SIR CHARU CHUNDER GHOSE

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Sir Charu Chunder Ghose (1926 in London).

স্যার চারুচন্দ্র ঘোষ

কোন্ অনাদি কাল হইতে এই পৃথিবীতে জীব আবির্ভূত হইয়াছে তাহা অজ্ঞাত,—অনন্ত জীবন-প্রবাহ অবিরাম ছুটিয়া চলিয়াছে; কোথায়, কেন—তাহাও অজ্ঞাত; কিন্তু মানুষের যাওয়া ও আসার মধ্যে একটি সত্য সুস্পষ্ট হইয়া উঠিয়াছে তাহা মানুষের মধ্য দিয়া মহত্তমের বা Uniersal consciousness-এর বিকাশ।

মানুষের মধ্য দিয়া এই মহত্তমের উপলব্ধি হইতেছে। কিন্তু সকল মানুষের মধ্যেই ইহা এখনও সজাগ হইয়া ওঠে নাই। মহত্তমে প্রতিষ্ঠিত প্রতিটি মানুষ একদিন বুঝিবে সেই মহত্তম। যে ভাবে এই মহত্তমের বোধ মানুষের মধ্যে জাগ্রত হইতেছে তাহার ইতিহাসই মানুষের জীবন। এই ভাবে চিন্তা করিলে দেখা যাইবে প্রত্যেক মানুষের জীবন এক অখণ্ড সত্যকে প্রকাশ করিতে করিতে অনন্তের পথে ছুটিয়া চলিয়াছে, তাহার চলার যেন বিরাম নাই। যুগে যুগে মানুষ এই চলার মধ্য দিয়া অনন্ত কালের বুকে এক একটি রেখা পাত করিয়া যাইতেছে যদিও সেই দাগগুলি সর্ব্বদা সুস্পষ্ট হইয়া আমাদের চোখে ধরা দেয় না। যাঁদের চলার দাগ সুস্পষ্ট তাঁরা সংখ্যায় স্বল্প কিন্তু তাঁদের পদাঙ্ক ভবিষ্যৎ মানুষের অন্ধকারের যাত্রাপথে আলোক-বর্ত্তিকার মতো পথ দেখাইয়া লইয়া যায়।

এই ভাবে সকল দেশের সকল সমাজে সব সময়েই এমন কতকগুলি লোকের সাক্ষাৎ আমরা পাই। তাঁহাদের জীবন-ধারা পর্য্যালোচনা করিলে দেখিতে পাই যে ইঁহাদের প্রায় প্রত্যেকেরই জীবনে কিছু না কিছু বৈশিষ্ট্য আছে যাহা পরবর্ত্তিগণের কাছে অমূল্য সম্পদস্বরূপ।

স্বর্গীয় চারুচন্দ্র ঘোষের জীবন-বেদ কেন আমাদের আলোচ্য এবং কি ভাবে তাহার সন্ধান পাইব এখন আমরা তাহাই দেখিতেছি। কাহারো জীবন-কথা আলোচনা করিতে গেলে প্রথমত তাঁহার জীবন-দর্শনটিকে আবিষ্কার করা প্রয়োজন। কেননা, কোনো জীবনের দর্শন বস্তুটিকে ধরিতে না পারিলে তাঁহার জীবনের সম্যক্ আলোচনা সম্ভব হয় না। কাহারো জীবন-দর্শন জানিতে হইলে সর্বাগ্রে তাঁহার পারিপার্শ্বিকের সহিত পরিচিত হওয়া প্রয়োজন। নতুবা তাঁহার জীবনকে জানার সুবিধা হইতে পারে না। সুতরাং আমরা সংক্ষেপে তাঁহার আশৈশব পারিপার্শ্বিকের সঙ্গে পরিচয় লাভ করিব।

পিতা ও পরিবার

যশোহর জেলার বিদ্যানন্দকাটি গ্রামে চারুচন্দ্রের পিতামহ উমেশচন্দ্র ঘোষ একজন বর্দ্ধিষ্ণু তালুকদার ছিলেন। উমেশচন্দ্রের পুত্র দেবেন্দ্রচন্দ্র বিদ্যানন্দকাটিতে জন্মগ্রহণ করেন। তিনি অত্যন্ত মেধাবী, অধ্যবসায়ী এবং তীক্ষ্ণ ধীশক্তিসম্পন্ন পুরুষ ছিলেন। বাংলার প্রখ্যাতনামা বিচারপতি স্যার গুরুদাস বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়ের সমসাময়িক দেবেন্দ্রচন্দ্র ছিলেন কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের একজন কৃতী ছাত্র। ১৮৬৫ খৃষ্টাব্দে তিনি কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বি, এ. পরীক্ষায় দ্বিতীয় স্থান অধিকার করিয়াছিলেন। ১৮৬৭ খৃষ্টাব্দে তিনি বি, এল. পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হন। যে সময়ে এদেশে প্রতীচ্য সভ্যতা বাঙ্গালীর মন আকৃষ্ট করে এবং ইংরাজী শিক্ষা আমাদের চিত্ত অধিকার করে দেবেন্দ্রচন্দ্র সেই যুগের লোক। তিনি ভাগ্য পরীক্ষা করিতে নূতন সভ্যতার কেন্দ্রভূমি কলিকাতা মহানগরীতে আসিয়াছিলেন এবং পরে এইস্থানে স্থায়ীভাবে বসবাস করিতে মনস্থ করিয়া তদনুযায়ী ব্যবসা অবলম্বন করিয়াছিলেন। আলিপুরে ওকালতি করিতে আসিয়া দেবেন্দ্রচন্দ্র যখন কালীঘাটে আবাসিক জীবন যাপন করিতেছিলেন তখন ১৮৭৪ সালের ৪ঠা ফেব্রুয়ারী চারুচন্দ্রের জন্ম হয়।

পূতচরিত্র দেবেন্দ্রচন্দ্র, প্রপিতামহ রামকানাই ও পিতামহ ভগবানচন্দ্র ও পিতা উমেশচন্দ্রের অনেক গুণ উত্তরাধিকার সূত্রে পাইয়াছিলেন। ভূসম্পত্তি যাহা পাইয়াছিলেন তাহার প্রতি তাঁহার বিশেষ আগ্রহ ছিল না। উচ্চাভিলাষী দেবেন্দ্রচন্দ্র স্বাধীন জীবনারম্ভের সঙ্গে সঙ্গেই তাহা তাঁহার কনিষ্ঠ বৈমাত্রেয় ভ্রাতা বীরেন্দ্রচন্দ্র ও উপেন্দ্রচন্দ্রের নামে দান করিয়াছিলেন। আইনজীবী হিসাবে দেবেন্দ্রচন্দ্র সত্বরই খ্যাতি অর্জন করিয়া স্বীয় অধ্যবসায় বলে প্রভূত অর্থ উপার্জন করিয়াছিলেন এবং অল্প কালের মধ্যে প্রতিভার গুণে ২৪-পরগণা জেলার সরকারী উকীলের পদে উন্নীত হইয়াছিলেন। ক্রমান্বয়ে তিনি বাংলার একজন শ্রেষ্ঠ ব্যবহার-বিদ্ বলিয়া পরিগণিত হন। চল্লিশ বৎসরের উপর আইনজীবীর কাজ করিয়া তিনি প্রভূত যশ, সম্মান ও প্রতিপত্তি লাভ করিয়াছিলেন। কিন্তু ইহাই তাঁহার একমাত্র পরিচয় ছিল না। মহানুভবতা, প্রজ্ঞাদৃষ্টি, সংকল্পে দৃঢ়তা, চরিত্রবত্তা ও মনুষ্যত্বে তাঁহার নাম তৎকালীন কলিকাতা সমাজে সুপ্রতিষ্ঠিত হইয়াছিল। তিনি ছিলেন স্নেহশীল পিতা, সংযমী পুরুষ, মিতভাষী, অমায়িক, সামাজিক ভদ্রলোক। এক কথায় বলা যায়, এ কালের আদর্শ গৃহী। ১৯২০ খৃষ্টাব্দে

২৫শে অক্টোবর ৭৫ বৎসর বয়সে দেবেন্দ্রচন্দ্রের লোকান্তর হয়। ১৯২৪ খৃষ্টাব্দে চারুচন্দ্রের মাতা কাদম্বিনী স্বামীর অনুগামিনী হন।

চারুচন্দ্র ১৮৯০ খৃষ্টাব্দে সাউথ সুবার্বন স্কুল হইতে প্রবেশিক্ষা পরীক্ষায় ও ১৮৯৪ খৃষ্টাব্দে, কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধীন প্রেসিডেন্সী কলেজ হইতে বিশেষ কৃতিত্বের সহিত ইংরাজীতে অনার্স লইয়া বি. এ. পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হন। ১৮৯৬ খৃষ্টাব্দে বি. এল. পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হইয়া তিনি ১৮৯৮ সালে কলিকাতা হাইকোর্টে ওকালতি আরম্ভ করেন।

১৮৯২ খৃঃ পটলডাঙ্গার বসুবংশীয় স্বর্গীয় প্রতাপচন্দ্র বসুর জ্যেষ্ঠা কন্যা নির্ম্মলনলিনীর সহিত তাঁহার বিবাহ হয়। ১৮৯৭ খৃঃ তাঁহার প্রথম কন্যা লীলাবতী ও ১৮৯৯ খৃঃ জ্যেষ্ঠ পুত্র রবীন্দ্রচন্দ্রের জন্ম হয়। ইহার পর যথাক্রমে তিন পুত্র দ্বিজেন্দ্রচন্দ্র, সত্যেন্দ্রচন্দ্র, হীরেন্দ্রচন্দ্র ও কনিষ্ঠা কন্যা প্রতিভা জন্মগ্রহণ করেন। ইহাই সংক্ষেপে চারুচন্দ্রের পারিবারিক জীবনের কথা।

ছাত্রজীবন ও দেশহিত কর্ম

ছাত্র-জীবনে চারুচন্দ্র মেধাবী, অধ্যবসায়ী, পরিশ্রমী ও আনন্দমুখর ছাত্র বলিয়া পরিচিত ছিলেন। সেক্সপীয়রের নাটকের আবৃত্তি ও অভিনয় করিয়া তিনি বিশেষ খ্যাতি অর্জন করিয়াছিলেন। তাঁহার অভিনয় দর্শন করিয়া তৎকালীন বাংলার ছোটলাট স্যার চার্লস ইলিয়ট প্রশংসা করিয়াছিলেন।

১৮৯৫ খৃঃ ছাত্রাবস্থায়ই তিনি পিতৃ-বন্ধু সুরেন্দ্রনাথ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়ের সহিত পুণা কংগ্রেসে যোগদান করেন।

১৮৯৬ খৃষ্টাব্দে রিপন কলেজ হইতে আইন পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হইয়া স্বনামধন্য আশুতোষ মুখোপাধ্যায় মহাশয়ের নিকট ওকালতি কাজে শিক্ষানবিশী করিতে আরম্ভ করেন এবং ১৮৯৮ খৃঃ কলিকাতা হাইকোর্টের উকিলরূপে তাঁহার কর্মময় জীবন আরম্ভ হয়। এই সময়ে বহুবার তিনি ডাঃ আশুতোষ মুখোপাধ্যায়, ডাক্তার রাসবিহারী ঘোষ, শ্রীসত্যেন্দ্র প্রসন্ন সিংহ ও তদানীন্তন এডভোকেট জেনারেল মিঃ উড্‌রোফের সহকারী রূপে কাজ করেন।

১৯০০ খৃঃ তিনি তাঁহার পিতার সহিত বারাণসীতে সুবিখ্যাত কালিদাস নামীয় মামলায় উপস্থিত হইয়া বিশেষ খ্যাতি অর্জন করেন।

তিনি তাঁহার পিতার সহিত ১৮৯৮ সালে মাদ্রাজ কংগ্রেসে যোগদান করেন। ব্যারিষ্টার আনন্দমোহন বসু এই বৎসরে জাতীয় মহাসভার সভাপতি

ছিলেন। এই কংগ্রেসে চারুচন্দ্র বিশেষ কৃতিত্বের সহিত তেজোদৃপ্ত ভাষায় সরকারের সীমান্ত নীতির সমালোচনা করিয়াছিলেন। এই সময়ে তিনি সুরেন্দ্রনাথ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায় মহাশয়ের সহিত ম্যাকেঞ্জি আইনের বিরুদ্ধে আন্দোলনে সক্রিয় অংশ গ্রহণ করেন।

১৯০১ খৃঃ কলিকাতা কংগ্রেসে তিনি যোগদান করিয়াছিলেন এবং ১৯০৩ খৃঃ মান্দ্রাজ কংগ্রেসে যোগদান করেন। লালমোহন ঘোষ এই কংগ্রেসের নায়ক ছিলেন। চারুচন্দ্র এই সভায় ইংরাজ সরকারের সামরিক ব্যয়ের তীব্র প্রতিবাদ করিয়া ওজস্বিনী ভাষায় বক্তৃতা করেন।

ইংরেজী শিক্ষা ও নবজাগরণ

১৯০৫ সাল নানা দিক হইতে ভারতবর্ষের বিশেষ ভাবে বাঙ্গালীর জাতীয় জীবনের একটি স্মরণীয় বৎসর। ভারতে ব্রিটিশ শাসন একশত বৎসর অতিক্রান্ত হইবার পূর্ব্বেই ইংরাজ জাতির কার্য্যকলাপে এই দেশ তাহাদের প্রতি বীতশ্রদ্ধ হইয়া ওঠে। ১৮৫৭ খৃষ্টাব্দের সিপাহী বিদ্রোহ তাহার প্রথম ইঙ্গিত। ১৭৫৭ খৃষ্টাব্দে সুবিখ্যাত পলাশী প্রান্তরে ইংরাজী জাতিকে বাংলার নেতৃস্থানীয় ব্যক্তিরা বিজয় মাল্য দান করিয়া সাদর সম্ভাষণ জানাইয়াছিলেন এবং তাহার ফলেই ভারতের দাসত্ব শৃঙ্খল সেদিন হইতে কঠিনতর নিগড়ে পরিণত হইয়াছিল। ১৮৫৭ খৃষ্টাব্দে উত্তর ভারতীয় জাতিসমূহের প্রায়শ্চিত্তের মধ্য দিয়া তাহার প্রতিক্রিয়া দেখা দিয়াছিল। ইহার পরবর্ত্তী পঞ্চাশ বৎসরের মধ্যে ভারতবর্ষে একদিকে যেমন ইংরাজেরা রাজত্ব কায়েম করার জন্য আপ্রাণ চেষ্টা করিতে থাকে অন্য দিকে তেমনি ভারতের নানাস্থানে ইংরাজ-বিদ্বেষ ক্রমশঃ সুস্পষ্ট হইয়া ওঠে। ভারতবর্ষের প্রথম যুগের সিভিলিয়ান সুরেন্দ্রনাথ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়ের ১৮৭২ খৃঃ সরকারী চাকরী হইতে কর্ম্মচ্যুত হওয়া ভারতের নবজন্মের সূচনা করে, ইহাকে ভারতেতিহাসের একটি উল্লেখযোগ্য পার্শ্ব পরিবর্ত্তন অথবা land-mark বলা যায়। কারণ, সিপাহী বিদ্রোহের পর ইংরাজ যখন ভারতীয়দিগকে সাংস্কৃতিক দিক হইতে নূতন আক্রমণের উদ্দেশ্যে ভারতবর্ষে ইংরাজী শিক্ষার প্রসারের চেষ্টা করিতে স্থিরসংকল্প হইয়া কলিকাতা, বোম্বাই, মাদ্রাজ, লাহোর ও এলাহাবাদে পাঁচটি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় সৃষ্টি করিল তাহার কয়েক বৎসরের মধ্যেই দেখা গেল, ভালমন্দ সকল বিষয়েই ইংরাজের অনুকরণ করা শিক্ষিত সম্প্রদায়ের একটা কেতা বা ফ্যাশান হইয়া দাঁড়াইয়াছে। এই সময়ে এই

অনুকরণ স্পৃহা এমন উৎকট আকার ধারণ করিল যে, হিন্দু সমাজ তখন এক প্রকার দ্বিধা-বিভক্ত হইয়া গেল বলিলেও অত্যুক্তি হয় না। অবশ্য এই অনুকরণ স্পৃহা যে আমাদের শুধু ক্ষতিই করিয়াছে এমন নয়। এই সময়ে বিলাত যাত্রা সামাজিক হিসাবে নিষিদ্ধ বলিয়া বিবেচিত হইলেও শিক্ষিত সম্প্রদায় ঐ নিষেধ অমান্য করিয়া শিক্ষা লাভের জন্য বিলাত যাওয়া প্রয়োজন বোধ করিয়াছিলেন।

কর্মচ্যুত হইয়া সুরেন্দ্রনাথ সরকারী চ্যালেঞ্জ গ্রহণ করিলেন এবং ইলবার্ট বিল্ আন্দোলন প্রবর্ত্তন করিয়া বাংলাদেশে ইংরাজের প্রতিজ্ঞাভঙ্গের ও রাজনৈতিক অভিসন্ধির প্রতিবাদ করিলেন। তাহার পর প্রথমে ছাত্র আন্দোলন ও পরে কংগ্রেস আন্দোলন সৃষ্টি করিয়া ভারতীয়দের ভারত শাসনে সমান অধিকার দাবীর লড়াই সুরু করিয়া দিলেন। সুরেন্দ্রনাথ বাংলার রাজনৈতিক আকাশে দ্যুতিমান জ্যোতিষ্কের মত উদিত হইয়া ক্রমশঃ সারা ভারতে আলোক বিকীরণ করিলেন। তাঁহার অপূর্ব্ব বাগ্মিতা, অক্লান্ত অধ্যবসায়, অসীম ধীশক্তি অচিরেই তাঁহাকে ভারতবর্ষের অপ্রতিদ্বন্দ্বী নেতার আসনে প্রতিষ্ঠিত করিল এবং বাংলাদেশের সমস্ত সংস্কারকামী মন তাঁহাকে তাহাদের পথপ্রদর্শক রূপে গ্রহণ করিল। আমাদের চারুচন্দ্র এই সুরেন্দ্রনাথকে তাঁহার রাষ্ট্রগুরু বলিয়া মানিয়া লইয়াছিলেন এবং তাঁহারই প্রেরণায় ১৮৯৫ সালে ছাত্রজীবনের মধ্যে তিনি কংগ্রেসের কাজে যোগ দিয়াছিলেন। চারুচন্দ্র সুরেন্দ্রনাথকে সর্ব্বদাই রাষ্ট্রগুরু সুরেন্দ্রনাথ, জাতীয়তার জনক বা Father of Nationalism এই নামে অভিহিত করিতেন।

১৯০৫ খৃষ্টাব্দে বারাণসীতে যে কংগ্রেস হয় স্বনামখ্যাত নেতা স্বর্গীয় গোপালকৃষ্ণ গোখলে ছিলেন তাহার সভাপতি। এই কংগ্রেসে চারুচন্দ্র যোগদান করেন। এই বৎসর 'বঙ্গভঙ্গ আন্দোলন' আরব্ধ হয়; চারুচন্দ্র বঙ্গভঙ্গের বিরুদ্ধে যুক্তি প্রদর্শন করিয়া এক অপূর্ব্ব প্রবন্ধ লিখিয়াছিলেন এবং ১৯০৬ সালের ৩১ শে জানুয়ারী কলিকাতা টাউন হলে বঙ্গ ব্যবচ্ছেদের বিরুদ্ধে আন্দোলনের জন্য যে কমিটি গঠিত হয় সেই কমিটি চারুচন্দ্রের ঐ প্রবন্ধ পুস্তিকাকারে প্রকাশ করিয়াছিলেন।

ব্যবহার শাস্ত্রবিদ্ ও বিচারক

১৯০৬ খৃষ্টাব্দে চারুচন্দ্র ব্যারিষ্টারী ডিগ্রী লাভের জন্য ইংলণ্ড যাত্রা করেন এবং লিন্‌কন্‌স্ ইনে যোগ দেন। সেখানে লণ্ডনে তিনি বিখ্যাত

