
Indian narional evolution.

Amvika charan

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Author: Amvika charan

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PREFACE.

Sometime in August 1913 at the instance of some friends I undertook to write a few articles for a magazine on the Rise and Growth of the Indian National Congress, the most important and phenomenal movement in the political history of new India. After only a few pages were written, it was discovered that such a subject could not be properly dealt with in the spare columns of any magazine in the country without taxing its capacity to an unreasonable extent and that for a much longer period than was perhaps consistent with the sustained interest of such a review. The idea was, therefore, abandoned. In January following while turning over some of the materials which I had collected and arranged for the articles, it occurred to me that these might be published in the form of a pamphlet so that they may be of some use to any one who may be disposed to write a well-digested history of this evolutionary movement. That is the origin of the little volume which is now presented to the public. The book was fairly completed by July 1914 when it was partly handed over to Mr. G. A. Natesan of Madras, who kindly undertook to illustrate and publish it. In August the Great War broke out and as the book necessarily contained occasional criticisms of Government, it was deemed proper and expedient to defer its publication until the War conditions were fairly settled.

Those conditions having passed the doubts and uncertainties, as well as the excitement, of the preliminary stage and taken a definite shape as also a favourable turn, the book is now issued to the public.

My most grateful acknowledgments are due to my esteemed friend and chief, the Hon'ble Mr. Surendranath Banerjea, who not only readily supplied me with whatever informations I wanted from him, but also in the midst of his multifarious duties, kindly went through a considerable portion of the manuscript. I am also deeply indebted to my esteemed friends, Mr. D. E. Wacha and Mr. G. Subramania Iyer for the many informations which they from time to time gave me regarding their respective Presidencies. To Sir William Weddérburn I am no less deeply indebted for the kind permission which he gave me for the free use of his excellent memoirs of Allan Octavian Hume, though I was precluded from using any of his private correspondence. Mr. G. A. Natesan of Madras materially helped me with a number of his valuable publications bearing on the Congress; while to the Education Department of the Government of India I feel deeply obliged for the courtesy and readiness with which they supplied me with the Educational Statement of March, 1914. Mr. Satyananda Bose, the energetic Secretary of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee, was good enough to supply me with the papers relating to the Surat incident which will be found in an appendix. Lastly, I am highly indebted to my friends Mr. Amrita

Chandra Ghosh of the Ripon College, Calcutta, and Mr. Prithwis Chandra Roy, late Editor of the *Indian World*, who kindly undertook to read my proofs when my eyes being affected I was incapacitated from dealing with them myself.

I am perfectly conscious of the many defects which will be noticed in these pages mostly written at intervals of a protracted and distressing illness. These defects may, however, stimulate others to write a more careful and exhaustive book on the subject. If in the meantime these imperfect and desultory notes will attract the attention of my young friends of the rising generation and direct them to a careful study of the Indian Problems and of the Indian Administration, I shall deem my humble labours as amply rewarded.

FARIDPORE, }
Sept. 1915. } AMVIKA CHARAN MAZUMDAR.

