

"He tackles his problems fearlessly, and never once seeks to evade a difficulty. A book no social worker should miss."—Northern Echo.
Pre-Existence and Re-Incarnation

By W. LUTOSLAWSKI

In this original, provocative, and fascinating book Professor Lutoslawski challenges many of our most cherished ideas about life and immortality. Polish Messianism is in itself unknown to English readers; but his views on such subjects as sex, materialism, and mysticism are more than interesting, they are provocative—not merely because they are written from the Polish point of view, but because they bear the impress of a highly original mind. His angle of approach is entirely his own, and his views of life are unclouded by the vast learning which he handles with such ingenuity of argument.

The "Soul" of the Primitive

By Professor LUCIEN LÉVY-BRUHL

In his previous books, "How Natives Think" and "Primitive Mentality," Professor Lévy-Bruhl analysed the sources and principles of the primitive's mentality. In this book he demonstrates the effect of such principles in giving rise to beliefs which play an important part in the individual and social life of the primitive. He makes a minute study of the individual's conception of himself in his relations with his social group, and helps us to realize the enduring influence of the tribal idea in the individual unit. In short, he shows us what the primitive considers his "soul" to be.

Suttee

An historical and philosophical enquiry into the Hindu rite of widow-burning

By DR. EDWARD THOMPSON

"An important contribution to the discussion of the problems which confront the British administration of India."—Manchester Guardian.

Sibyls and Seers

By ÉDWYN BEVAN

This volume embodies six lectures given in 1927 at Oxford on the Speaker's foundation. Taking it as a belief, persistent from primitive times till to-day, that the spiritual causation which we know in living men is part of a spirit-world extending far beyond the world we see, Mr. Bevan surveys some of the ways by which it was believed in antiquity that knowledge of the spirit-world, or communications from the spirit-world, might be obtained. There was, first, the belief that denizens of this world might visit the spirit-world and return to report, then the belief that denizens of that world might visit this (epiphanies of gods and appearances of ghosts); yet again, the idea of the voice from heaven, the idea of the letter from heaven; and, finally, inspiration in its two forms of Sibylline ecstasy and of dream-vision. It is shown how some of the ancient theories of inspiration were carried on with modifications in the Christian Church.

(All prices are net.)