ব্যারিষ্টার মিঃ কাজেনস হার্ডির ছাত্র হইয়াছিলেন এবং ১৯০৭ খৃষ্টাব্দেই অতি অল্প সময়ের মধ্যে লর্ড ম্যাকনটনের সুপারিশে ব্যারিষ্টারী করার অধিকার লাভ করিয়াছিলেন। তিনি ব্যারিষ্টারী শেষ পরীক্ষায় প্রথম শ্রেণীর অনার্স সহ কৃতিত্বের সহিত উত্তীর্ণ হইয়া ৫০ পাউণ্ডের একটি বৃত্তি পাইয়াছিলেন। অতঃপর কলিকাতা হাইকোর্টে ফিরিয়া তিনি এডভোকেট হিসাবে নাম রেজিষ্ট্রি করেন এবং কিছুকাল ব্যারিষ্টার বিনোদচন্দ্র মিত্রের সহযোগী রূপে কার্য্য করেন। অতি অল্প সময়ের মধ্যে তিনি এডভোকেট রূপে সুনাম অর্জন করেন। কলিকাতা হাইকোর্টে আদিম বিভাগে সর্ব্বদাই দেওয়ানী কার্য্যবিধি ও ব্যবসা ও বাণিজ্য সংক্রান্ত ব্যাপারে ব্যারিষ্টার হিসাবে তাঁহার ডাক পড়িত। এই কোর্টের আপীল বিভাগের কার্য্যাবলী সম্পর্কে তাঁহার পূর্ব্ব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকায় এই বিভাগের কাজও তিনি যথেষ্ট যোগ্যতা ও সুনামের সহিত করিয়া মামলাকারীদের সন্তুষ্ট করিতেন এবং সেখানেও তিনি সর্ব্বদাই পরামর্শ দানেও ব্যাপৃত থাকিতেন। বিশিষ্ট ব্যারিষ্টার শ্রেণীর একজন হইয়া ১৯১৯ সালের ১৬ই জুলাই তিনি বাংলার সর্ব্বোচ্চ আদালতের বিচারক পদে অধিষ্ঠিত হন এবং চার বার অস্থায়ী ভাবে প্রধান বিচারপতির পদে কাজ করিয়াছিলেন।

বিচারক হিসাবে চারুচন্দ্রের নাম ভারতবর্ষ বিশেষতঃ বাংলাদেশ চিরদিন মনে রাখিবে। আট বৎসর ওকালতী ও বার বৎসর ব্যারিষ্টারী করিবার পর তিনি বিচারকপদে সমাসীন হন। আইন বিষয়ে তাঁহার প্রগাঢ় পাণ্ডিত্য, তীক্ষ্ণ কুশাগ্র বুদ্ধি, প্রখর অন্তর্দৃষ্টি এবং বিষয় বিশ্লেষণের অদ্ভুত ক্ষমতা তাঁহাকে সর্ব্বজন পরিচিত করিয়াছিল। বিচারপতিত্ব ছিল চারুচন্দ্রের জীবনের শ্রেষ্ঠ সাধনা। সেই সাধনায় তিনি সিদ্ধিলাভ করিয়া শম্ভুনাথ পণ্ডিত, রমেশ চন্দ্র মিত্র, দ্বারকানাথ মিত্র, ও অলোকসামান্য প্রতিভাশালী বিচারপতি আশুতোষ মুখোপাধ্যায় প্রভৃতি বিশিষ্ট বিচারপতিগণের প্রায় সমপর্য্যায়ে উন্নীত হইয়াছিলেন। তিনি প্রমাণ করিয়াছেন সাধনায় মানুষ অসাধারণ হইতে পারে। বিচারপতিরূপে তিনি অনেক নূতন কথা বলিয়াছেন, অনেক অনেক নীতির নূতন ব্যাখ্যা দিয়াছেন, এবং অনেক আইনের প্রবর্ত্তন করিয়াছেন। তাঁহার অসামান্য সাফল্যের অভ্রান্ত নিদর্শন প্রধান বিচারপতির পদে উপর্য্যুপরি চার বার তাঁহার নিয়োগ। এতক্ষণ আমরা ব্যারিষ্টার ও বিচারক চারুচন্দ্রকে

দেখিলাম। এক্ষণে রাজনৈতিক দৃষ্টিতে আমরা তাঁহার চরিত্র বিশ্লেষণ করিব।

স্বাধীনতা আন্দোলনে অংশ

ভারতের স্বাধীনতা আন্দোলনে কোন্ শক্তি কিভাবে কাজ করিয়াছে তাহার আলোচনা করিতে গেলে চারুচন্দ্রকে আমরা দূরে রাখিতে পারি না। চারুচন্দ্র বাংলা দেশে যাঁহাদের ধনী বলা হয় তাঁহাদেরই সম-পর্য্যায়ভুক্ত লোক ছিলেন। শৈশবে যে প্রতিবেশে তিনি লালিত পালিত, ও কিশোর ও যৌবন যুগে যে শিক্ষায় শিক্ষিত তাহাতে তাঁহার নিকট আমরা কতটা আশা করিতে পারি এবং আমাদের আশার কতটা তিনি পুরণ করিয়াছেন এখন তাহাই আমাদের আলোচ্য।

এই পারিবারটি, পূর্ব্বেই আমরা দেখিয়াছি, ছিল একটি আধুনিক যুগের আদর্শ গৃহী পরিবারেরই প্রতিচ্ছবি। কালের প্রভাব যতটুকু ইহার উপর পড়িয়াছে তাহা ঊনবিংশ শতাব্দীর ইংরাজী শিক্ষা ও সভ্যতার যে টুকু ভালো তাহাই। কিন্তু চারুচন্দ্র যে যুগের মানুষ সেই যুগ ভারতের এক গুরত্বপূর্ণ মহাসম্ভাবনার যুগ। ঊনবিংশ ও বিংশ শতাব্দীর এক মহনীয় যুগ। এই সময়ে কোন জাগ্রত স্বত্বা দেশের পারিপার্শ্বিক ঘটনাপ্রবাহে উদাসীন থাকিতে পারে না। সুতরাং আমাদের চারুচন্দ্র—যিনি পরিণত জীবনে বিচার করার ভার পাইয়াছিলেন, তিনি কখনো একান্ত রক্ষণশীলের মতো বাল্যের শিক্ষাদীক্ষাকেই আঁকড়াইয়া থাকিতে পারেন না। যুগের প্রভাব তাঁহার মনের উপর নিশ্চয় রেখাপাত করিয়াছিল। এই যুগকে তিনি কিভাবে গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন তাহাই এখন দ্রষ্টব্য।

ভারতবর্ষে যখন স্বাধীনতা আন্দোলন ক্রমশঃ গভীর ও ব্যাপক হয় তখন দেশে দুইটি রাজনৈতিক মতবাদের সৃষ্টি হয়। একদল মনে করিতেন, দেশকে ইংরেজের কবল হইতে মুক্ত করা এবং ইংরাজ-মুক্ত ভারতবর্ষে ভারতীয় ঐতিহ্যের উপর ভিত্তি করিয়া দেশীয় শাসন গড়িয়া তোলা প্রয়োজন। এই দলের নায়ক ছিলেন অরবিন্দ, বিপিনচন্দ্র, বাল গঙ্গাধর তিলক প্রমুখ মনীষিগণ। আর একদলের মত ছিল ভারতবর্ষে ঔপনিবেশিক স্বায়ত্ত শাসন প্রতিষ্ঠিত হোক। এই দল চাহিতেন ইংরাজের সাহায্য বজায় রাখিয়া ক্যানেডা, অষ্ট্রেলিয়া প্রভৃতি ব্রিটিশ প্রভাবিত স্বায়ত্ত শাসনশীল দেশসমূহের ন্যায় ভারতে ডমিনিয়ন প্রতিষ্ঠিত হোক। পরে ক্রমান্বয়ে ভারতবাসী শাসন পরিচালনে দক্ষ হইয়া উঠিলে সম্পূর্ণ

স্বাধীনতা আসিবে—ইহাই ছিল তাঁহাদের মত। এই শেষোক্ত দলের নায়ক ছিলেন ভারতে ও বাংলায় সুরেন্দ্রনাথ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়। চারুচন্দ্র ছিলেন সুরেন্দ্রনাথের মতাবলম্বী সুতরাং তাঁহার রাজনৈতিক কার্য্যকলাপ সুরেন্দ্রনাথেরই অনুগামী ছিল।

আমরা দেখিয়াছি ১৮৯৫ সালে ছাত্রাবস্থা হইতে চারুচন্দ্র জাতীয় কংগ্রেসে যোগদান করিতেছেন। ১৮৯৮ সাল হইতে ১৯১৯ সাল পর্য্যন্ত তিনি অনেক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ রাজনৈতিক বক্তৃতা দিয়াছেন। ১৮৯৮ সালে তাঁহার সীমান্তের রাজনীতি নামক বক্তৃতা, ১৯০৫ সালের বঙ্গব্যবচ্ছেদ সম্বন্ধীয় বক্তৃতার কথা ইতিপূর্ব্বে বলা হইয়াছে। তারপর ১৯০৭ সালে ইংলণ্ডে ব্যারিষ্টারী শিক্ষা কালে ১৭ই এপ্রিল তারিখে চারুচন্দ্র তদানীন্তন ভারত-সচিব লর্ড মর্লির সহিত সাক্ষাৎ করিয়া—ভারতীয় সমস্যা সমাধানের জন্য অনতিবিলম্বে একজন ভারতবাসীকে বড়লাটের সভায় আইন সদস্য নিয়োজিত করা, প্রাথমিক ও মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষার জন্য আরো অর্থব্যয় করা এবং লণ্ডনে সেক্রেটারী অব ষ্টেটের কাউন্সিলে—ভারত-সচিবের সভায়—একজন ভারতীয় সদস্য গ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজনীয়তা বুঝাইয়া দেন। ভারত-সচিব যে চারুচন্দ্রের পরামর্শে কতকটা উদ্বুদ্ধ হইয়াছিলেন তাহা তাঁহার পরবর্ত্তী মর্লি-মিণ্টো রিফর্ম নামক প্রথম সংস্কারের প্রস্তাব দেখিলে বুঝিতে পারা যায়। এই সাক্ষাৎকারে চারুচন্দ্র জন মর্লিকে পূর্ব্ববঙ্গের অবস্থাটা সম্যক হৃদয়ঙ্গম করাইয়াছিলেন।

১৯১৩ সালে চারুচন্দ্র রাজকীয় পাবলিক সার্ভিস কমিশনের নিকট সাক্ষ্য দেন। তাহাতে তিনি ভারতে ও ইংলণ্ডে একই সময়ে সিভিল সার্ভিস পরীক্ষা লওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করার অনুকূলে মন্তব্য করেন। লর্ড ইসলিংটন এই কমিশনের সভাপতি ছিলেন।

এই বৎসরেই তিনি পুনরায় ইউরোপীয় দেশসমূহে পরিভ্রমণ করেন এবং ভারতের অনুকূলে ব্রিটিশ রাজনীতিকগণের মত ফিরাইবার জন্য মিঃ র‍্যামেজে ম্যাক্‌ডোনাল্ড, মিঃ মণ্টেগু, স্যার হেনরী কট্‌ন প্রমুখ রাজনীতিকদের সহিত সাক্ষাৎ করেন। এই সময়ে বিলাতের 'টাইমস্' পত্রিকায় কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধ্যাপক এ, রসুল, এ, সারওয়ার্দ্দী ও কে, পি, যশোয়ালকে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধ্যাপনার কার্য্য হইতে অন্যায়ভাবে অপসারিত করায় তাহার প্রতিবাদ করেন।

১৯১৩ সালের ২০শে ডিসেম্বর লণ্ডনের 'নিউ ষ্টেটস্‌ম্যান্' নামক পত্রিকায় ভারতে বিচার ও শাসন বিভাগকে পৃথক করার দাবী জানাইয়া চারুচন্দ্র এক সুন্দর পত্র লেখেন। তাঁহার সেই চিঠি তত্রত্য শিক্ষিত সমাজের দৃষ্টি অকের্ষণ করে।

১৯১৭ সালে চারুচন্দ্র কলিকাতা কংগ্রেসে যোগ দিয়াছিলেন।

১৯১৯ সালে জাতীয় উদারনৈতিক দলের পক্ষ হইতে তিনি সাউথবরো কমিটির নিকট মণ্টেগু-চেমস্‌ফোর্ড সংস্কার সম্পর্কে সাক্ষ্য দান করেন।

১৯২৬ সালে তিনি সপত্নীক ইউরোপ ভ্রমণকালে 'টাইমস্' পত্রিকার সম্পাদককে ফরাসীদেশে ১৯১৪ সালের যুদ্ধে ফ্রান্সে নিহত ভারতীয় যোদ্ধাদের স্মারক-স্তম্ভ নির্ম্মানের দাবী জানাইয়া এক চিঠি লেখেন।

এই সমস্ত চিঠিপত্র, সাক্ষ্য, প্রবন্ধ ও বক্তৃতাবলীর মধ্যে চারুচন্দ্রের স্বদেশ-প্রেমের যথেষ্ট পরিচয় পাওয়া যায়। তিনি দেশের জন্য নিজের ধ্যান ও ধারণা অনুযায়ী যে চেষ্টা করিয়া গিয়াছেন তাহার জন্য তাঁহার দেশের লোক তাঁহাকে মনে রাখিবে।

সুদীর্ঘ ১৫ বৎসর কাল বিচারপতির কাজ করার পর ১৯৩৪ সালের ৩০শে জানুয়ারী চারুচন্দ্র অবসর গ্রহণ করেন। তদানীন্তন বাংলার গভর্ণর স্যার জন এণ্ডারসনের বিশেষ অনুরোধে চারুচন্দ্র ১৩ই ফেব্রুয়ারী হইতে ৬ই এপ্রিল পর্য্যন্ত বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের শাসন পরিষদের কার্যভার গ্রহণ করেন। কয়েক মাস অস্থায়ী ভাবে এই কাজ করার পর তিনি কর্ম্মময় জীবন হইতে অবসর গ্রহণ করেন। ইহার অব্যবহিত পরেই তাঁহার শরীর ভাঙ্গিয়া পড়ে এবং কিছুদিন পরেই এই বৎসর সেপ্টেম্বর মাসের ১০ই তারিখে তাঁহার জীবনদীপ নির্ব্বাপিত হয়।

এই কর্ম্মময় পুরুষের জীবন হইতে পরবর্ত্তিগণের শিক্ষালাভের অনেক কিছুই আছে। তাঁহার জীবনীটিতে যে বৈশিষ্ট্য বিদ্যমান তাহা হইতে দেখা যায় স্নেহ-মমতা আদর-যত্ন ও ঐশ্বর্য্যের মধ্যে মানুষ হইয়াও তিনি আজীবন কঠোর পরিশ্রম করিয়া সমসাময়িকদের মধ্যে একটি উচ্চ আসন গ্রহণ করিয়াছিলেন। দিবসের অধিকাংশ সময়ই তিনি কর্ম্মব্যস্ত থাকিতেন এবং কাজের শেষে গভীর রাত্রি পর্য্যন্ত অধ্যয়নে রত থাকিতেন। আইন ছাড়াও অন্যান্য বিষয়ে তাঁহার গভীর জ্ঞান ছিল। যাঁহারা তাঁহার

প্রবন্ধাদি পাঠ করিয়াছেন কিম্বা বক্তৃতাদি শুনিয়াছেন তাঁহারা সকলেই স্বীকার করেন যে, সত্যই চারুচন্দ্র একজন কৃতবিদ্য ও শক্তিশালী পুরুষ ছিলেন। ঐশ্বর্য্য ও বিদ্যার সমন্বয়ে তিনি যেমন শ্রীমণ্ডিত ছিলেন তাঁহার সৌম্য, সহাস্য ও প্রশান্ত গম্ভীর মূর্ত্তিও তেমনি লোকের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিত। বাহির হইতে তাঁহাকে খুবই গম্ভীর মনে হইত, বাস্তবে কিন্তু তাঁহার অন্তরটি ছিল সম্পূর্ণ ভিন্ন। তাঁহার স্নেহময় কোমল অন্তরটির স্পর্শ সকলে পায় নাই কিন্তু যাহারা তাঁহার মনের কোণে একটু স্থান করিতে পারিত তাহারা তাঁহার প্রকৃত স্বরূপ বুঝিতে পারিয়া সত্যই আনন্দ অনুভব করিত। বিচার ও শৃঙ্খলা ছিল তাঁহার জীবনের মূল আদর্শ। ইহার ভিত্তিতেই তিনি তাঁহার জীবন গঠিত করিতে চাহিয়াছিলেন এবং জীবনব্যাপী সাধনার দ্বারা সিদ্ধিলাভও করিয়াছিলেন। বিচারের মূর্ত্তি নির্মম ও কঠোর; তাই চারুচন্দ্রের বাহিরের রূপটিও ছিল সাধারণতঃ নীরব গম্ভীর।

চারুচন্দ্রের অধ্যবসায় ও তপস্যা, বাগ্মিতা ও কর্মতৎপরতা, সূক্ষ্ম বিচার-বুদ্ধি ও মানবচরিত্র-জ্ঞান, পিতৃভক্তি ও কর্ত্তব্যনিষ্ঠা, সংযম ও চারিত্রিক দৃঢ়তা, ভ্রাতৃস্নেহ ও সন্তান বাৎসল্য প্রভৃতি গুণাবলীর জন্য তাঁহার দেশাবসী চিরদিন তাঁহাকে সশ্রদ্ধ অভিবাদন জানাইবে।

শ্রীসুরেন্দ্রনাথ ঘোষ

SIR CHARU CHUNDER GHOSE

Born in Calcutta In February 4, 1874. Charu Chunder Ghose was the eldest son of the late Rai Bahadur Debender Chunder Ghose.

Passed the Entrance Examination from the South Suburban School in 1890.

In 1892 he married Nirmal Nolini, eldest daughter of Protap Chunder Ghose of Patuldanga.

In 1894 took his B. A. degree from the Calcutta University with Honors in English (Presidency College).

In 1895 he attended the Poona Congress with Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjea as his *de facto* Secretary.

In 1896 graduated in Law from Ripon College and was articled to Dr. (subsequently Sir) Ashutosh Mukherjee.

In 1898 enrolled as a Vakil. Attended with his father the Madras Congress, presided over by the late Mr. A. M. Bose, and criticised the Frontier Policy of the Government.

He materially assisted the late Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjea in his agitation against the Mackenzie Act.

1901 : Attended the Calcutta Congress as a delegate.

1903 : Attended the Madras Congress, presided over by the late Mr. Lal Mohon Ghose and spoke on Military Expenditure of the Government and also on Co-operative Societies Bill.

1905 : Attended Benares Congress, presided over by the late Mr. Gokhale. He wrote a pamphlet on the Partition of Bengal which was published under the auspices of the Committee appointed at a meeting held in the Town Hall of Calcutta on the 31st January 1906.

1906 : Proceeded to England to qualify himself for the English Bar—joined Lincoln's Inn and was a pupil of the late Mr. Cozens Hardy in London.

1907 : Obtained First Class Honours at the Bar Final examination and also a special prize of £ 50 from his Inn

of Court and at the instance of Lord Macnaughten he secured his call to the Bar in the shortest possible time.

He joined the Calcutta High Court the same year as an Advocate and devilled for a while with the late Mr. B. C. Mitter. He very soon built up a substantial practice and his services were constantly requisitioned by litigants on the Original Side in Civil and commercial cases. He was also familiar with the practice and procedure of the Appellate Side of this court and appeared there on many an occasion.

1910 : First European Holiday tour with Sir P. C. Mitter, Sir B. L. Mitter, Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das and others.

1913: He gave a written note to the Royal Commission on Public Services on simultaneous Examination of candidates for the Indian Civil Service etc,, and later as witness gave oral evidence.

He appeared as a witness before the Islington Commission on the Public Services in India.

1913 : He visited London again and made a Continental tour.

1917 : A delegate to the Calcutta Congress.

1919 : He gave evidence before the Southborough Committee about the Montagu Chelmsford Reforms, on behalf of the National Liberal League.

He was raised to the Bench of the High Court ou July 16, 1919.

1920 : He visited Europe again. Lost his father while on his voyage back to India, on 25-10-20.

July 1924—In the famous suit (1846 of 1924) K. S. Roy Choudhuri and another vs. H. E. A. Cotton Mr. Justice Ghose granted an injunction restraining *inter alia* Mr. Cotton, the President of the Bengal Legislative Council from putting a certain budget motion for the second time before the Council. This judgment of Mr. Justice Ghose made a good

deal of noise. In consequence of the judgment, Government altered the rules of the Bengal Legislative Council.

1926 : He was Knighted. Visited Europe with Lady Ghose.