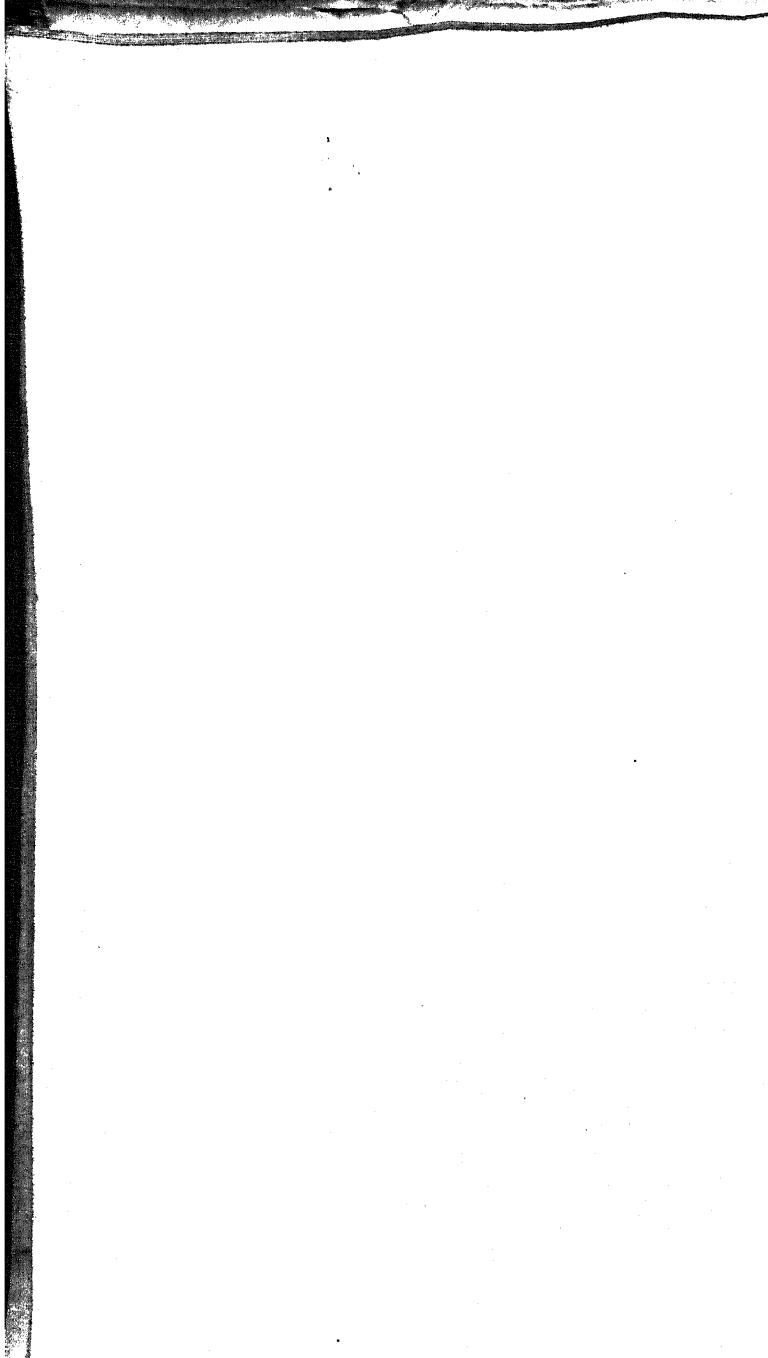
ERRATA.

- Page 19 line 8—for 'relates' read 'relate.'
" 58 " 27—after 'National' read 'Mahomedan.'
" " " "—for 'League' read 'Association.'
" 100 " 20—for '1898' read '1902.'
" 115 " 4—for '1,600' read '1,200.'
" 262 " 25—for 'rigorous' read 'vigorous.'
" 386 " 20—for 'pupil' read 'pupils.'
-

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.



Allan Octavian Hume.
The Marquis of Ripon.
Charles Bradlaugh.
Sir William Wedderburn.
John Bright.
Henry Fawcett.
W. C. Bonnerjee.
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Pandit Bishen Narayan Dhar.
Lal Mohan Ghose.
Ananda Mohan Bose.
Gopal Krishna Gokhale.
Pandit Madan Mohun Malaviya.
Dr. Sir Rash Behari Ghose.





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INDIAN NATIONAL EVOLUTION.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

A FULL and critical account of the origin, progress and development of an epoch-making political event in any country is always a very delicate and difficult task; for the secret and sometimes silent origin of such a movement, like the many-sided meandering course of a deceptive rivulet at its source, is often shrouded in the mazes of imperfect records and conflicting reports; while the subtle influence of jealousy and spite on the one hand, no less than that of suspicion and distrust on the other, leading to misrepresentations and exaggerations, serves not a little in its onward course to obscure the vision and warp the judgment of contemporary minds. Then the effects of divergent views and colliding interests have also to be reckoned with to no small extent. Even the histories of such great events as the birth of American Independence and the establishment of the French Republic,

not to speak of the Great Revolution, have not been altogether free from doubts, difficulties and contradictions. But if the histories of revolutions are sometimes so varying and divergent in their accounts, the history of an evolution must be still more obscure and defective in its narratives. There a much larger area of time and space is covered by the slow and silent trend of gathering events which in their noiseless progress at first naturally attract much less attention and are more tardily recognised than the sensational and dramatic developments of a revolution, and then by the time the tangible results of these events begin to be realised much of the historical accuracy of the process is lost if not actually sacrificed to the extravagant demands of either individual or sectional pride and egotism. The history of the Indian National Congress is the history of the origin and development of national life in India, and a bare epitome of that history would involve a critical analysis of the diverse phases of that life in its different bearings and with all its recommendations and its lapses, as well as its successes and its failures during the past thirty years. The object of this treatise is not, however, to attempt such a venturesome task, nor has the time probably fully arrived for a complete and well-digested history to be written on this great evolutionary movement. Its humble aim is to record a few contemporaneous events and impressions which, in the peculiar shortness of Indian memory on matters historical, are already fast drifting towards the realm of faint traditions, and