1931 : He acted as Chief Justice of Bengal for six weeks.

1932 : He was elected President of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

Appointed to act as Chief Justice for the second time.

1933 : Presidential Address, Asiatic Society of Bengal. Re-elected President of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

Appointed to act as Chief Justice for the third time for over five months.

1934 : Appointed to act as Chief Justice for the fourth time for four weeks.

Retired from the Calcutta High Court Bench on the 10th January, 1934.

13th February—April 6, Temporary Member of the Executive Council, Government of Bengal.

Died on September 10, 1934.

Speeches,

Writings

Letters

As Others Saw Him

Frontier Policy

(1898)

Speech delivered at the Fourteenth Session of the Indian National Congress held at Madras in 1898, in seconding the Resolution on the 'injurious Frontier Policy' of the British Government in India, 'involving frequent military expeditions beyond its (India's) natural limits and the practical starvation of the civil administration.....'

I beg to second this Resolution which has been so ably moved by my learned leader Mr. G. Subramania Iyer, and in accroding to this resolution our most enthusiastic support, I feel, Sir, that we are in excellent company. Some of the most distinguished men who have adorned the annals of modern Indian History,—one of them was very intimately connected with the Indian frontier affairs and to whose foresight at a critical time in the history of our motherland the salvation of the Empire was due,—have stated repeatedly that they should confine their energies to within the natural frontiers of the Indian Empire and that they should consolidate the resources of the Empire and conciliate all classes. Need I remind you, Gentlemen, that I refer to no less a personage than the late Lord Lawrence who has deliberately put on record—I am quoting his exact words—"that the very proper course that the English out in India could pursue was to confine all their best energies to within the natural frontiers of India and that the very best government which the English could possibly give to the Indian people ought to be given to them and that they should conciliate all classes and consolidate the resources of the Empire" (Cheers). The views of Lord Lawrence were and are shared by a host of other eminent Indian authorities. My learned leader, Mr. G. Subramania Iyer, has mentioned the names of Lord Mayo, Lord Northbrook and Ripon the righteous. I shall only mention a few other names. Among military men most competent to form and express an opinion on this matter, we have the authorities of General Sir Henry Durand, General Sir Nevil Chamberlaine and General Sir John Adye in favour of Lord Lawrence's view and lastly we have the authority of one who has been described by no less a personage than Lord Rosebury as the highest living authority on these matters,—I refer to Sir Donald Stewart. They are all agreed that the policy of Lord Lawrence was the right one and that the policy which has been in the ascendant in the

councils of the Empire for the last twenty years or so is not the right one. But it is said that the policy of Lord Lawrence is dead and that we are in quest of a "scientific frontier" today. As Colonel Hannah, a name never mentioned by Indians without the deepest respect, points out that that which is scientific is fixed and that which is unscientific is not fixed. If the scientific frontier is fixed to-day, it cannot be something which is not fixed to-morrow. If the scientific frontier is fixed in Chitral to-day, it cannot be in the cold regions of Tirah to-morrow.* I say, therefore, that the wisest course for our administrators is to reverse the policy which has been in the ascendant in the councils of the Empire and to return to the policy of Lord Lawrence and of Lord Ripon. I say let our rulers reverse the policy which has landed India, in the expressive words of the present Conservative member for Cardiff in the House of Commons, "into the position of subsidising all Central Asia from the Indus to the Oxus". I say, let them reverse that policy and they will find the true scientific frontier in the grateful hearts of a loyal and contented people. (Cheers).

Julius Caesar at the Indian Sangita Samaj :

An Appreciation

(1900)

Julius Caesar has always been considered to be one of the most popular of Shakespeare's plays on the stage, inspite of its want of any female interest and of the fact that Caesar, the protagonist of the tragedy, is killed in the middle of the play. The announcement therefore that the Governing Body of the Indian Sangita Samaj had arranged for the performance of the play by some of the most gifted amateur members of the Samaj drew a crowded house on Saturday evening. It was an audience which will be long remembered. The elite of Indian Society were there. The audience that assembled to welcome Mr. Satyendra Nath Tagore, Mr. H. C. Mallick, Mr. Brojendra Lal Mitter and Mr. Prokash Chunder Dutt, was a practical protest against the threatened decline of intellectual amusements in this country. And so, with all on the tip-toe of excitement the curtain rose.

The scene opens in a Roman Street, rich with architectural beauty and broken in artistic lines. Decius and Trebonious (a slight deviation by the way) meet with certain idle commoners who were holiday-making to see great Caesar and to rejoice in his triumph. The good folk who were idling in the streets are admonished to go about their several businesses and they disperse. All present long however to see Caesar and so away go from the platform the two Romans. Caesar enters dressed ready for the course. Mark him well; your eyes will never be removed from his absorbing figure. The Caesar of Mr. Brojendra Lal Mitter was a great effort : it captivated the imagination of all. His presence for the moment dwarfed all else in the tragedy. How is he dressed and how does he look ? Robed in silk with the rich gold embroidered toga flowing down and the crown round the broad forehead, aye, his was a figure so well dressed that nothing distracts the eye from him. Presently the Soothsayer (Mr. Purna Chunder Dutt) with his characteristic staff crosses Caesar's path. The fateful word 'Beware the Ides of March' are pronounced. Caesar however dismisses the Soothsayer from his mind. The wave of hand with which Mr. Brojendra Lal pronounces the words "He is a dreamer ; let us leave him ; pass" was truly artistic. It bore almost a semi-royal impress. Caesar goes forth to the feast of Lupercal. Brutus and Cassius are left together. The Brutus of Mr. H. C. Mallik will live in the memory of those who were present. A costume, rich and simple, relieved alone by a toga of dazzling brilliance, such was the dress of Brutus. He is a student and philosopher. He muses on the course of affairs but he also betrays the idea that if necessary he can act. The tawny disordered hair is carelessly tossed about the forehead ; the beard is unkempt. Brutus and Cassius gaze at each other. And Cassius speaks to Brutus. Mr. Prokash Chunder Dutt as Cassius was, to put it shortly, a sensation. "My dear friend, it looks as if this Cassius was indeed natural." These were the words which a neighbour, himself a distinguished student of Shakespeare, whispered to me when Mr. Prokash Chunder was feeling Brutus's mind in those accents which fairly took in the audience. The words were uttered when Mr. Prokash Chunder was only but a little way towards the attainment of the brilliant success that he ultimately achieved. Cassius has hatched the conspiracy : he is uneasy till Brutus consecrates it by his approval. The prestige, that moral elevation, which only Brutus's amen would lend to the enterprise is wanting. Cassius pleads for it, aye, but the pleading is all done under cover and is manoeuvered cleverly. Brutus gazes on vacancy, he cogitates and communes with his consience and finally promises to consider what Cassius says. And lo ! there returns Caesar from the feast of Lupercal. Caesar's

brow is furrowed, he likes not men with lean and hungry looks and he takes counsel with Antony. And Antony—what an Antony it was? Mr. Satyendra Nath Tagore, whose recitals from Tennyson were so much appreciated the other day, acted the part of Antony with an impulsive energy beyond all praise. Imperious Caesar had none of that expression of refinement which Antony displayed. The conspirators break fresh ground : Casca (Mr. Atul Chandra Sen) is lured into the plot. The abandon and the over-flowing humour of gentle Casca, whom Brutus imagines to be a blunt fellow are remarkable. Casca becomes one of the initiated and the conspiracy develops. Cinna and Metellus Cimber are in it: they count not however as yet the inspiring presence of Brutus among themselves. The Second Act opens in Brutus's orchard. The seedling has taken root; Brutus's mind has been unhinged ; he reasons within himself ; he hath stole away from his bed in the early hours of the morning. Brutus's servant-boy Lucius (Master Manujendra Mallik) sleeps the innocent's sleep and responds not to his master's call. More calls ; Lucius rubbing his eyes wakes up and obeys his master's bidding. The naturalness that is the only word which Master Mallik displayed was so entrancing that it evoked a loud burst of genuine and hearty applause from the audience. Brutus solliloquises. It is not too much to say that throughout his speeches at this point Brutus exhibited all that purity of patriotism and philosophy which has been, not without some hesitation, attributed to that name. The reluctance to deeds of violence, the instinctive abhorrence of tyranny, the open simplicity of heart, the natural grandeur of soul, all these were cleverly portrayed by Mr. Mallik. Cassius succeeds : he has converted Brutus. Brutus loves him and the love of Brutus is his own exceeding great reward. Meanwhile the *minutiæ* of the plot has been wall executed. Decius (Mr. N. C. Mallik) has had the honour of inviting Caesar formally to come to the Senate. Caesar hesitates for Calpurnia had dreamed an unpropitious dream—and what an admirable portraiture of the hesitancy of Caesar—but is finally resolved to go forth to the Senate. The Third Act opens with the Senate in session. Caesar, seeing the Soothsayer "is reminded that the Ides of March are come. Ay, Caesar, but not gone." The time had come when Caesar was to make his last appearance on the stage of life. Great Imperial Caesar must go : "he doth bestride the narrow world like a Colossus" the era of freedom and liberty, which had been so long delayed, was at last. to be ushered in. But Caesar can look on with some degree of complacancy on the pin pricks of lesser mortals. The rapier of Brutus, that Buruts to whom aforetime his heart had gone forth, pointed against Caesar—this

however was too much for him. "This was the most unkindest cut of all." Caesar falls ! It is difficult to describe the excitement occasioned by the acting on this scene. It almost looked that the actors were making point after point in a whirlwind of excitement. Well may Cassius exclaim in tones of passionate accent: "How many ages hence shall this our lofty scene be acted over in states unborn and accents yet unknown !" One feels exhausted. Caesar is dead and gone ; and I will not weary my readers with any detailed description of the funeral orations pronounced by Brutus and Antony. The Antony of Mr. Tagore deserves to be seen ; it will not do to sit in an armchair and read newspaper comments. This is not a critical essay on the impressions registered when the playing was going on. Space will not allow me to linger on, as I might, on the distinguished and loyal assistance rendered by those players who had to take up the minor parts. All the appointments of the play were in excellent taste. The scenic effect was indeed wonderful. The scenery and the general decorations were as they should be, assistants to the acting and not overloading or overwhelming it. The completeness in every detail and the admirable stage management, especially in the arrangement of the Roman crowds, rendered the performance one of the most successful ones.

(*16th September, 1900.*)

Wars Beyond the Borders of British India

(1900)

We desire to draw the attention of our readers and of the public to a Return which has just been presented to the House of Commons at the instance of the Right Hon'ble Mr. John Morley, M. P. It is a Return setting out a list of the wars and military operations on or beyond the borders of British India since 1849 in chronological order, the causes of such wars and the source from which the costs of such wars have been met. It is a remarkable document, and, it may be truly said, that among the many Parliamentary Papers published during recent years, there is not one which is of greater or of more far-reaching

importance than the one under notice. Our readers, we hope, still remember the wave of indignation, which passed over many thoughtful minds, alike in England and in India, when it was announced in 1896 by Lord George Hamilton from his place in the House of Commons that it had been decided by Her Majesty's Government that India was to bear the expenses of the Indian troops who had been sent to garrison Suakim during the Dongola Expedition. Perhaps to many cynical people it might seem that there was not much to wonder about in the decision of Her Majesty's Government, seeing that it had almost become an article of faith with the Lords of the Treasury in England to charge to India the expenses of the Indian troops, sent out on various occasions beyond the borders of India. Alone, however, among the Liberal occupants of the Front Opposition Bench, Mr. John Morley raised the voice of protest against such an inequitable arrangement, and what is more, did not hesitate to go about the country and educate British public opinion, by pointing out, in numerous speeches, in a most conclusive manner the fallacious nature of the arguments which were advanced by the Ministerialists in support of such an arrangement. At Montrose, Scarborough, Abroath, Forfar and Newcastle the Member of Montrose delivered most incisive speeches; and everywhere the impression gained ground that perhaps the British public would not henceforth permit the continuanece of an arrangement which saddled voiceless India with expenses that were by no means light. When Parliament re-assembled after the recess, Mr. Morley drew the attention of the House of Commons, and in a speech, which for its loftiness of conception, pathos and eloquence, rivalled some of the best Parliamentary efforts of Mr. Gladstone, denounced the iniquity of the arrangement and pleaded for bare justice to poor, afflicted and famine-stricken India. The Government, however, had not been slow during the debate to indicate to the Ministerialists that an adverse vote would lead to the immediate dissolution of Parliament; and once again the spectacle was presented to the world, of the dirty rag of party discipline keeping the Government in its place and saving the situation. The motion of Mr. John Morely was defeated; but Mr. Morley's interest in the matter abated not, and in the midst of his literary pursuits, Mr. Morley did not forget India.

At the debate on the frontier policy of the Government of India, initiated by Mr. Lawson Walton in the House of Commons after the Tirah Campaign, Mr. Morley again came forward, and not only denounced the petty ceaseless border-wars, but emphasised once again

the pressing necessity which India felt of being relieved of all expenditure which could not legally be made a charge upon the revenues of India according to the terms of Statutes 21 and 22, Vict. C. 106. Mr. Morley pointed out in the course of his speech that the policy of Lord Lawrence which, while avoiding all needless meddling with the frontier tribes, exercised a healthy moral control, was the truest guarantee for peace, and that, if it was the sincere desire of the Indian Government to have anything like a lasting peace on the North-West frontier, they should at once return to the sagacious and humane policy of that distinguished statesman.

Mr. Morley has succeeded now in extracting from Lord George Hamilton the Return, referred to above; and it may be taken for granted that as soon as the war cloud at present on the horizon, has disappeared and the temper of the English people becomes a little more sober and rid of the 'Imperial' frenzy, Mr. Morley will address himself to the task, undaunted and undispirited. Meanwhile, it is the duty of every Congressman to study, with the care and attention which the intrinsic importance of a subject, which forms one of the principal planks in the Congress programme, demands, the Parliamentary Paper just issued. Turning, therefore, to the Return, we notice that during the fifty years that have elapsed since 1849, there have been no less than one hundred wars, undertaken beyond the borders of British India. On three occasions, viz. in the Abyssinian War of 1867-68, in the Perak War of 1875-76, in the Soudan War of 1885-86, the extraordinary charges were borne by the British Treasury. Our readers will notice that on these occasions the ordinary charges, which were by no means light, were borne by the Indian Government. On one occasion, viz, in the Persian War of 1856-57.—it is mentioned that the cause of the war was some insult or other to the British envoy at Teheran—the British Govenment felt some qualms of conscience and piously resolved that half the extroaordinary charges were to be borne by the British Treasury. On two occasions, viz, in the Chinese War of 1856-57,—the war being undertaken to avenge 'general ill-treatment of foreigners'—and also when Indian troops were taken over to Malta to overawe Russia, the ordinary and extraordinary expenditures were borne by the British Treasury; while on another occasion, viz, in the China War of 1860—maliciously called by some people the Opium War,—the ordinary and extraordinary expenditures except expenses of Indian Navy vessels were borne by the British Treasury. And on two occasions, viz, in the Egyptian Campaign of 1882, the British Government were generous enough to make a

Parliamentary grant of £ 500,000. Therefore, taking the above facts together, it may be roughly said that on nine separate occasions, the British Government were found willing to assist India to bear some portion of the expenses of nine wars, undertaken beyond the borders of India. India has had, therefore, to bear the expenses of ninety such wars, during the course of the last fifty years.

Turning now to the statement of the causes of such wars, as set out in the Return, we must say that we are obliged to come to the conclusion after a patient and careful examination, undertaken with an anxious desire to be fair to all parties, that in the majority of instances these wars were undertaken on the flimsiest of grounds. It has been insinuated on more than one occasion that the wars, which the Indian Government sometimes undertake, afford periodical exercises to the British soldier who might otherwise grow rusty. There may or may not be any truth in the assertion ; but any way the Return furnishes the most ample evidence, if indeed any evidence were necessary, of the truth of Lord Cranborne's (now Lord Salisbury) celebrated remark that the system of the British Government tended to the bleeding of India. Year in and year out, the iniquity of the arrangement has been pointed out over and over again ; but hitherto the labours of earnest politicians in this direction have gone for nothing. And any hopes that might have been indugled in by some of us that something, some relief in some shape or other, might after all come out of the recommendations of the Welby Commission, have been dashed to the ground ; for the Leader of the House of Commons assured the House the other day that the thoughts of Her Majesty's Government were engrossed on other topics and that India for the present must wait. It now remains to be seen whether the House will see its way to accept the proposal which has been recently formulated by Mr. Herbert Roberts, M. P., that the cost of maintaining 20,000 British troops of India should be transferred to the British exchequer. The Transvaal war has proved most conclusively that the strength of the British garrison in India is kept at a figure far above what the requirements of India warrant. The ingenious device of explaining away this phenomenon by a fanciful analogy to the lending of watch dog by a neighbour to one in distress, might catch the imagination of the youthful visionary who is carried away by the music of eloquence or the gloss and beauty of sonorous periods ; but to all level-headed men it is apparent that India can safely do away with at least 20,000 British troops.

In the Budget debate of 1899, Lord Curzon, replying to some observations which had been made earlier in the course of the debate by

Mr. Chitnavis, warmly declared that so long as his lordship held the reins of the Government of India, not one British soldier would be withdrawn from the existing British garrison in India. His lordship will, we trust, now see that Mr. Roberts' proposal does not involve the withdrawal of a single British soldier. By all means, have as many British soldiers as you like ; but do not saddle the entire cost of maintaining them on poor impoverished India. Lord Curzon has already shown an encouraging beginning in these matters. His lordship has accepted almost in its entirety the policy of Lord Lawrence in regard to our relations with the frontier tribes. Is it too much to expect that His Excellency will follow up the reform which he has inaugurated by giving his support and adhesion to the eminently practical proposal of Mr. Herbert Roberts ? With the transfer of the cost of maintaing 20,000 British troops to the British exchequer, it may be hoped that there will be lesser encouragements to go to war with frontier tribes in the future. The attention of the Government would be directed in a large measure to the internal affairs of the country and its pressing needs ; and the Government will perhaps some day realise its ideal that its existence is justified to that extent only to which it has made the people happier, more contented and prosperous. The enchantment, hovering around the quest for a scientific frontier, will perhaps disappear ; and the Government will discover, to its agreeable surprise, that the true scientific frontier lies in the grateful hearts of a loyal and contented people.

(*"The Bengalee"—May 6, 1900.*)

The Twentieth Century—A New Era

(1901)

To-day marks the beginning of a new century, a new era of man's hopes and fears. The Nineteenth Century is gone.—it lies past and will soon awhile lie in the floating mists of time. It has indeed been a remarkable century. Men have not been slow to praise it. The wise and the foolish, the learned and unlearned, the poet and the pressman, the rich and the poor,—all alike swell the chorus of admiration for the marvellous inventions and discoveries of the age. Great and fundamental have been the changes which the moral, material and intellectual achievements of the Nineteenth Century have effected

in the life and civilization of mankind at large. Some have even claimed it to be the beginning of a new era of human progress. Some, while readily admitting this, have even gone so far as to maintain that in certain essential particulars there has been, let alone progress, distinct retrogression towards the close of the century. As its evening shadows began to fall, one by one those distinguished men, whose lives were a beacon to the multitude and who bore aloft the fire of everything that is sacred and holy, and which goes to make life beautiful and worth living, have lain low. Take, for instance, the case of England. Of all the Great Immortals, whose light made the midday of the past century so glorious, few remained to watch its subdued sunset. And no parting ray of any brilliance even indicated the promise and the beginning of the carrying on of the life-work of those giants. Tennyson, Browning, Turner, Carlyle, Darwin, Tyndall, Huxley, Dickens, Thackeray, Millais, Gladstone, Martineau, Ruskin and last, but not least, Max Muller have all passed away; and their places know not the successors to whose keeping their lives staves may have been committed. A change has come over the spirit of the dreams in the West. Militarism, the umpire of war, has been preying on the life of the nations in Europe; and the closing years of the century has witnessed a revival of the war spirit throughout Europe. The whole region has now become a vast camp, armed in all the panoply of war and occupied by opposing forces greater in numbers than the world has ever seen before; while away in the south of the Dark Continent, the "hellish panorama of war" as Mr. John Morley puts, is being slowly unrolled. At a moment like this, Longfellow's celebrated lines about 'redeeming the human mind from error' rise instinctively to one's lips and the mind is saddened by the thought that the nation is still bearing the curse of Cain.

Looking away and turning our eyes about us in India, it is, again, a dismal picture: Famine has become a constant visitor with us—a sure index, despite all official explanations, of the loss of the staying power of the Indian people; in another respect it is even more acute. The great tribunes of the people, the great men of the country,—have for the most part joined the great majority and the country is unspeakably poorer by their loss. Where are the men to-day who will bear the heat and burden of the day,—the men who will carry on the work and the traditions of Rammohun Roy, Keshub Chunder Sen, Ramkrishna Paramhansa, Radhakant Deb, Rajendra Lala Mitra, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Ramtanoo Lahiri, Ram Gopal Ghose, Hurrish Chandra Mookerjee,

Kristo Das Pal, Dwarkanath Mitter, Romesh Chunder Mitter, Mano Mohan Ghose, Digumber Mitter, K. T. Telang, Vishwanath Narayan Mandlik, Ajodhyanath, Muthuswami Aiyar, Salem Ramaswamy Mudaliar and a host of others? Everywhere, all around, it is the same story, the same cry of despair fills the air. But whence this despair? Alas! despair at the things left unfinished—some by our predecessors but the great portion by ourselves.

It was in this frame of mind, agitated as it was by these thoughts, that I went to hear Mr. Fletcher Williams discourse at the Albert Hall on Unfinished Things on Sunday morning last. Mr. Fletcher Williams is a thinker of singular depth and originality; and I do him but the barest justice when I say that his listeners came away at the close of the lecture in a better and inspiring frame of mind. After a brief hymn or two, Mr. Williams rose to deliver his promised address and went straight to his subject. At the outset he pointed out the singular appropriateness of the subject which had been chosen, because it was apparent to all that, when we look through the long vista of the past, we can never escape the haunting shapes of things unfinished, of intentions unfulfilled, of undertakings left off. Take, for instance, the case of the merchant. It might be that during the year which was so rapidly drawing to a close, he had intended to get rid of a partner whom he found uncongenial, or to induce another to become a partner and with whose association and help there was the prospect of extending the business of the firm. But all these intentions must remain unfulfilled. Take, again, the case of the busy man, so completely absorbed in his profession that he has become, so to speak, a part of its mechanism. Perhaps he has a love for literature, but he is not able to spare one moment for the study of books. Or, perhaps he has a taste for science. He has but glanced, it may be, at the theory of Hertzian Waves, but he has no leisure to study up the subject. Or, again, perhaps he has a love for Botany. He would like to wander about the fields,—would like to study the nature and growth and history of trees; but to his keen and poignant regret, this side of his nature must remain undeveloped. Take, again, a third instance,—that of the mother, presiding over a household. She has possibly a taste for painting or music or languages; but she is not able to sit at her table, undisturbed, for more than a couple of minutes, and all her ideas and inclinations about self-improvement and self-culture must be dashed to the ground. Everywhere it is the same story of the unfinished things. It reminded one of those tall gigantic cathedrals in Europe where it seemed to the

observer that the spires were always building, and that the cathedrals never came to a completion. Here it was a flying buttress that was wanting ; here it was a niche which wanted its statue and there it was a fresco lying unfinished. And by the time these are finished, it may be that the foundation or some other weak point was giving way. One of the most pathetic scenes in a life was when one, standing in the midst of a grave-yard, contemplated the narrow short graves of the young who had died before their time. Why was it that they were born if they were so soon to die ? Why was it that the mother's heart was gladdened for a brief interval with those curling locks, such as every home has seen, if it was again so soon to be blasted ?

It was everywhere the same story, then, why being anything ? Would it not be better to let well alone ? There are, however, two moods which are calculated to do irreparable injury to the mind. One is, since so few things are finished it is better not to do anything, or to attempt anything. The other is since many remain unfinished, let us do what we have set our hands to, hastily so that we may finish. Progress,—human progress, is impossible if the mind is overpowered by these moods. You are not compelled or obliged to do anything. Nobody wants you to do anything. But if you set your hands to a thing, do it with all thy might. If you open a book, for instance. and if it is worth reading, read every line and every page of it, and don't skip through it so that you may finish. Carlyle in his "Sartor Resartus" truly pointed out the way : "Do the duty which lies before you, and the second duty will have become considerably nearer." As regards perfection, the finishing, leave it to God. You may call an apple a perfect finished article. But no ; if you cut it in twain, you find the seed within it. The seed is the prophesy and the pledge of something to come,—some further development,—something greater still to come. It is one eternal progress,—a marching out towards the realisation of a better ideal. The mind, when tuned in a key like this, can never despair—can never fail to worship, by day and night, in the shaded and sunny hours, the eternal and beneficient Providence who watches with unceasing care over the destinies of us all.

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new
And God fulfills Himself in many ways."

(*"The Bengalee"—January 1901.*)

Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter

(1901)

This day two years back the earthly career of a great man, a prince among men, came to its close. Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter, one of those truly great men whom India has produced within the life time of the generation that is so rapidly passing away, died amid the tears of a whole nation on the 13th July, 1899. A man of the most sterling worth, a shrewd observer of men and things, thoroughly sincere in what he said and in what he did, Sir Romesh had showered upon him the best and choicest of all worldly goods. The world's prizes had been his, and that in no stinted measure; but it was vouchsafed to him, as indeed to few it has been, to realise, in some measure at all events, the large place he held in the love and affections of a whole people.

His life story is known to all. For sixteen years Sir Romesh occupied and adorned a seat upon the Bench of the Calcutta High Court, and it is not too much to say that, by his conscientious and even-handed administration of justice, he so far contributed towards the public good that the High Court came to be associated in the minds of the people with all that worked for good and fair-play and as the one machinery to which all eyes turned whenever instances of Executive intolerance and Magisterial high-handedness cropped up. Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter might not have had the forensic gifts of the late Mr. Justice Dwarka Nath Mitter or might not have been one of those Judges whose wealth of learning passes into the substance of the law, leaving it enriched for all time to come; but his reported judgments testify to the erudition of the lawyer, the polish of the scholar and the impartiality of the Judge. Sir Romesh Chunder possessed, in an abundant measure, one of those qualities which are even more important in high judicial places than teachnical learning, namely, the capacity of seizing on the vital points in complex bodies of fact with swift and sure apprehension. Twice he officiated as Chief Justice of Bengal; and on each occasion Sir Romesh's administration of the duties of his high office evoked the warmest praise from all sections of the community.

But, however distinguished his services as a Judge of the highest tribunal in the country may have been, his services to the country and to his community, among whom he moved and had his being, are specially noteworthy. As a member of the Public Service Commission, as a member of the Jury Commission, as a member of the Supreme Legislative Council, as Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Calcutta Congress of 1896, Sir Romesh rendered great and lasting services to his country. Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter showed it plainly in his life and character that it was perfectly possible for an Indian to be warmed up with a patriotism which does not clash with the central fact of British overrule in this country.

Such was the late Sir Romesh ; and it is a matter of public duty with his countrymen to keep his memory green for ever, so that his life and career may serve in very truth as a beacon and an example to the rising generations. Four separate times has Sir Francis Maclean, Chief Justice of Bengal, exhorted our graduates and our young men to take to heart the great lesson of patience and industry and honesty from the life of the illustrious deceased. But what have our own countrymen done, let us enquire, to present before the public some tangible memorial which can recall to posterity some of those qualities which went to make the man Sir Romesh was? It will be a shame and a disgrace, we do not hesitate to say, if we do not erect a suitable memorial to the late distinguished Judge.

("*The Bengalee*"— *July 13, 1901.*)

Non-Official Europeans and the Bengal Partition

(1905)

(Letter to the "Statesman", Calcutta, dated 12th September, 1905)

May I ask the hospitality of your columns to point out to A True Friend and to all "those non-official Europeans, mostly business men, who, for the most part, are opposed to the Partition scheme," that the leaders of the Swadeshi movement are not responsible if it strikes at friends and not foes? We prayed, implored, times without number, in the public prints in the earlier stages of the controversy, the non-official Europeans to lend us a helping hand in the agitation in which we have been engaged. The non-official Europeans and their mouthpieces, namely, the European Associations, would not move at all. What else can we do in our despair than to adopt a policy which must touch the pockets of the non-official Europeans who, after all as has several times been demonstrated, are the real rulers in Bengal, and compel them to take some interest in our affairs and to sympathize with us in our distress? Whose fault is it, I ask, that we are now constrained to engage in the present boycoot? If even now the Bengal Chamber of Commerce would move in the right direction, much of the present tension of feeling would disappear. It is very good to ask for impossible guarantees about the status of the High Court. The situation, however, could only be saved if our European friends would take up our cause and insist on the withdrawal of the Partition decree. But if, however, our European friends would not raise even now their voice through the recognised channels, the boycott has to be persisted in. Whether we succeed in this or not time only will show. But let our European friends understand that the time for resentment and revenge has long passed by and that it is with us at the present moment a question of self-preservation. We are anxious to assist in the formation of the League referred to by A True Friend. But the active part in connection therewith should be taken by him and those Eurpoeans who are of his opinion; because our experience in the past has taught us that the Government does not pay the slightest attention to what we may say, but makes all its machinery move in the direction wanted if a single European Association expresses itself strongly on any matter.

John Morley and Indian Reforms

(1907)

The following interview took place at the India Office, London, on April 17, 1907. It was published in the "Modern Review" June, 1936, after the death of Sir Charu Chunder Ghose, under the caption of 'A Side-Light on the Morley-Minto Reforms'—Being the record of an interview of a distinguished Indian with John Morley'.)

Mr. Morley: Mr. Ghose, I am very pleased to see you. Sir David Barr (then a Member of the Secretary of State for India's Council) tells me that you have been a Vakil of the Calcutta High Court and have practised there, that you came over to read for the Bar, that you have got high honours here, and a substantial prize from Lincoln's Inn—you know perhaps I belong to Lincoln's Inn—and that you have taken great interest in public questions. My congratulations, Mr. Ghose, on your success.

Mr. Ghose: Thank you, Sir, for your kind congratulations. I am grateful to you for having accorded to me the honour of an interview with yourself.

Mr. Morley: Not at all. I am always pleased to see Indian gentlemen of your position and attainments, Mr. Ghose.

Mr. Ghose, you come from Calcutta, do you not? Now do tell me, please, how affairs are at the present moment in Eastern Bengal and Assam. I have seen Sir B. Fuller three or four times here. He seems to me a very capable official and a man gifted with many qualities, but it has struck me that they are not the qualities which would enable a man to tide over problems arising at a time of great public excitment. Now will you tell me your candid views about Eastern Bengal and Assam and I will keep them to myself.

Mr. Ghosh: Sir, I come from Calcutta and Calcutta is my home. I was in Calcutta upto the 26th of April last and I knew what our people felt about the Partition of Bengal.

Mr. Morley: Excuse me, Mr. Ghose, the question of the Partition of Bengal is no longer an open question and although I should be glad to listen to anything that you might have to say about it, I may tell you frankly that I do not see any way to re-open the question.

Mr. Ghose: If I may venture to say so, Sir, I was not going to suggest to you to re-open the question of the Partition of Bengal. What

OLD PRESIDENCY COLLEGE BOYS (1894)

From left to right :—First row : D. N. Mitter, T. K. Baksi, N. N. Sircar, P. C. Dutt, D. R. Ghose, J. S. Chakravarti.
Second row : C. C. Dutt, D. N. Gooptu, C. C. Ghose, P. C. Mitter, S.N. Mukherjee.
Third row—B. N. Mitra, B. L. Basu, B. L. Mitter.

I was going to say is this, that so long as Sir B. Fuller was in Eastern Bengal and Assam, things could not quiet down—why they could not quiet down, you, Sir, know very well the reasons, but though I believe and although the people still believe that the Partition is a wrong to them there is a tendency towards quietness in Eastern Bengal and Assam since Mr. Hare's assumption of office as Lieutenant Governor. If a policy of conciliation is followed, there will be no more Barisal disturbances. (Mr. Morley:—I have not forgotten them) (meaning the Barisal disturbances).

Mr. Morley: I am very glad to hear that, Mr. Ghose. Nothing can be gained by further agitation about the Partition of Bengal. Now tell me, Mr. Ghose, what do the people of India want, what do the Congress Party want. I have been a diligent student, if I may say so, of the writings in the Native Press of India. Here, (pointing to certain printed matters lying on his table) you see I have translations made for me week by week of the important matters appearing in the Native Press and as I gather from these writings I find there was a great deal of contention and dispute at the last Congress between the extremist wing and the moderate wing. Now tell me what do these people, the extremists, want and who are they.

Mr. Ghose: I believe, Sir, from the accounts that have reached me that there was very little dispute between the extremists and the moderates at the last Congress. The extremists count verry little in the counsels of the Congress. They do not count as a force to be reckoned with and the great bulk of Congressmen follow the lead of men like Mr. Gokhale and Mr. Dutt.

Mr. Morley: I am glad to hear that. I saw Mr. Gokhale several times and Mr. Dutt twice or thrice last year here and I found that they were sensible men, moderate men and that one could go a long way with them. But I want to hear from you, Mr. Ghose, what you in India really want. Now I am not a man who would grudge to give to people more than I could help it and I am anxious to do something for India. But as I say, it is difficult to know the mind of India and I want to know from you what you want.

Mr. Ghose: Sir, briefly put, what our people want at the present day is some real voice in the direction of the policy in India so that there may be a chance of fulfilment of the pledges given to our people by our late Queen and the Parliament of the United Kingdom. We want that there should be at least one Indian on the Viceroy's Executive Council.

Mr. Morley: You mean, the Viceroy's Legislative Council.

Mr. Ghose: No, Sir, I mean the Viceroy's Executive Council.

Mr. Morley : Well, that is something which is quite new. That has never been suggested to me. What has been suggested to me is that there should be an Indian on my Council here.

Mr. Ghose : Sir, I shall be coming to that in a moment. But as I was saying, we want an Indian on the Viceroy's Executive Council and this has been suggested in the Congress for many a year. (Mr. Morley—I have not heard that.) We say that the time has come when with perfect safety to the maintenance of British rule—and here I may throw in the observation that the best among us have no other wish than to see England's rule broad based in India—an Indian may be summoned to sit on the Viceroy's Council.

Mr. Morley : But why do you want an Indian on the Viceroy's Executive Council? Would it not do if you had an Indian on my Council here?

Mr. Ghose : Sir, if you were to grant us this boon, namely, that there should be an Indian on the Council of the Secretary of State in Whitehall, you would earn the gratitude of the Indian people.

Mr. Morley : Mr. Ghose, let me not interrupt you. Please proceed in your way. I am only a listener.

Mr. Ghose : As I was saying, we want an Indian on the Viceroy's Executive Council and one on your Council.

Mr. Morley : You see, Mr. Ghose, the two questions are different. The sword in India can be held only by one person. If you have two persons holding the sword, it is a source of weakness. You have military questiones constantly coming up before the Viceroy and it is felt—mind you—I am reproducing the arguments used by my advisers—that you cannot have an Indian on the Viceroy's Executive Council.

Mr. Ghose : Sir, from our point of view, we say that the Indian who can be trusted in these matters, military questions I mean, can surely be found in India. But, Sir, if it is felt that you cannot trust an Indian with, say, the portfolio of the Home Department, or, shall we say the Financial Department, I am sure, Sir, you will kindly excuse my speaking quite frankly to you, (Mr. Morley : Mr. Ghose, I pray of you not to hesitate to tell me anything that may be passing in your mind) we say that perhaps it will not be difficult to find out a suitable Indian fit to be the Legal Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council and that we have Indian gentlmen capable to hold their own against any men sent out from England.

Mr, Morley : Now, Mr. Ghose, we will assume a hypothetical case. We will assume that we have Indian Legal Member on the Viceroy's Council. Now, he would debate on questions other than legal just

as any otner member, would he not ? I quite believe that you have Indian lawyers who are as capable as any men here.

Mr. Ghose : Sir, as the status of the Legal Member at the present day stands, he would. But, I believe, I am right in saying that before Sir Henry Maine's time—he was a member of Lord Lawrence's Government (Mr. Morley : I knew Maine very well) the Legal Membef did not sit on the Council when the Council were occupied with other than legal questions. I have not got the reference by me but I could find out the reference for you.

Mr. Morley : Mr. Ghose, I shall find out myself. Now what you say very greatly interests me. (Mr. Morley here made a note of what I had said).

Mr. Ghose : As I say, Sir, the Legal Member before Sir Henry Maine occupied a sort of an inferior position, if one may say so in the Council. Now, what we say is this, that—I am not giving up my point, Sir, that you should have an Indian on the Viceroy's Executive Council with full powers so to speak—you can have an Indian Legal Member on the Viceroy's Council under the conditions and the limitations as used to prevail before Maine's time. Why we are so keen about an Indian on the Viceroy's Executive Council is this—everything originates in India ; there all projects are fashioned into shape, the whole thing is cut and dried there and then it is sent to England to the Secretary of State for his approval. We feel that it is all essential that in the originating stage we should have Indian opinion represented on the Viceroy's Executive Council and that *that* would go a great way to give peace and contentment to our people. Now, although the Indian Legal Member under the conditions as I have attempted to sketch before you would not be entitled, *as a matter of right*, to give his opinion on other than Legal questions, still I apprehend, that in practice the Viceroy and the Members of Council would often consult him (he would be always near by and with the Government of India) and if he were an Indian of great strength of character, as I expect he will be, the result will be that Indian opinion will be listened to and the people of India would have the satisfaction of knowing that there was some chance of presentment of Indian views before the Viceroy and his Council.

Mr. Morley : I quite agree, Mr. Ghose, no doubt it will be a very great advantage if we have an Indian at one end of the wire and an Indian at the other end of the wire over here. But you must remember, Mr. Ghose, we must proceed cautiously.

Mr. Ghose : Sir, if I may say so, all that we ask is this, the Government should make cautious advances only.

Mr. Morley : Now, Mr. Ghose, as I say I am much interested in what you say and I will make enquiries as to the state of things before Maine's time. The thing seems feasible, but I do not commit myself to anything. Yes, it is one which requires careful consideration and looking into. But tell me, Mr. Ghose, supposing there is a vacancy today on the Viceroy's Executive Council, I forget the name of the Legal Member (Mr. Ghose, Mr. Erle Richards), supposing Mr. Erle Richards resigns his office today and supposing I write to Lord Minto to nominate an Indian, I do not know how he would arrive at a proper selection, I suppose he would consult the Judges or that sort of thing, do you say that Lord Minto can easily find out a suitable Indian ?

Mr. Ghose : Sir, Lord Minto will not have to travel beyond his Legislative Council to find out a suitable Indian. He will find such an Indian in Dr. Rash Behary Ghose, C. I. E., who is now on his Legislative Council.

Mr. Morley : What name did you say ? I am afraid I can't write all this down.

Mr. Ghose : Sir, may I write the name for you.

Mr. Morley : Yes, please.

Mr. Ghose : There are other Indians too, namely, Sir Gooroo Das Banerjee, Mr. S. P. Sinha.

Mr. Morley : Now Mr. Ghose, do you say that he (referring to Dr. Rash Behary Ghose) is fit to be Legal Member.

Mr. Ghose : I say, Sir, unhesitatingly that Dr. Rash Behary Ghose is eminently qualified to be Legal Member on the Viceroy's Executive Council. He has been a member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council before now.

Mr. Morley : And when was that ?

Mr. Ghose : In Lord Lansdowne's time.

Mr. Morley : When was Lord Lansdowne Viceroy ? I remember we were in office when we had to select his successor.

Mr. Ghose : I will tell you, Sir, Lord Lansdowne was Viceroy from December 1888 to January or February 1893.

Mr. Morley : Yes, that's right. We sent out Lord Elgin.

Mr. Ghose : Sir, you selected Sir Henry Norman in the first instance.

Mr. Morley : Right you are. Mr. Ghose you have a very accurate knowledge of these matters.

Mr. Ghose : Thank you, Sir.

Mr. Morley : I quite understand your position. You want an Indian with full powers, we will say, on the Viceroy's Executive Council

and if you can't get that, you would like to have an Indian (Mr. Morley smilingly) with crippled powers on the Council, you go on in a descending scale. That is wise policy, Mr. Ghose.

Mr. Ghose : Sir, we believe in compromises in political matters and we have learnt that from your books, if you will allow me to say so.

Mr. Morley : Have you read any of my books ?

Mr. Ghose : Sir, I have read many of them.

Mr. Morley : You have done me a great honour, Mr. Ghose,—what else do you want ?

Mr. Ghose : An Indian on your Council.

Mr. Morley : Well, Mr, Ghose, I know all the arguments for and against that proposal. But supposing I were to appoint Mr. Gokhale to my Council, the friends of Mr. Dutt would say that Mr. Dutt ought to have been put into my Council and not Mr. Gokhale and the same thing would happen if I were to invite Mr. Dutt and not Mr. Gokhale—Now what do you say to that.

Mr. Ghose : Since you do me the honour of asking that question of me, may I say this, that I know of no Indians more qualified than Mr. Dutt and Mr. Gokhale to sit on your Council and to assist you in your deliberations. Mr. Dutt has had administrative experience of a very high order and he enjoys a literary reputation which is not shared by any other Indian that I know of. Mr. Gokhale's qualifications, I am sure, Sir, you are familiar with. And I say this that, if you were to appoint one of these gentlemen, you will not hear any voice from India challenging the wisdom of your selection.

Mr. Morley : Are you sure, Mr. Ghose ?

Mr. Ghose : I believe I am speaking not without grounds, Sir.

Mr. Morley : Mr. Ghose, there is the question of the Muhammadans. They have to be considered. They will say that the Hindus have been favoured and that they have been neglected. I tell you what has been my experience in Ireland. I found that for every appointment in the gift of the Chief Secretary for Ireland there were two sets of candidates, one Protestant, and one Roman Catholic, and I find in India the conditions are very much similar. Now, what do you say to that ?

Mr. Ghose : With us it is not a question of Hindus and Muhammadans. It is a question of an Indian being allowed to sit on your Council. If you have got a Muhammadan of the right sort, say, a man like Mr. Justice Tyabjee of Bombay, who died the other day in London (Mr. Morley : what name ? Mr. Ghose : Tyabjee. Mr. Morely: Ah. Yes. I saw him), if you have a Muhammadan like him, nobody would be more pleased than the Hindus. As I say, Sir, it is not a question

of race between race, but it is a question of getting at that Indian who is qualified in every way to sit on your Council.

Mr. Morley : Well, Mr. Ghose, I rather think we must have two—one Hindu and one Muhammadan.

Mr. Ghose : Sir, if you have two Indians so much the better. But I was assuming that not more than one Indian can be allowed to sit on your Council.

Mr. Morley : Oh, I quite understand your position. Now, Mr. Ghose, tell me what is the answer to this. You must know that there is in India a class who have great vocal power, you know what I mean, I refer to the Europeans resident in India. They raised a tremendous howl over the Ilbert Bill—that was before your time I imagine. Now I felt that a Secretary of State would incur a tremendous responsibility who would do anything contrary to their wishes. The cause of reform would not progress at all, in fact, it would be thrown back.

Mr. Ghose : I quite appreciate, if I may say so, the standpoint from which you speak.

Mr. Morley : Now, what do you say to this ? I am talking of an Indian being made a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council with full powers—we will use that expression. Under the Statute, as you know, some of the members of the Council must be members of the Indian Civil Service. The Europeans in India may say this—if you are at all to have an Indian member, why should he be brought in from outside and why should he not work his way up like the rest of us from the ranks of the Indian Civil Service ? What do you say to that ?

Mr. Ghose : We had and have Indian gentlemen in the Indian Civil Service who had and have risen high in office and who could have been and can be made members of the Viceroy's Executive Council.

Mr. Morley : Can you give me one name ?

Mr. Ghose : Certainly Sir. There is Mr. K. G. Gupta, Member of the Board of Rèvenue in Calcutta, holding an office which is next to the Lieutenant Governorship of Bengal.

(Mr. Morley here wrote down Mr. Gupt's name & proceeded as follows :—)

Mr. Morley : Yes, I have heard of him, I think. It is a very high office and there are only two of them, is it not ?

Mr. Ghose : That is so, Sir.

Mr. Morley : Now if it be so, then why does not the Viceroy invite him to be a member of Council ?

Mr. Ghose : Sir, I do not know the reasons, but you will excuse me when I say that we believe he is not made member of Council because

he is an Indian. The thing has never been done, I mean, no Indian has ever been made Member of Council, and the inspiration must come from somewhere.

Mr. Morley : Well, Mr. Ghose, I am very interested in what you have stated to me. I believe in reform but I cannot do anything on a sudden. Now, what else do you want ?

Mr. Ghose : We want, Sir, more money to be spent on primary and secondary education.

Mr. Morley : (smilingly) And less on soldiers ?

Mr. Ghose : Sir, I will not enter into that question now, it would take up a great deal of your time, but we should like more money to be spent on education.

(Here Mr. Morley made a note to that effect.) And we want more European Professors, men of talent and distinction like E. B. Cowell (Mr. Morley—I knew him) C. H. Tawney, who was until recently the Librarian of the India Office. I hope you will not understand me to say that we do not like to see our countrymen in the Indian Education Service. We like to see them there and we are proud of them ; but we also like to see the best men from Oxford and Cambridge brought to India.

Mr. Morley : I am very glad to hear that Mr. Ghose.

(At this moment a card was borught in to Mr. Morley and I rose to go.)

Mr. Morley : Mr. Ghose, when do you leave England ?

Mr. Ghose : Sir, I leave London on or about the 15th June and I leave Marseills for India on the 21st June.

Mr. Morley : And when will you be called ?

Mr. Ghose : On June 12th.

Mr. Morley : I will dine in the Hall that night and shall hope to see you then.

Mr. Ghose : Thank you, Sir, Good-bye.

Mr. Morley : Good-bye, Mr. Ghose. I am grateful to you for what you have stated to me.

Mr. Ghose : Sir, I am grateful to you for having accorded to me the honour of this interview.

Mr. Morley : Well, you know I have been very pleased to see you. Good-bye.

Indian Unrest

(1907)

"On the subject of the disturbances in the Punjab, a representative of the "Tribune" has had a long conversation with a distinguished member of the Indian National Congress, Mr. C. C. Ghose, who is an L. L. B. of Calcutta University and who has recently passed his final examination for the English Bar with high honours :

"I have, of course, seen Reuter's telegrams from Rawalpindi and Lahore" said Mr. Ghose, "and I should like to give English readers a word of caution with regard to them. It is well known to us in India, although it is known to comparatively few persons here, that Reuter takes his views from the Anglo-Indian papers and not from the Native papers. I do not say this in the way of disparagement of Reuter. His correspondents are Englishmen and they naturally adopt the point of view of those with whom they habitually associate. Moreover messages sent by cable have nccessarily been rather brief, and we shall not be in possession of all the facts until the arrival in England of the mails in about three weeks' time. But I know enough of the state of affairs in the Punjab to say that the notion that there is sedition there is incorrect, It is true there is a considerable amount of unrest and discontent there as elsewhere in India. This feeling dates from sometime back, and it has been accentuated in a certain degree by the policy pursued by Lord Curzon during his tenure of office as Viceroy. Rightly or wrongly the Indian people think that his whole object was to perfect the administrative machine and to leave the people as small a chance as possible of influencing the course of affairs. The partition of Bengal was the crowning measure of Lord Curzon's administration, and this fannd the existing discontent into a blaze. The policy pursued by Lord Curzon's Lieutenant, Sir Bamphylde Fuller in Eastern Bengal and Assam, has also contributed to this result. Lord Curzon, it is true, has now left India, but traces of his policy still exist in some parts of the country and the recent prosecution of the "Punjabee" newspaper of Lahore is an instance of the repressive measures still adopted in some places. These have more than anything else contributed to bring about the recent disturbances. What the people of India really want is this: Not that the British Government should withdraw from their country, they recognise fully the many and immense benefit conferred on India by British rule, but that the policy of the Indian Government should be moulded as to give an increasing share in the administration to the children of the soil".

(*Reproduced in "India" (London), May, 1907.*)

Students' Hostels in Calcutta

(1913)

(*Letter to "The New Statesman" (London), on September 30, 1913*)

Will you allow me to draw attention of the English public through your columns to the statement of policy as regards education in India made by His Excellency Lord Hardinge in the Simla Legislative Council on the 17th September last.

His Excellency declared that the education of the boys and girls in India was a matter of first-rate importance with him, and that no sacrifice was too great to ensure that Indian boys and girls should have that education which the English people are able to give to their boys and girls over here. Nothing could have been more sympathetic, and it was in harmony with previous utterences of His Excellency ; but there is one matter to which I want to draw the attention of the English public here. As a result of a personal inspection of the hostels and students' boarding-houses in Calcutta early in January 1911, His Excellency Lord Hardinge made a special grant on April 1st 1911 of 5 lakhs of rupees (about £35,000) towards the construction of suitable hostels and boarding-houses for students in Calcutta, with residential quarters for tutors attached to them. His Excellency made another grant of 10 lakhs of rupees (about £ 70,000) for the identical purpose on the 1st of April 1912, and again on the 1st of April 1913 His Excellency made a further grant of 10 lakhs of rupees (about £ 70,000) for the same purpose. The disbursement of these sums of money lies with the Government of Bengal, but you will be astonished to hear that, although His Excellency Lord Hardinge has generously provided these sums of money, not a single rupee has up to the present moment, been spent towards carrying out His Excellency's wishes.

Will some Member of the House of Commons ask Mr. Montagu as to why the Government at Bengal is unwilling to move in this matter ? Educational authorities in Bengal have failed to discover the reason of this inaction.

The National Library Club.
September 30th, 1913.

Separation of Executive and Judicial Functions in India

(1913)

"It is said in some quarters that there is raging at this moment a veritable tornado of criticism of British Administration in India, which must shake our belief in the sacrosanctity of the Indian Civil Service ; and that unless a reform of the judiciary is promptly effected so as to remove the growing feeling that justice is not administered with impartiality in our great Dependency, it would spell disaster to India and the Empire."

Whatever truth there may be in the above statement, it is undeniable that public attention in India has for some months past been almost exclusively devoted to the question of the separation of the judicial and executive functions in India. Under existing arrangements the District Magistrate, who is the unit of the Indian Administration, is, at one and the same time, the head of the police and the head of the magistracy in his district. It is his duty to watch the police investigation of the more important cases, to read reports as they come in, and finally to decide whether a case should or should not be sent up for trial before himself or one of his subordinates. It is a matter of common knowledge that subordinate magistrates whose position and promotion are dependent on the District Magistrate cannot in such circumstances discharge their duties with that degree of independence which ought to characterise a court of justice. Abundant evidence has been published of late in India to show that very great mischief has resulted from the union of judicial and executive functions in the same person. It is not necessary to tire the patience of the reader by referring in any detail to the mass of evidence on this point ; but it is, however, essential to his proper understanding of the question that his attention should be drawn to the recent case of Rajendra Narayan Singh decided by the Calcutta High Court.

It appears that Rajendra Narayan, who is an elderly land-owner in the district of Bhagalpore, had been proceeded against by the District Magistrate of Bhagalpore under the provision of Section 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. That Section lays down that whenever the Magistrate is satisfied that any person is a habitual robber or a habitual receiver of stolen property, or habitually protects or habours thieves, or habitually commits or attempts to commit or abets the commission of offences involving a breach of the peace, or is so desperate and dangerous as to render his being at large without security hazardous to the community, the Magistrate may require the person to show cause

why he should not execute a bond with sureties for good behaviour, for such period not exceeding three years, as the Magistrate thinks fit to fix. Rajendra, in his petition to the High Court, stated that his troubles arose owing to the displeasure of the District Magistrate due to his refusal in 1912 to appoint as manager for his properties a European who had been nominated by the District Magistrate, and he accordingly prayed for the quashing of the entire proceedings. His application came on for hearing in the Calcutta High Court before Mr. Justice Carnduff and Mr. Justice Imam, and after hearing the arguments in the case there was a difference of opinion between the Judges, the former being of opinion that the application ought to be dismissed, and the latter being inclined to hold that the application ought to be granted. The matter was accordingly referred to a third Judge, Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, who has now held that there was no justification whatsoever on the part of the District authorities for drawing up proceedings against Rajendra Narayan Singh.

It appears that so far back as February 26th, 1908, the District Magistrate of Bhagalpore addressed a letter to Rajendra asking him to resign the post of Honorary Magistrate which he was then holding, as it was undesirable that he should continue to hold his post on account of the past and the then existing tension between him and his tenantry. Rajendra submitted a representation to the District Magistrate on May 22nd, 1908, in which he wanted to establish that the charge which had been brought against him was, if not wholly unfounded, grossly exaggerated and that the only thing that could be said against him was that there were several actions pending in the Courts brought by him against his tenants for arrears of rent. The District Magistrate did not pay any attention whatsoever to this representation, but ordered proceedings to be instituted under Section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code against Rajendra ; and after about two hundred witnesses has been examined under the orders of the District Magistrate, the proceedings were dropped on Rajendra's agreeting to appoint a competent European Manager for his properties. This was on November 12th 1908, and the European Manager, a Mr. Brae, who had been recommended to Rajendra by the District Magistrate, remained in possession of Rajendra's properties till September 1909, and apparently during this period Rajendra got on well with the district authorities. After September 1909, there was considerable friction between Rajendra and his European manager, and apparently the attention of the District Magistrate was drawn to the matter by Mr. Brae, for on May 10th, 1910 the Magistrate,

in an official communication to Rajendra reminded the latter that the sole reason for Mr. Brae's appointment and the dropping for the time being of proceedings under Section 110, was that the cause of friction between him and his tenants and the officials might be removed by the European manager having a free hand in the management of his properties. The District Magistrate, Mr. Hammond, further reminded Rajendra that the latter had made a definite promise to his predecessor Mr. Lyall to keep on Mr. Brae ; and added that if he failed to keep his promise, the proceedings under Section 110 would be at once revived. Some time thereafter Mr. Brae resigned without rendering any accounts whatsoever to his employer, and on October 20th 1910, the Magistrate asked Rajendra to appoint another European, a Mr. Mussleback, in place of Mr. Brae. Rajendra, however, did not accept the suggestion of the Magistrate but appointed one Mr. Landale as his manager. On January 24th, 1911, the Magistrate wrote to Rajendra calling upon him to explain at once why Mr. Landale had been appointed Manager without the sanction and authority of the Magistrate, and Rajendra was asked to retire altogether from his estate and to get the names of his sons registered in place of his own in the Land Registry. This suggestion of compulsory abdication could not, however, be carried into effect owing to legal difficulties.

Matters continued in this state till December 1911, when Rajendra found it necessary to dismiss Landale and appoint an Indian retired police official as his manager. This appointment was, however, according to the District Magistrate, a contravention of the condition of the dropping of the 1908 proceedings under Section 110 and in 1912 the proceedings were accordingly revived. The High Court has now held that the proceedings drawn up against the man under Section 110 were not *bona fide*, and the rule was therefore made absolute. In the concluding portion of his judgment Mookerjee J. observed : "The very fact that in 1908 the District authorities were of opinion that, if Rajendra appointed a competent European manager, proceedings under Section 110 might be safely abandoned indicates plainly that at the time there could have been nothing against him of a really serious character, and this view is confirmed by the treatment accorded to him by the authorities during the time which followed—a period of more than three years of strict discipline, as it were, passed under the guidance and control of a European manager. The fact that he has recently refrained from appointing a European manager does not render him liable to proceedings

under Section 110, the salutary provisions of which were enacted by the legislature with the purpose of protecting society from habitual offenders. They were unquestionably never intended to be applied to coerce landlords, however recalcitrant they might be, to adopt methods of management of their estate the efficacy of which, very indiscreetly perhaps, they might not appreciate."

The facts stated above surely suggest that the time has now arrived when the blot upon the administration of justice in India involved in the combination of the judicial and executive functions must be removed. Lord Dufferin said so far back as 1888 that the question demanded urgent solution. Lord Kimberley and Lord Cross admitted in the House of Lords in 1899 that the question was intimately connected with the training of judicial officers in India, and the Secretary of State of the day forwarded to the Government of India in 1899 a memorial signed by the late Lord Hobhouse, the late Sir Richard Garth, the late Sir Richard Couch, the late Sir Charles Sargent, the late Sir John Phear, Sir John Scott, Sir William Markby, Sir William Wedderburn, Sir Roland Wilson and Mr. H. J. Reynolds in which the memorialists asked that a scheme might be prepared for a complete separation of judicial and executive functions in India. The Government of India circularised in 1900 the various local Governments, and they, it is said, have since been considering the question ; but although in the meantime instance after instance has been cropping up in India showing the danger of the continuance of this union of executive and judicial functions in the same officer, it is to be feared that unless very strong pressure is exercised from this country, or unless the Royal Commission on the Indian Public Services takes courage in both hands and cuts the Gordian knot, the Government will not move at all. The usual official reply—namely, that if you were to alter the present system in India you would have to double the staff throughout the country—has been proved to be entirely without foundation by the late Mr. R. C. Dutt, I.C.S. and more recently by Mr. P. C. Mitter of the Calcutta High Court. No increase in the staff would, in fact, be necessary. It is possible that the Indian Civil Service is inflexibly opposed to any modification of the existing system. The sundried bureaucrat may be all-powerful under an oriental sun ; but behind him is the democracy in England, and it is to English opinion, therefore, that we in India must appeal for abolition of a system which is at the present day unanimously condemned by all who take an intelligent and at the same time a politically detached interest in India and her affairs.

The New Statesman (London),
December 20, 1913.

The Educational Situation In Bengal
(1913)

"We have set ourselves a high ideal. We desire to give the young generation of Indians a chance in life as we Englishmen received. We wish the youth of India to be taught wisely, to be truly patriotic, to serve the country with unselfish devotion, to appreciate their own great historical traditions and to take pride in belonging to the land in which they were born. As a father myself I can sympthise. I hope to see the young generation in schools and universities grow able and clever men who will play their part in the administration, and in the social and moral development of this great Empire ; and when I think of the students in different parts of India with whom I have had the advantage of conversation, I am filled with feelings of hope and enthusiasm. To the students my heart goes out. I feel no sacrifice is too great for their welfare and education for with them and their posterity lies the future of this land and the destiny of India. *(Lord Hardinge's closing speech at the Simla Session of the Imperial Legislative Council, September 17th, 1913.)*

The above statement by the Viceroy of India would appear to promise well for the future of education in my native country. No utterance could be more sympathetic. But the question is whether His Excellency's policy is being given effect to in Bengal. We have at the head of our affairs in Lord Carmichael, a most sympathetic and amiable English gentleman, and an excellent Governor, but the fact remains that Lord Hardinge's policy, so far as educational development in Calcutta is concerned, is not being given effect to. Here are a few facts which will put the matter beyond doubt. Lord Hardinge arrived in Calcutta in November 1910. Early in the following January he expressed a wish to the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Sir Asutosh Mukherjee, that he would like to go round with him and see the students in their messes. Sir Asutosh suggested that His Excellency should pay these visits *incognito* and accordingly he went round with the Rev. Mr. Holmes, of the Oxford Mission Brotherhood. As a result, Lord Hardinge was convinced that there should be larger expenditure in the matter of the construction of hostels and good residential boarding houses attached to the colleges. On the 31st March 1911, a grant of five lakhs of rupees (£33,000) was made by the Government of India for this purpose. The money was placed at

the disposal of the Government of Bengal, and apparently Lord Hardinge thought they would mature schemes to give affect to his policy. This sum, however, up to the present remains unspent. On the 31st March 1912, the Government of India made a further grant of ten lakhs (£66,000) for the same purpose, and this sum of money also remains unspent. On the 31st March this year, the India Government made yet another grant of ten lakhs, but upto the present day no one knows whether there has been any expenditure from this last sum. The educational authorities in Calcutta have from time to time enquired why it was that these generous sums remained unspent, but they cannot get any answer. Meanwhile, as people in England have already heard, schemes are being matured for the establishment of a Uuiversity in Dacca. Educationists in Calcutta have not the slightest objection to the establishment of as many Universities as the Government may choose, but we feel that the policy of the Anglo-Indian Bureaucrats is to starve Calcutta University, and to crush by that indirect process whatever public life there is at present in Bengal. As a matter of fact we have only about half a dozen men in Bengal who are really qualified to run Universities. The Committee appointed to mature the Dacca scheme was presided over not by an educationist but by a Civil Servant. The idea obtains that in India a Civil Servant is able to-day to occupy the post of Collector of Revenue, to-morrow that of a high judicial officer called upon to administer Hindu-Muhammadan-Buddhist law, and the day after he can be trusted to guide the affairs of the foreign office in India. But we have not got men of the stamp of Sir Oliver Lodge or Sir William Ramsay. The professors who are sent out from England, with a few exceptions, such as Croft, Tawnay, Gough and Elliot, are really fifth-rate men and they know as little of University management as the Indian who has not travelled beyond India, and not visited the ancient seats of learning in Europe.

When the Universities Act of Lord Curzon was passed, whatever may have been his lordship's own view, the aim of the permanent officials was to officialise the Universities. The Senates of the reformed Universities were so constituted as to insure that there should be an official majority, and that the unofficial element should be at a discount. So far as Calcutta is concerned, the unofficial element at first was in a minority, thanks to the determined attitude of Sir Herbert Risley, but owing to the fact that the Europeans of the Senate took very little interest in its deliberations, the unofficial or Indian element gradually made its influence felt, and at the present moment it is a force to be reckoned with. The Calcutta University has religiously followed the aims set before it by Lord Curzon's Act. It has now ceased to be merely an examining

University and has become a teaching centre. Before 1904, there was only one chair, that of Tagore, the professorship of law. Since then there have been established no less than seven chairs, some with Government help but a greater proportion by public spirited individuals. Lord Minto generously provided a professorship of economics, the University itself established the George V professorship of philosophy, the first occupant of which is the learned Dr. Brajendranath Seal. At the instance of Lord Hardinge a chair has been established for applied mathematics, the first professor being Dr. W. H. Young. of Liverpool University. The University has also established the Carmichael professorship of ancient Indian history, the first occupant being Dr. Thibaud, a name familiar in the Upper Provinces as well an in Bengal, and widely renowned for profound scholarship. Sir Tarkanath Palit has given his all, a sum of about sixteen lakhs of rupees (£106,666) towards the establishment of two chairs in physics and chemistry. Lastly Dr. Rash Bihari Ghose has just given a sum of ten lakhs (£66,000) towards the establishment of two more chairs in physics and chemistry and one in botany. Then there have been lecturers appointed since 1904 ; Professor Schuster, brother of Sir Felix Schuster, Professor Hermann Jacobi of the University of Bonn, Professor Hermann Oldenberg, D. Andrew Russel Forsyth, Dr. Paul Vinogradoff of Oxford, and Professor Sylvain Levi. These two last are going out to India this winter. There are also forty University lecturers selected from the staffs of the various colleges attached to the University, and they lecture in the University itself to about a thousand post graduate scholars on English and Anglo-Saxon, Sanscrit, Rhetoric, Persian, Arabic, Pali, Comparative Philosophy, Applied Mathematics. Economics and Ancient Indian History and Philosophy.

Thus the University is gallantly trying to do its part to carry out the aims of the authors of the Universities Act of 1904. But it is apparently not in the good books of the Government. They practically refused to make any very large grants towards the equipment of the University College of Science which is about to be established. Their policy, so far as one can make out, is to berak up the older Universities in India by a process of starvation and to establish new Universities in various provincial towns. This, it is apprehended by educationists and public men in Bengal, will ultimately result in the emasculation of public life. We have not at the present moment any really independent men in the provincial towns. There are no Indians who are able to meet the high officials of the Government on anything like an equal footing. A University in a provincial town, such as Dacca for instance, with the Commissioner of the Division as President of its managing body, will

almost certainly have the Commissioner's decree in every matter simply registered by the Managing Body and thus the Civil Servants will have their own way so far as education is concerned. That is a prospect which is viewed with the greatest possible alarm in Bengal, because so far as public feeling is concerned they would prefer that the Government should meddle in anything than education. They wish their people to be able to attend to the education of their boys and girls themselves.

What Bengal wants is to be left alone in peace, and if only the people are left in peace for a number of years, if the education of their boys and girls is allowed to develop on normal lines, the country will make such progress that England will have good reason to be proud of what has been done since the Liberals came into power.

(*The African Times & Orient Review* (*London*) *October, 1913.*)

NOTE

(Sir Charu Chunder Ghose (as he then was) stressed these points also in an interview with the representative of the Manchester Guardian (London) which was reproduced in the Amrita Bazar Patrika (Calcutta) in its issue of October 15, 1913.)

The Late Right Hon. James Stuart

(1913)

(*Letter to "India" (London) dated November 7, 1913,*)

On my return from Germany I hear the news of the death of The Rt. Hon. James Stuart, and I hasten to voice the sorrow and grief which all Indians must feel at the loss of such a true and fearless friend. Professor Stuart, to give him the name by which he was known to us, was associated with Mrs. Josephine Butler in the campaign against the continuance of the Contagious Diseases' Act in India. He was thus led to take an interst in India and her people, and so long as he was in the House of Commons his vote was one which was cast on the side of progress and reform in India. The Late Mr. Slagg and Late Mr Bradlaugh found in him a most helpful coadjutor and I remember occasions when Sir John Gorst and Lord George Hamilton discoverd in him an almost irresistible opponent. Then again the newspapers which he controlled were without exception friendly to India, and I am right, I believe, in attributing the fact to his presence on the Directorate. It will, I trust, be some consolation to Mrs. Stuart to know that the death of her husband will be regarded in the light of a personal bereavement by millions of Indians away from her, and who were not present at St. Stephens when Professor Stuart fought for the country.

Regina Hotel, Marseilles Oct. 29, 1913.

Sir S. Ayyar's Letter to President Wilson

(1917)

(*Published in the Amrita Bazar Patrika under the signature of 'Patient-Idealist.'*)

I presume your readers could not have forgotten the tremendous fuss that was made over the letter which Sir Subramonia Ayyar addressed to President Wilson in the early part of 1917. The British Government felt that it had been grievously wronged by Sir Subramonia and went to the length of administering a severe personal rebuke through Mr. Montagu and the Viceroy at an interview between them and Sir Subramonia which had been specially arranged to discuss the proposed Reforms in India and when Sir Subramonia could not possibly imagine that the question of the propriety or otherwise of his letter to President Wilson would be brought up.

Now look at another picture. On the 5th November last, Mr. T. P. O'Connoor, M.P. moved a Resolution in the House of Commons to the effect that before the British Government went to the Peace Conference it should settle the question of the grant of Home Rule to Ireland. The Resolution was supported by Mr. Asquith but the present Coalition Government opposed it vehemently and the Resolution was lost, Mr. Bonar Law opining that the question was a domestic one between Great Britain and Ireland. The Irish Nationalist Party thereupon sent to President Wilson a manifesto on the settlement of the Irish question and an appeal for his assistance. After referring to the motion which was rejected by the House of Commons on November 5, the letter recapitulates (I quote from *The Times*, Weekly Edition of November 15) passages from Mr. Wilson's utterances which the Irish Nationalist members held to justify and to enforce their demand. The following passages from the letter are specially interesting :—

"Can anybody doubt that the nation of Ireland comes under the category of those small nations for whose rights you so eloquently plead ? Or that the present Government of Ireland by Great Britain against the will of Ireland and simply by arbitrary and irresponsible force comes under the scathing condemnation you have given to all such exercises of wrong ?

"In language of wanton and studied insolence, the spokesmen of the present British Administration have repudiated the right of you or of any other of the associated Governments to offer counsel or even suggestions on the settlement of the future of Ireland. But we submit that this war aimed at something more as you yourself put it than a 'game of power'. We claim that this war must be looked at from your own standard of 'broad-visioned Justice'—for the creation of a new world of freedom everywhere, and in all nations ; that what the war has to do is to build up an entirley new world 'safe for democracy' ; that this supreme fact and issue of the war makes the liberation of Ireland as well as of other small nations a duty in which all the associated Powers have a right to a voice and part ; that no question, in short, of any oppressed nation or race can be considered to-day as merely domestic.

"We implore you not to relax your efforts to make this war not a mere triumph of nation over nation, armies over armies. We claim the further right to throw ourselves upon your protection and upon your aid because you are the ruler of more millions of the men of our blood than any other ruler, on earth. We appeal to you because in every hour of our history our race has stood by the flag of your nation, and your nation has never refused us its aid, its sympathy and its accord with our notional aspirations."

I fancy this letter to President Wilson must have made Mr. Montagu quite ashamed of himself at the intemperate language used by him in the House of Commons towards Sir Subramonia Ayyar. Will those of our countrymen who condemned Sir Subramonia in language of wanton insolence now revise their notions ?

Bhupendra Nath Basu & the Indian Reforms

(1924)

I had the privilege of knowing the late Mr. Basu for nearly 40 years. In my infancy he became acquainted with my father and the two soon became very great friends. In this way as I grew up I used to see him very often at our place and the deceased extended to me his confidence. In the early nineties I regarded him as a most enthusiastic worker in the cause of the Indian National Congress under

the guidance of the late Mr. A. O. Hume who was the General Secretary of the Congress of those days. His collaborators were many distinguished men who are no longer in the land of the living but whose memories are still green. I refer to the late Mr. Charu Chandra Mitter of Allahabad, of late Mr. Girija Bhusan Mukherjee who was one of the earliest of the Premchand Roychand Scholars, the late Pandit Ajodhya Nath of Allahabad, the late Mr. R. N. Modholkar of Amraoti, the late Mr. D. A. Kharaj of Bombay, the late Mr. Chiprankar of Poona, the late Mr. G. Subramania Iyar of Madras and, last but not least, the late Mr. J. Ghosal. In the work of the Congress the late Mr. Basu did never spare himself and his time was always at the disposal of the country, and in the rooms of the Indian Association his voice was heard frequently alike at general meetings and in committees. In those days Mr. Basu did yeoman's service in assisting the late Mr. J. Ghosal in organising the service for sending correct telegraphic reports to the English press of current Indian events and in dissipating the mischief that was created weekly by the late Mr. J. C. McGregor who was the Calcutta Correspondent of the London *Times*. Mr. J. C. McGregor who was a barrister by profession was the holder of an important office in the High Court, namely the Official Receivership. It is said that Sir Comar Petheram, who was then the Chief Justice, did not at all like the idea of one of his officials being connected with a newspaper Press and that on one important occasion when a particularly distorted account of a Calcutta event was telegraphed to the London *Times* the Chief Justice expressed the view that Mr. McGregor would have to make up his mind which master he would like to serve, the High Court or the London *Times*. At any rate, it is certain that Mr. McGregor's connection with the *Times* came to an end shortly thereafter.

Lord Lansdowne was then the Viceroy and on the advice of the late Mr. B. N. Malabari, his Law Member, the late Sir Andrew Scoble introduced into the then Imperial Legislative Council the famous Age of Consent Bill. Sir Romesh Chandra Mitter who had recently retired from the High Court after a long and distinguished career, voiced the popular opposition and the controversy over the Bill raged far and wide. *The Amrita Bazar Patrika*, which was then a weekly newspaper, came out suddenly as a daily and day by day reports came in from the muffasil indicative of the strength of the popular opposition to the Age of Consent Bill. The *Indian Mirror* was almost the only English edited newspaper which lent support to Government in that crisis. The view taken by the *Indian Mirror*, which was edited by the late Rai Bahadur

Norendra Nath Sen, found support among men like the late Sir Rash Behari Ghose. It was at the latter's house that meetings were convened for taking effective measures to convince Lord Lansdowne's Government that the intellectuals were by no means wholly opposed to the view taken by the Government. It was at the suggestion of the late Sir Rash Behari Ghosh that Mr. Basu drew up the famous memorial in support of the idea of raising the Age of Consent from 10 to 12. That memorial was referred to by Lord Lansdowne in the Imperial Legislative Council in terms of the highest praise and it evoked from the late Dr. Sambhu Charan Mukherji, who was the editor of the *Reis and Raiyat* and who was a no mean authority in these matters, a very warm commendation.

Mr. Basu found time in the midst of an expanding practice as a Solicitor of the Calcutta High Court to engage in civic work and during the chairmanship of the officers like the late Mr. Harry Lee, the late Mr. W. R. Bright, the late Mr. J. G. Ritchie and the late Mr. R. T. Greer, he did magnificent work as a member of the old Calcutta Corporation. Sir Alexander Mackenzie became Lieutenant Governor of Bengal in the winter of 1895 and he early seized the occasion to lecture the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta on their alleged neglect of an effective conservancy service in Calcutta. He described the Commissioners as a set of place-hunters who were engaged in immolating the then Health Officer, Dr. Simpson (later Sir William Simpson of the King's College, London). The story of the resignation of 28 Commissioners of the Calcutta Corporation as a protest against Sir Alexander Mackenzie's remarks on the occasion of the opening of the Palmer's Bridge Outfall work is well known and I will therefore content myself by merely alluding to it. Mr Basu felt keenly the officialisation, as it was then termed, of the old Calcutta Corporation, but his friend and colleague late Mr. Nalin Behari Sircar, C. I. E. rejoined the Calcutta Corporation after an absence of a little over two years and and Sir James Budillon who was officiating as Lieutenant Governor of Bengal after the death of Sir John Woodburn, seized the occasion of Mr. Nalin Behari Sircar's return to the Corporation for preaching a homily on the need of capable Indians of his stamp being on the Corporation. It is said that Sir James Budillon wrote a personal letter to the late Mr. Basu requesting him to follow the example of Mr. Sircar but Mr. Basu perferred to stand aside from the Corporation along with the veteran Mr. Kali Nath Mitter, C. I. E.

The years between 1899 and 1905 were eventful and Mr. Basu took his full share in the public activities in his province and in his city. The selection of the late Mr. Dadabhoy Naoraji as President of the Indian National Congress of 1906 was in a measure due to Mr. Basu's advice. As a matter of fact, Mr. Basu with the help of the late Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, the late Sir William Wedderburn and the late Mr. A. O. Hume was able to induce the late Mr. Dadabhoy Naoroji to leave his quiet retreat in Anerly in the suburbs of London and to come out when he was nearing 80 to preside over the deliberations of the Congresss in India. That year's Congress marked a parting of the ways. The Swaraj flag unfurled at that memorable gathering and Mr. Dadabhoy Naoroji gave an articulate expression of aspiration of the Indians for self-government. The old Congress with its veteran leaders, some of whom had been present at the birth of the Congress, practically came to an end with the session of 1906. It was followed by the disastrous session of 1907 in Surat where Mr. Tilak and his following came into violent conflict with the older leaders like the late Sir Pherozshah Mehta, the late Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, the late Sir Rash Behari Ghosh and the late Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu. The story of the Surat Congress will be found in the enthralling pages of Mr. Natesan's book but it does not mention the quiet influence which was exercised by the late Mr. Basu. In this he received consistent help from the late Sir Rash Behari Ghose and the late Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea and it was shortly by the efforts of the late Sir Pherozshah Mehta and Mr. Basu that the Congress came back for a time to its old moorings in 1908 when the meeting in Madras was presided over by the late Sir Rash Behari Ghose. Mr. Gokhale had already risen to fame and the Morley-Minto reforms were on the *tapis*. Mr. Basu's weekly lines to the late Sir William Wedderburn, extracts of which are to be found in Mr. Ratcliffe's excellent biography of Sir William Wedderburn enabled Sir William to press the Indian point of view on Lord Morley, and years ago I heard from Sir William that Lord Morley expressed to him the view that if it was a matter of dealing with Indians of the type of the late Mr. Basu, it would be very easy to frame a constitution which would satisfy the India of his day.

I have not referred thus far to Mr. Basu's work on the Senate of the Calcutta University, nor to his work as one of the most determined opponents of the Partition of Bengal. He believed with the intensity of religious conviction that the partition of Bengal should not be for all time a settled fact, as Lord Morley on a famous occasion described it and

he seized the occasion of his first visit to England in 1911 to press upon Lord Crewe, the then Secretary of State for India, the necessity of placating the agitators. Mr. Gokhale once said that if there was no peace in Bengal there would be no peace in India. Lord Crewe was firmly impressed wiih the necessity of rectifying the Partition of Bengal and he early pressed the view on Lord Hardinge's attention. Mr. Basu always claimed that a large measure of the credit for the undoing of the partition was due to him. Whether subsequent events have proved that credit was due to him or that he lacked in political imagination, is probably an open question, but be that as it may, the two visits of Mr. Basu, one in 1911 and the second in 1914 to England, very considerably widened his mental horizon and brought him into contact with many well known people in England. When the war broke out, Mr. Basu was away from London but he wrote a letter to the *Times* saying that during the period of the war the clash and din of political controversy in India would be hushed and Indians and Britishers alike would be found rallying to the side of the Crown. That letter made an impression wide and deep all over England and his services as a pamphleteer were utilized by the Victoria League on the governing body of which were distinguished men like Mr. Asquith and Prof. Gilbert Murray. Mr. Basu had become acquainted with Mr. Montagu in 1911 and also during Mr. Montagu's visit to India on the occasion of the Coronation Durbar, and Mr. Montagu had very early formed the highest estimate of Mr. Basu's capabilities. In 1917 when the Imperial Conference was held in London Lord Sinha was selected as the Indian representative. Mr. Austen Chamberlain was then Secretary of State for India. He had before him at the time the famous memorandum of 19 members of the Viceory's Legislative Council demanding a substantial constitutional advance ; Mr. Chamberlain had before him also Lord Sinha's epoch-making speech in the Congress in 1915 wherein he demanded the enunciation of a definite policy for India ; Mr. Chamberlain had before him Sir Thomas Holderness's famous minute on Lord Sinha's presidential address in which he said that it would be necessary to proclaim a policy for India ; Mr. Chamberlain had before him Lord Chelmsford's despatch embodying the conclusions of his Govenment on the memorandum of these 19 members of the Lagislative Council, and it is said that Mr. Chamberlain seized the occasion of Lord Sinha's visit to England for the purpose of obtaining a mental picture, true and accurate, of the entire scene before he placed before the Cabinet his considered views on the proposals sent to him by Lord Chelmsford's Government. It will not be disclosing a secret if I were to relate now that Mr. Chamberlain at

first did not favour the idea of a pronouncement of a policy such as was eventually made in August 1917. Mr. Chamberlain's idea then was to induce the Cabinet to sanction progressive reforms in India sufficient unto the day and not to launch upon a proclamation of policy, Lord Sinha impressed Mr. Chamberlain with a changing Indian scene and in his efforts were well seconded by H. H. the Maharaja of Bikaner and Lord Meston. Three prolonged interviews Mr. Chamberlain had, and at the end of the third interview it is said Mr. Chamberlain was firmly convinced that a proclamation of policy was essential and could not be further delayed. Dr. Annie Besant had started her Home Rule League and the air was thick with the ideas of self-determination and responsible government. Mr. Chamberlain was hopeful that he would be able to induce the Cabinet which included men like Lord Meston to sanction the proclamation of a policy but obviously it would take time. Meanwhile he was most anxious to strengthen the Indian element in the India Council and applied to Lord Sinha for the names of capable Indians whom he might invite to sit as members of his Council. The name that was suggested by Lord Sinha was that of the late Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu, and after consultation with Lord Chelmsford's Government Mr. Basu was appointed in June 1917 as a Member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India. Before, however, Mr. Basu could take his seat on the Secretary of State's Council, Mr. Chamberlain resigned the Secretaryship of State for India over the agitation following the publication of the report of the Royal Commission on the Mesopotamian War. The muddle in Mosopotamia was not of Mr. Chamberlain's making but he felt that after the rebuke that had been administered by the Royal Commissioners it was not consistent with his sense of honour to retain the position of the Secretary of State for India. When, however, he quitted the office, Mr. Chamberlain expressed his regret that he had not been able to claim Mr. Basu as one of his colleagues in the India Office. Mr. Montagu succeeded Mr. Chamberlain. The declaration of policy that was finally sanctioned on the 20th August 1917 had been already drafted by Mr. Chamberlain and passed by the Cabinet which included Lord Curzon before Mr. Montagu entered the portals of the India Office as Secretary of State for India. This fact is often forgotten and it is too readily assumed that Mr. Montagu was responsible for the drafting of the proclamation of the policy which was made in August 1917. Mr. Montagu's letters to Mr. Basu when he and Mr. Basu were associated together reveal an amount of his confidence in the latter which those who have not seen them will not be able to appreciate. Mr. Basu enjoyed

the complete confidence of Mr. Montagu. In the enunciation, in the framing of the constitution for India and in the exercise of patronage by the Secretary of State, Mr. Basu had a very great share and he became early known in the inner circle of the Government of India as the power behind the throne. When Mr. Montagu left the India Office, Anglo-India was no doubt jubilant but Mr. Basu felt that the period of reform had come to an end and the age of reaction was to commence. Mr. Montagu's final letter of farewell to Mr. Basu is almost a classic of itself. I trust some day Mr. Montagu's letters to Mr. Basu will be given to the public, and the public will then be able to appraise at its proper worth the really magnificent services rendered by Mr. Basu to India during the time he was a member of the Secretary of State's Council. Lord Peel after a time extended a large measure of his confidence to Mr. Basu but the atmosphere at the India Office was different. The permanent officials like Sir Malcolm Seton spoke a different language and although the atmosphere was cheerless and far from being encouraging Mr. Basu felt that it was his duty to stay on as long as he could. Lord Peel nominated Mr. Basu as one of Indian representatives at the Labour Congress at Geneva in 1922. Mr. Basu was then in indifferent health but it is on record that Sir Montagu Barton who was at the head of the British Delegation thought so highly of Mr. Basu that he said that it would be a very great disappointment if Mr. Basu were unable for reasons of health to take an active part in the public discussion in the Labour Congress. Mr. Basu yielded to Sir Malcolm's wishes and spoke at the Labour Congress. The Belgian and the French representatives were perfectly amazed at the eloquence displayed by Mr. Basu. Needless to add that the British Delegation headed by Sir Montagu Barton offered a warm congratulation to him.

Mr. Basu returned to India shortly thereafter to take up his work as a member of the Lee Commission. Those who know the inner history of the Lee Commission will readily acknowledge that Mr. Basu did all that was humanly possible for him to do for India sitting as a member of Lee Commission. Compromise is the essence of practical politics and while Mr. Basu never despaired of obtaining eventually self-government for India, he was of opinion that in the present transitional stage of India, it was necessary to carry on the permanent Civil Service of India. Mr. Basu was chiefly responsible for the nomination of Sir D. M. Dalal as High Commissioner for India and if he lived for a few days more it would have been a source of regret to him to hear of Sir Dadiva's resignation.

This imperfect tribute has become already too long and must be brought to a close. I have no space to dwell on his sweet nature, on his

charming smile and on the manner in which he always stood by his friends. Bengal becomes poorer by his loss and it will be many days before one sees again the man of his type, of his sagacity, of his sweet reasonableness, of his perfect sympathy with the young and of his charming disposition. When Mr. Basu was appointed as member of the Secretary of State's Council the *Statesman* said that it was a translation from Greer Park to Whitehall. He adorned his place in Whitehall and served under two Secretaries of States. He was on terms of personal intimacy with almost all the heads of the India Office and it is on record that in the famous council hall at the India Office many a time waverers have come to his side and publicly acknowledged their indebtedness to him. It was Mr. Basu's lasting regret that it had not been possible for him to proceed to England and serve under Lord Oliver whom he had known for a number of years and who he thought needed trained Indian advice before final conclusions were reached either on the matter of the report of the Lee Commission or on the question of a further constitutional advance. Lord Oliver and Mr. Basu corresponded very frequently and there can be no doubt that had Lord Oliver remained at the India Office he would have paid due regard to the views exposed by the late Mr. Basu.

The Senate of the University of Calcutta lost a very distinguished Vice-Chancellor in the death of Mr. Basu. Had Mr. Basu been able to hold the office of Vice-Chancellorship for a longer period he would have organised the unwieldy Post Graduate Department so as to make it immune from public criticism. But although Mr. Basu had to resign the Vice-Chancellorship, it was a matter of exceeding joy to him a few days before his death, to know that His Excellency the Chancellor had nominated Mr. Justice Greaves who has a great reputation among many Europeans and Indians alike to succeed him in the Vice-Chancellorship. Sir Ewart Greaves had a long interview early in August 1924 with the late Mr. Basu. It was not then dreamt that Mr Basu's days on this earth were numbered and he would die next month. May his soul rest in peace.

(The Modern Review, September, 1936.)

Sir Asutosh Mookerjee

(1924)

(Speech at the Condolence meeting at Bhowanipure 28th May, 1924.)

In moving the resolution giving expression to the deep sense of sorrow suffered by the people of Bhowanipur at the sudden and untimely death of Sir Asutosh, one of the greatest and noblest sons of India, and expressing condolence with the members of the bereaved family, Mr. Justice C. C. Ghose said that they met there in the shadow of a great calamity—in his judgment the greatest calamity that had fallen in this country within the last fifty years. A prince among men—a man among men—had suddenly been called by his Master to the region beyond the known at a time when his services, if ever they were in requisition, were more in requisition at the present moment than at any time in the history of India.

Sir Asutosh is no more. Their hearts were filled with grief unspeakable—no words in the vocabulary of any lanuage that they were familar with, whether English, Bengalee, Hindi, Urdu or Persian, he was certain, were adequate to give expression in a fitting manner to the depth of the sorrow that had been evoked throughout the length and breadth of this vast Indian Peninsula. He had seen the official telegrams which had poured in Calcutta from south, north, east and west. They proclaimed in one voice that the people of this country had really been stricken down by the passing away of this great man. Of his own personal relations with the illustrious deceased he dared not trust himself to speak in any gathering great or small. But what was the secret of the influence which the deceased exercised over the general masses of his countrymen. He had received an ovation in death which he never received in life. As far as his small and limited experience enabled him to say he had never seen a crowd moved as the crowd was which assembled at Howrah station on the morning of Monday last, a crowd each member of which felt that he had suffered a deep personal loss, a crowd each member of which felt that all that he or she could do was to pay a silent tribute of genuine respect and reverence to the memory of the illustrious dead and to have a last lingering look at those featuers which were delineated in the picture which they saw before them. Never were the members of the various sections of the community more united than when they repaired to the burning ghat and stood in silent reverence to the memory of the great departed. But

he was asking them if he might, what was the secret of the influence which the great man probably unknown to himself exercise over the minds of his countrymen? The secret lay in this that he had fixed his eyes steadfastly and continuously upon that ideal which was so near to his heart, namely, that one day his countrymen, his dumb countrymen might be so elevated through the process of education not naturally English education but through the process of education that they would one day sooner if possible, but surely one day, occupy a place in the Commonwealth of Nations respected at home and feared abroad. That was the ideal which that great man had set. Secondly, in the execution of the great purpose of his life his motto was 'whatever thy hand giveth do it with all thy might.' He was a hater of careless and slipshod work. Whatever he did, great or small, he did it well and he did it with a self-sacrifice which was beyond parallel.

Referring to his daily routine of work Mr. Justice Ghose said that those who had experience of his work at High Court, would bear him out that after his work at High Court Sir Asutosh had energy, herculean energy, left in him to work in the University every day till 9 o'clock with a devotion, should he say with affectionate devotion, is the interest of his countrymen which if it were reproduced in the rising generation even to the extent of one-twentieth part would bring them nearer to that goal for which he set his eyes. What he wanted was that his countrymen should be possessed of character, character in the higher and wider sense of the word, character which aimed that a man should be able to stand on his own feet, erect and fearless. He only feared the Divine Providence whose ways were inscrutable and to whose decree they had bowed on Monday last, but fear of man, however exalted the man might be, whether he belonged to the race the colour of which was white or to a race the colour of which was balck or brown, he had none.

He was, if the speaker could touch upon that aspect of his life, an intensely religious man. Those of them who were privileged to be admitted into the secrets of his inner life knew what influence religion exercised upon him. He was an intensely religious man and this was the speaker's conviction and this was his abiding faith that his strength came from religion because Sir Asutosh realised that without true religion which did not consist in merely going to the church or temple, religion which consisted in a pure daily life, religion which consisted in the performance of duty, social and moral, nothing could be done. It was, as he had said, his abiding faith and conviction that Sir Asutosh's strength came from the Most High, that his strength

came from the Divine Dispenser of what was good and true. And he felt almost everyday of his life that so long his health and strength were spared to him his God would never fail him. And therefore he wanted his countrymen to be possessed of character—character which would come from the cultivation of the natural talents of the man, character which would come through education. He wanted his countrymen to be possessed of true character, of that religious spirit without which no work, however great or small, was ever successful in this world.

Sir Lawrence Jenkins

(1924)

(Speech on the occasion of the unveiling of the portrait of Sir Lawrence Jenkins at the High Court, Calcutta by the Chief Justice,—November, 1924.)

It is my privilege on behalf of the donors to ask to be allowed to present a portrait of the Right Hon'ble Sir Lawrence Jenkins, K. C. I. E., late Chief Justice of this Court, and to request the Chief Justice and the Judges to accept the same. In doing so, it is quite unnecessary for me to detain you at any great length by recounting the services rendered by Sir Lawrence Jenkins to this Court and to the country. He came out as a Puisne Judge of this Court in 1896 in succession to Mr. Justice Wilson, afterwards the Right Hon'ble Sir Arthur Wilson, and was promoted in 1899 to be Chief Justice of Bombay. This last office he held from 1899 to 1907, when he was appointed by Lord Morley a member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India. Two years later at the earnest insistence of Lord Minto, who was then Viceroy and Governor-General, Lord Morley consented to part with Sir Lawrence Jenkins and appointed him as Chief Justice of Bengal. From April, 1909, to September, 1915, Sir Lawrence Jenkins was Chief Justice of Bengal. Many of the Judges who were colleagues of Sir Lawrence Jenkins have retired but happily there are still with us some of his colleagues in Mr. Justice Chatterjee, Mr. Justice Walmsley, Mr. Justice Greaves and Mr. Justice Newbould and may I say in parenthesis

long may they continue to be with us. At the Bar however there are still many who practiced before him and knew him well and it is a source of gratification to some of them that they are now able to present this portrait to the Court. It is considered by those who knew him well to be a good likeness of our late Chief Justice. A great lawyer, one of the greatest who ever came out to this country, and a great administrator, Sir Lawrence Jenkins has left a name and a fame which is imperishable. His judgments, whether as a Puisne Judge of this Court, or as Chief Justice of Bombay or as Chief Justice of Bengal, will remain for all times as examples of penetrating logic, close reasoning and clarity of thought; victor and vanquished all felt that in him they had just judge who held the scales even between the combatants. His relations with the three branches of the profession were at all times pleasant and cordial and I believe I am strictly accurate in saying that within recent memory there was no judge whose departure from this country was so widely or so keenly regretted as that of Sir Lawrence Jenkins.

Ramdoolal Dey : Beginnings of American Trade

(1925)

The presence in Calcutta at the present moment of a large number of American visitors recalls to mind the story of the early days of American trade and commerce in Bengal. With that story is bound up the life of Ramdoolal Dey, who was known in his time as the first Bengali Millionaire.

Ramdoolal Dey was born in a small village, not far from Dum Dum, some time in 1752. The early history of this man, like those of other self-made men, is a record of privation and toil. His father died within a few years of his birth and within two months of the death of his wife. The orphan was taken charge of by the maternal grand-father Ramsoondar Biswas, but the maternal grand-father did not live long and died within a year of the death of Ramdoolal's father. The maternal grand-mother obtained a situation in the house of one Madan Mohan Dutt, who was at that time the richest

Bengalee in Calcutta. Little Ramdoolal was introduced into the household of Madan Mohan Dutt as a poor dependant.

Madan Mohan Dutt was the Dewan of the export warehouse and he was the rival in wealth of Raja Nub Kissen, the friend of Lord Clive. Hundreds were daily fed at his house and enjoyed every comfort at his expense. In this mansion of his rich patron Ramdoolal Dey commenced his studies. The energy and will with which these were prosecuted soon made him an excellent pen-man and a careful accountant. Madan Mohan Dutt was pleased at the industry of the boy, and he directed him to attend his office at the export ware-house and learn the business. In course of time he was given the post of bill sircar, a post of which privation and personal discomfort are by no means the least prominent conditions. But the energy and toil with which Ramdoolal fulfilled his duties were extraordinary.

Madan Mohan Dutt's large business relations led to his having creditors in every part of the country. In those days from Calcutta to Barrackpore or Titaghur was an ordinary journey on foot. It is said that, on one occasion, Ramdoolal Dey had to received a large sum of money from an officer at Dum Dum. He was kept waiting until evening. The officer had no idea of the dangers on the Barrackpore Road Ramdoolal was sent away at night with a large sum of money in his coustody. At that time brigandage was a prevailing evil in the suburbs of Calcutta. The warlike element in Bengal, dispersed by the victory at Plassey, was still hanging about the civil population, biding its time and plundering without restraint the unprotected or ill protected. Ramdoolal, entrusted with this large amount in cash, at an hour at which it would have been insane to think of returning to Calcutta, was for some time at his wits' end but he was full of resource and so decided upon a definite course of action. As a fakir, passing the night under the shelter of a tree on the Barrackpore Road it would be impossible for any one to suspect that there was money in his possession. So he sat up under a tree the whole night, and early in the morning he presented himself with his bag of money at the house of his employer, Madan Mohan Dutta.

His pay at that time was Rs. 5 a month, but his habits were simple, his comforts few, his necessities limited, and even out of this emolument of Rs. 5 per mensem he contrived to save as much as Rs. 100. In those days Rs. 100 was a treasure to a poor man. Ramdoolal applied himself with assiduity to learn English from an English spelling

book, which he had purchased at a shop in Old China Bazar, and he scribbled sheet after every day in the hope of obtaining employment as a clerk in a mercantile office.

He again attracted the attention of Madan Mohan Dutt and he was promoted from bill sircar to the higher role of a ship sircar. The pay of the new office was Rs. 10 per mensem, added to baksheesh but alternated by blows from ship's captains, mates and crew. Though he could not read English, he could talk English fluently in his own style. A ship sircar's duties were varied. He had to go out into the mouth of the River Hooghly in all weathers, to superintend the loading and discharge of cargo, to count out the bales and the boxes discharged, as well as the bales and the boxes delivered. Often he had to maintain angry altercations, terminating not infrequently with blows from captains of vessels regarding the number of bales and boxes short.

His visits to Diamond Harbour gave him the opportunity of correctly estimating the value of the numerous sunken vessels put up for sale in Tulloh's auction. A large ship with a full cargo had foundered close to the mouth of the Hooghly. It was to be sold by auction. Ramdoolal's bid, which was the highest, was accepted for Rs. 14,000. Ramdoolal registered the sale in the name of his master and paid the purchase money out the sum entrusted to him on account of another lot which he had been commissioned to buy but which he had unfortunately missed. He had not yet quitted the premises of Tulloh and Co., when an English gentleman rushed wildy into the sale room, anxiously enquiring whether the ship (which Ramdoolal had just purchased) had been as yet put up for sale. The auctioneer informed the gentleman that he had come too late, for the lot had just been knocked down to a Sircar for Rs. 14,000 and the entire amount had been paid.

The Englishman offered Ramdoolal a profit, because he knew the real worth of the vessel and of the cargo it contained. The result was that Ramdoolal transferred the sale to him for a profit of little less than one lakh of rupees. Ramdoolal then repaired to the office of his employer to whom he recounted the story of his purchase and of his profit. He laid at the feet of his employer the roll of bank notes amounting to nearly a lakh of rupees.

Madan Mohan Dutt had a princely heart. He stared in amazement at the simplicity of Ramdoolal and at his honesty, and said to him: "Ramdoolal the money is yours. Your good fortune has sent it to you. You sowed the seed and you shall reap the harvest." Tears choked his power of utterance, as Ramdoolal greatefully acknowledged the gift.

But the windfall did not turn his head. He continued to serve Madan Mohan Dutt, so long as his patron lived, honestly and faithfully; and though the transactions into which the money thus secured enabled him to enter made him an exceedingly rich man—the richest in Calcutta, in fact, before Madan Mohan Dutt died—still Ramdoolal regularly besieged him on pay day for the stipend of Rs. 10, which he had a right to draw from his employer.

The lakh of rupees thus obtained became the keystone of Ramdoolal's fortune. The great American people had just then obtained their liberty. The democratic spirit which had successfully carried them through a most perilous war with England manifested itself, when the excitement of war had ceased, in the enterprise by which obscure ship captains and mates rose to wealth and eminence. The American Union had been finally established in 1783, when England acknowledged the independence of her colonies in the New World.

About this time Ramdoolal exhibited the greatest activity in attracting the trade of the United States to Bengal. He freely advanced money to American captains, loaded their vessels with cargo judiciously selected, and their imports at the highest profit. The gains from these transactions were so considerable that Ramdoolal rapidly rose to wealth. On the other hand, the American captains and mates, for whom he worked retired to America wealthy men and became merchants in their turn.

The bulk of American business thus passed through Ramdoolal's hands, and he came to be quoted as an authority in American commercial circles. So great was the confidence which his American constituents reposed in his ability and his integrity, that for the first time in the history of Indian commerce, American merchants dispensed with European agents in Bengal altogether. The mercantile house established by Ramdoolal was carried on by his grandson under the style of Ashutosh Dey and Nephews. Ramdoolal used to transact business direct with merchants in Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

So deep was the respect attached to the very name of Ramdoolal Dey in America that a ship-owner called a vessel after him, which was thrice sent to Calcutta with large consignments. Some of the principal American merchants subscribed for a portrait of George Washington taken from life a few years before his death. This portrait was presented to Ramdoolal Dey a year after George Washington's death, as a mark of the esteem and affection felt by American merchants for Ramdoolal Dey. The portrait is a life size one, measuring 9 ft. by 6 ft. It has passed

through various hands, but it is still to be seen at 12, Wellington Square being the property of Mr. N. C. Mallik.

Such a distinction was never before or afterwards conferred on a Bengali by American merchants. But Ramdoolal did not confine his attention wholly to fostering American trade. Whilst acting as the sole agent of a host of American merchants, he found time to undertake the banianship of Fairlie Fargusson & Co., then the largest English mercantile house in Calcutta. Ramdoolal had unlimited credit in the market. His word was as good as a bond on stamped paper, and a nod from him could unsettle the money market. The great houses of those days such as Palmer & Co., Alexander & Co., Mackintosh & Co., deferred to Ramdoolal Dey and acted on his advice.

(*'The Statesman', January 26, 1925 and signed as From a Correspondent*)

The Calcutta Bar Library

(1925)

The approaching celebration of the centenary of the Calcutta Bar Library on the 15th instant induces me to trace the history of the establishment of the Supreme Court in Calcutta and of the advent of the English Barrister, and I crave the hospitality of your columns to sketch briefly the few events of bye-gone days. It is appropriate that I should refer to these matters in your columns, for the late Mr. Shirley Tremearne, who founded "Capital", was in very truth nursed in the cradle of the High Court. For many years he was an Assistant Registrar on the Original Side of the High Court and he acted as Private Secretary to two of the most famous Chief Justices of the Court, namely, Sir Richard Couch and Sir Richard Garth, and it was only on the latter's retirement that Mr. Tremearne severed a long and honourable connection with the High Court.

THE SUPREME COURT

The present High Court of Calcutta is the successor on its Original Side of the old Supreme Court and on its Appellate Side of the old Sadar Dewani Adalat, the amalgamation being effected in 1862. The Supreme Court was established by the Regulating Act of 1773 passed in the reign of George III. His Majesty was authorised to grant a Charter

or Letters Patent for the erection of a Supreme Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal to consist of a Chief Justice and three other Judges being Barristers of England or Ireland of not less than five years' standing. The salary of the Chief Justice was fixed at £8,000 and that of the Puisne Judges at £6,000 a year. Sir Elijah Impey was nominated as the first Chief Justice and the first Puisne Judges were Sir Robert Chambers, Mr. Justice Lemaistre and Mr. Justice Hyde. The Charter directed that the Chief Justice and the Judges should respectively assemble themselves in a proper court or room to be by them appointed for that purpose, forthwith after their respective arrivals in Calcutta, and that before they proceeded to exercise their powers or functions the Chief Justice should then and there take an oath in the most solemn manner that he would to the best of his knowledge, skill and judgment duly and justly execute the office of Chief Justice and impartially administer justice in every cause which should come before him. Similar directions were also given for the oaths to be taken by the Puisne Judges. The Supreme Court was formally opened on the 22nd October, 1774, and I reproduce below an account of opening which appears in an entry on the Rolls of the Supreme Court :

Present

Chief Justice : The Hon. Sir Elijah Impey, Knight. Puisne Justices : The Hon. Robert Chambers, Esq. ; The Hon. Stephen Caesar Lemaistre, Esq. ; The Hon. John Hyde, Esq.

The Hon. Sir Elijah Impey and the other Judges take and subscribe the oaths of office and allegiance.

"The said Sir Elijah Impey, Knight, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, appointed by Letters Patent of our Sovereign Lord the King, under his great seal of Great Britain dated at Westminister the 26th day of March, in the fourteenth year of his reign, and Robert Chambers, Stephen Caesar Lemaistre, and John Hyde, Esquires, Justices of the Supreme Court, appointed by the said Letters Patent, being here assembled according to the directions of the said Letters Patent. We the said Robert Chambers, Stephen Caesar Lemaistre and John Hyde, have now administered to the said Sir Elijah Impey the several oaths and the declaration above written, and the said Sir Elijah Impey in the presence of us so assembled, hath here taken, made and subscribed the said oaths and declaration respectively. In witness whereof we hereunto put our hands and do hereby record the same."

The Court was to appoint its own officers and settle the table of fees chargeable by the latter. The Clerk of the Crown was authorised

to charge a fee of Rs. 11 for swearing in a Chief Justice and Rs. 8 for swearing in a Puisne Judge. The Charter of the Supreme Court empowered the Court to approve, admit and enrol such and so many Advocates and Attorneys as should to the Court seem meet. The Advocates were authorised to appear and plead and the Attorneys to act for suitors. Power was also given to the Court to remove from the rolls the said Advocates and Attorneys.

On the day of the opening of the Supreme Court there was only one Barrister present before Sir Elijah Impey and he was Mr. Thomas Farar, being the first Barrister admitted as an Advocate of the Supreme Court. By the end of 1774 there were only three members of the Bar (Messrs. Briks and Newman were admitted on the 14th December. 1774). In 1775 two more Advocates were admitted. In 1780, Thomas Henry Davies (afterwards Advocate-General), Anthony Fay (afterwards Advocate-General) and John Hare were admitted as Advocates. Davies came out to India without having secured a licence from the Court of Directors to reside in India and was ordered to return to England. He petitioned Warren Hastings and asked for his mediation to obtain the consent of the Court of Directors to his residence in India and in this he was successful. From 4th July 1780, to 13th June, 1782, no one was enrolled as Advocate and on the last mentioned date there were only five practising Barristers. The question of the dearth of Barristers attracted the attention of Sir Elijah Impey and a few Attorneys were admitted as Advocates in 1782 and 1783. In this connection the following extract from an entry in the rolls of the Supreme Court will be found interesting :—

"The first business of the Court to-day was the admission of three Advocates, which the Court agreed to do, although none of the gentlemen were Barristers in England nor in Ireland. The reason of the Court's departing from their general rule to admit none such as were Barristers was partly that although there is very little business in the Court since the opposition given to the procees of the Court by the Military Forces of the Company, by order of the Governnr-General, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Barwell, Mr. Francis and Mr. Wheeler, Counsellors, for which opposition it is said an Act of Parliamant passed on 18th August, 1781, to indemnify them and yet there are not Advocates enough who are willing to do but little business and partly because we were strongly solicited to admit Mr. Hall and Mr. Young and Mr. Uvedale had been promised long ago that, if we admitted any who were not Barristers, he should be admitted as an Advocate, he appearing

to all the Judges very well qualified. Mr. Uvedale is of genteel family in Ireland and his father is a Captain of His Majesty's Navy."

In 1799 the Court made the following rule :—

"The Court, taking into consideration the number of Advocates and Attorneys now practising before the Supreme Court, do resolve to admit no person as Advocate or enrol any person as Attorney until upon a view of the state of business and the number of Advocates and Attorneys, the Court do see occasion to make further order ; that whenever the Court shall be of opinion that the numbers shall be so reduced as to require an increase, any person coming from Europe and desiring to be admitted as an Advocate shall at the time he petitions for admission produce a licence from the Court of Directors of the East India Company to proceed to India for the purpose of practising the law there and likewise a certificate of being called to the Bar in England or Ireland and an attestation of his good character and ability, signed by two of the Judges of England or Ireland, which shall be indispensable requisites to admission."

It will be seen from the above that at this date no Advocate practising in the Courts of Scotland could apply to be admitted as an Advocate of the Supreme Court and that in all cases the production of a licence from the Court of Directors was essential. These two matters were not rectified till 1833, when by Section 115 of Statutes 3 and 4, William IV, . 85, it was enacted as follows : "That it shall be lawful for any Court of Justice established by His Majesty's Charter in the said territories to approve, admit and enrol persons as Barristers, Advocates and Attorneys in such Court without any licence from the said Company, anything in any such Charter contained to the contrary notwithstanding, provided always that he being entitled to practise as an Advocate in the principal Courts of Scotland, is and shall be deemed and taken to be a qualification for admission as an Advocate in any Court in India, equal to that of having been called to the Bar in England or Ireland."

By 1825 there were about fifteen Advocates practising in the Supreme Court and it was then considered necessary to have a Bar Library. The Calcutta Bar Library was founded on the 15th June, 1825, mainly through the exertions of Mr. Longueville Clarke and was located with the sanction of Judges in the court building itself. At first the Attorneys on the rolls of the Supreme Court could become members of the Bar Library, but in 1848 this privilege was withdrawn from them.

The following is a complete list of the Advocate-Generals of Bengal from the establishment of the Supreme Court :

1. Sir John Day.
2. Charles Newman.
3. Thomas Henry Davies.
4. Sir William Burroughs.
5. Sir Francis Macnaghten.
6. Robert Cutler Fergusson.
7. Robert Spankie.
8. John Pearson.
9. T. E. M. Turton.
10. Lawrence Peel.
11. C. R. Prinsep.
12. Charles Lyall.
13. James W. Colville.
14. Charles M. Jackson.
15. C. R. Prinsep.
16. W. Ritchie.

T. H. Cowie* from 1862 to 1871.

J. Graham (Officiating) from 1863.

J. Graham (Officiating) from 19th March, 1870, to 3rd December, 1870.

J. Graham from 1871 to 19th September, 1872.

G. C. Paul (Officiating) from 19th April, 1872, to 19th September, 1872.

Sir G. C. Paul, K.C.I.E., from 20th September, 1872, to 30th November, 1899.

J. D. Bell (Officiating) from 17th March, 1879, to 16th November, 1879.

A. Phillips (Officiating) from 26th March, 1882, to 21st December, 1882.

A. Phillips (Officiating) from 20th September, 1884, to 15th March, 1885.

J. T. Woodroffe (Officiating) from 22nd March, 1892, to 12th March, 1893.

Sir Griffith Evans, K.C.I.E. (Officiating) from 9th April, 1895, to 7th December, 1895.

J. T. Woodroffe (Officiating) from 1st June, 1899, to 28th April, 1904.

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*May have held the appointment prior to 1862.

P. O'Kinealy from 29th April, 1904, to 26th March, 1908.
S. P. Sinha (Officiating) from 29th March, 1906, to 31st October, 1906.
S. P. Sinha from 27th March, 1908, to 18th April. 1909.
W. G. Gregory (Officiating) from 18th May, 1909, to 8th November, 1909.
G. H. B. Kenrick from 9th November, 1910, to 8th March, 1916.
B. C. Mitter (Officiating) from 13th September, 1911, to 3rd November, 1911.

* * * * *

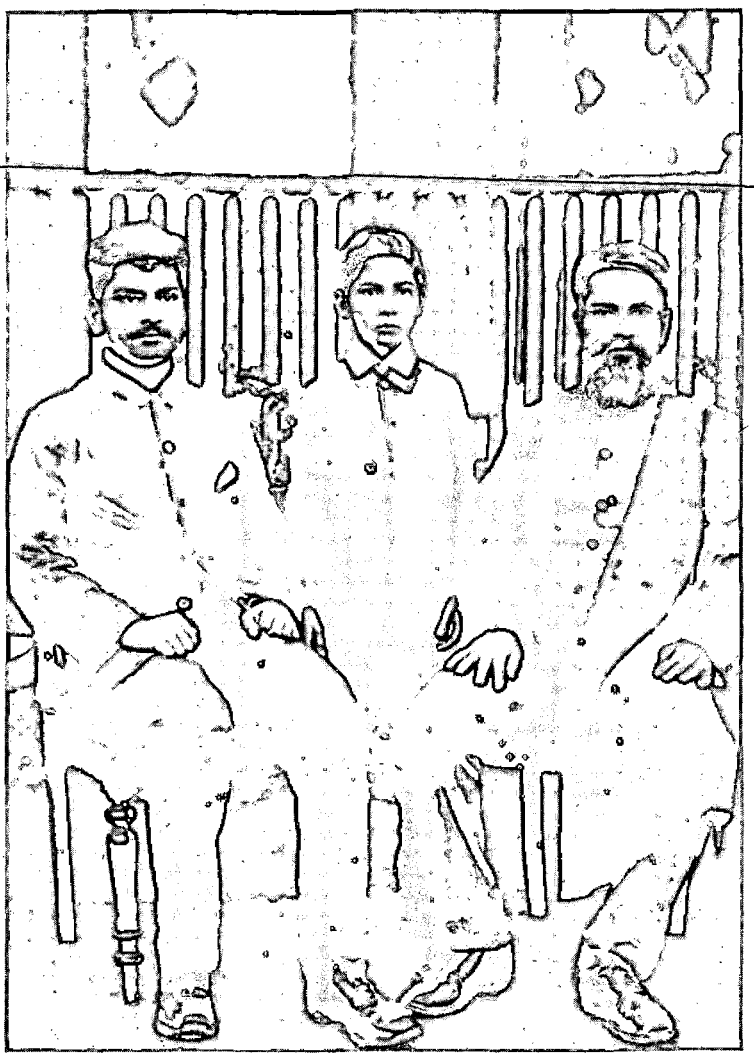
The examples set by Monomohan Ghose and W. C. Bonnerjee have been followed by scores of Indians and the Bar Library to-day counts among its members nearly 250 Indians with a sprinkling of Europeans, which can be counted on one's fingers' ends. Of the ex-members of the Bar Library, I cannot omit to refer to Lord Sinha. The first Indian Standing Counsel to the Government of India (who was appointed permanently to the post), the first Indian Advocate-General of Bengal, the first Indian member of the Executive Council of the Governor-General, the first representative of India at the Imperial Conference and at the Peace Conference, Lord Sinha crowned a long, distinguished and a most honourable career at the Bar by assuming the office of a Governor of one of the provinces. He acted as Governor for less than a year, as he had to resign his high office on account of prolonged ill health. It was at one time hoped that Lord Sinha might recover from the strain of the onerous duties which he undertook when he accepted the high office of Governor of Bihar and Orissa, but that hope was not fulfilled. In Lord Sinha's case, the early closing of a carrer as Governor had a more poignant interest than in others, because his appointment, unique in the history of British Rule in India, held out a promise of great success in an experiment which was to put the qualities of Indians as administrators to a crucial test. Those who knew him as a practising Barrister in Calcutta, never doubted that there was no other Indian better fitted than Lord Sinha to prove that there were no regions of activity closed to Indians of ability and character. The question has often been canvassed as to who was the first inspirer of the Declaration of August 20th 1917, which has been described as the most momentous utterance in India's chequered history. Space will not permit me to detail the entire story, which I must reserve for another occasion, but those that have seen the confidential official papers on the subject are agreed that the honours must be divided between Lord Sinha

and the Late Sir William Duke. Lord Sinha has retired into private life and his friends feel an abiding regret that his present health should have deprived the country of the benefits of his ripe wisdom and sagacious statesmanship.

The Barristers for a period of over 100 years enjoyed exclusive audience on the Original Side of the High Court, but the old order has changed giving place to the new, and the roll of Advocates which had hitherto been confined to persons entitled to practise in England. Scotland and Ireland has been recently enlarged, so as to include Vakils and Attorneys who have not received any legal training in Great Britain and Ireland. The Vakils and Attorneys admitted as Advocates under the recent rules have to conform to the same standard of professional honour and to the same rule of etiquette as Advocates hitherto practising on the Original Side.

The question of what an Advocate enrolled under the new rules may properly wear by way of robe, has been the subject of acute controversy within the last few months. The Judges have decided that these Advocates should wear the same robes as those of English Barristers. The origin of these robes cannot but be interesting to the members of the English Bar in Calcutta, for all of them, with two or three exceptions, have their legal home in England. At the time of the early Tudors, there was no distinctive costume for the "Utter Barristers" but by a decree of Queen Mary Tudor, sister of Edward VI, certain regulations were imposed upon the four Inns of Court as regards dress. These were not immediately effective, till in 1574, Queen Elizabeth and her Council promulgated certain other rules regarding dress to be worn by gentlemen of the Inns of Court. In Hilary Term 1627, special orders were passed, signed by all the judges, prescribing the dress to be worn by Barristers. It is said that the modern silk and stuff gowns dated from the close of the seventeenth century. They have been explained as mourning robes assumed for the funeral of Queen Marry II in 1694 and never subsequently laid aside. The Barrister's wig, which was a distinctive feature of the Bar dress in the days of the Supreme Court and up to 1861, did not come into use in England until a much later date. The Sergeants had their own special dress, which the Judges at Westminister as Sergeants also wore, but other members of the profession, whether on or off the Bench, seem to have appeared in Court in peruke, or wearing their own hair as they pleased according to the fashion of the time.

There are three rooms allotted to the Bar Library in the High Court premisses. One is known as the House of Commons, i.e. the big



C. C. Ghose with father & brother at Darjeeling (about 1896)

room in south of the Registrar's room on the Original Side. The small room is known as the House of Lords and the middle room is commonly described to be purgatory. It is often maliciously said by the briefless that you must be a member of the House of Lords before you can get into work, but those who have practised as Barristers in Calcutta are persuaded that there is no truth whatsoever in the accusation.

The Bar at the present moment counts among its members many men of sterling worth and undoubted grit and in their hands the independence of the Bar is and will remain assured. The celebration of the centenary has excited much interest in Calcutta and will be looked forward to by all who take an intelligent interest in everything that goes on around them. It is said that lawyers are parasites and self-seekers, but since the days of the Republic in Athens, there has not been known any society in any State in the world which has not depended upon lawyers in the maintenance of the supremacy of the law.

('*Capital*'—(*Special Article*)—*June, 1925*)

Memorial to Indian Troops

(1926)

(*Letter to—The Times* (*London*), *October 13, 1926.*)

Your excellent article on Delville Wood in your issue of yesterday led my wife and myself, in view of the new situation in India created by the arrival of the South African delegation, to seize the opportunity of being present to-day at the unveiling of the South African National Memorial in Delville Wood. We were the only Indians present, and the occasion recalled to our memories the genius and the statesmanship of Lord Hardinge, which enabled India to mobilize and send in those dark months of August and September, 1914, the famous Lahore Division to France in aid of the Allied Armies. It is unnecessary to recount the exploits of the Indian contingent, for they are related with remarkable vividness and force by Sir F. E. Smith (now Lord Birkenhead), who was attached to the Indian contingent as the official "observer" and by General Sir James Willcocks, who commanded the Indian contingent. The ideal of the men who fell, whether South African or Indian, is our legacy and their sacrifice our inspiration.

The photograph which appeared in *The Times* on Tuesday and

your article on Saturday will give some idea to my countrymen of the dignified beauty of the memorial; but, to my mind, no pen can portray the stone dome crowning the monument and depicting for all time how the twin races of South Africa, after fratricidal strife, came over the seas to fight in the Great War and how they went to a common grave. The lesson of the memorial is there and for all who have eyes to behold and ears to hear.

My object in writing to you is, if possible, to draw attention to the fact of the absence of an Indian war memorial in France, and to ask whether the time has not arrived when something should be done in this direction. The battle of India was fought on the Western Front, as the joint authors of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report truly observed in a most eloquent peroration; is it, therefore, too much to hope that the Government of India will give a lead to the Princes and peoples of India and assist in the erection of an Indian war memorial at, say, Neuva Chapelle, destined to point the same lesson as is conveyed by the memorial at Delville Wood?

Paris, October 10, 1926.

Ananda Mohan Bose

(1927)

(*Speech as President at the 21st death anniversary meeting of Ananda Mohan Bose in Calcutta, August, 1927.*)

Recalling the various incidents and traits of Ananda Mohan, Sir Charu Chunder said that not only the life of such a distinguished Bengali should be with them a possession but it was essential that it should be an active possession. In the hard days that were before them, the message of Ananda Mohan, namely, religious fervour, personal purity and sincerity of purpose, should be always before them. They had enemies enough, and in order to discomfit them it was necessary that there should be a ceaseless endeavour on their part to show that India was not a land of physical degenerates as was sometimes represented by cold weather tourists but she possessed a civilization hoary with age. Were they going to show to the world that, although they had no political privilege their moral greatness, which had descended to them from the age of the Rishis, had not yet departed? Let them continue the work began by Ananda Mohan Bose and other 'giants' of his age to its legitimate conclusion, and a day would come when India's place in the comity of nations could not be challenged.

Sir Surendranath Banerjea

(1927)

In course of a glowing tribute to the memory of Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea on the occasion of his second death anniversary, Sir Charu Chunder Ghose, who presided, asked his countrymen to so conduct themselves in every department of life that they might wrest from hands which might seem to be unwilling the full measure of their rights. He further called upon them to efface the charge that their services to their illustrious dead consisted merely of lip services and that they were lagging in raising a memorial, worthy of the great, who had died and worked for them.

Dwelling upon a few incidents of the life and character of Sir Surendranath Banerjea, Sir Charu Chunder referred to the magnetic influence which Sir Surendranath exercised over the whole length and breadth of India. The speaker was one of those privileged to witness what a trenendous hold Sir Surendranath exercised over the whole of India. The reception that was accorded to him in 1895 by the citizens of Poona when Surendranath went there to preside over the 11th session of the Indian National Congress was at once a symbol and an index of the almost marvellous hold that he had on the country's affection and love.

Sir Surendranath was a finished orator, a capable speaker and a consummate master of the English language. But more than that, he was consumed by a burning desire to remove the political fetters which were existent in his day, and some of which were existent even at the present moment, so that India,—not merely Bengal, but a unified India, free from communal distractions, an India in possession of all great things of the past, an India receptive of Western influence, an India not isolated from the rest of the world, but an India in communion with the intellectual life of the whole world, might find her proper place in the comity of nations.

That was his burning desire; and who amongst us is here to-day who can challenge the fact that he fought like a soldier in the cause of his country, and died like a soldier with Field Marshall's baton in his knapsack, given not by his sovereign, but by the united suffrage of his countrymen. (Applause.)

Proceeding Sir Charu Chunder said that when Sir Surendranath died on August 6, 1925, the whole country was thrown into a state

of deep mourning and people realised that whatever differences might have existed between Sir Surendranath and his later contemporaries, there could be no doubt of it that he was in a real and special sense the maker of modern India. (Applause.)

Sir Surendranath wanted to rear up an India which would command the respect and homage of the peoples outside the confines of India. They must be great—morally, socially, intellectually and politically. And their progress must be, not in water-tight compartments, but in all departments of life, so that it might be lasting and permanent and might ensure the well-being of the people. He left this ideal to his countrymen and it was up to them to so conduct themselves in every department of life that they might wrest from hands which might seem to be unwilling the full measure of their rights. (Applause.)

Sir Surendranath in his life-time was a name to conjure with. His motto was, "if you are convinced of the character of a thing that you want to do, then do it with all thy might, never mind who opposes you from the Governor down to the police constable !

Referring to the physical fitness of Sir Surendranath which he retained with full vigour till the last days of his life, Sir Charu Chunder said that when he looked upon the sickly emaciated children coming out from schools and colleges, his mind was filled with despair. He regretted that the present generation did not pay the slightest attention to the immutable laws of hygiene and personal cleanliness. But notwithstanding the manifold calls on his time and energy, Sir Surendranath found time every day to take physical exercise and that was one secret of his consuming energy and boundless interest in everything that related to the welfare of his country.

It was the ardent hope of Sir Surendranath that he might be able in his own day to evolve a State, more beautifully conceived than the Republic of Plato which compelled this illustrious man to go through the long toil and suffering and labour, so that the human spirit in India may find that in the progress of all, through the co-operation of all, Swarajists and non-Swarajists, under the guidance of all that is best and wisest, the dream of a united India may be realized and may cease to be an Utopia.

Concluding, Sir Charu Chunder said that after the death of Sir Surendranath, a sum of Rs. 27,000 was collected for the purpose of erecting a memorial in honour of the illustrious man. But at the instance of Lord Sinha, the amount was made over to the Carmichael Medical College at Belgachia. In these days when sums, for objects worthy and

unworthy, were raised from the public did they not think that they could, before the evening of life closed on them, do something to efface the charge that was sometimes laid against them that our services to our illustrious dead consist merely of lip services and that we are lagging in raising memorials worthy of the great who have died and worked for us.

Centenary Celebration of Abolition of "Sutee"

(1929)

Presiding over the centenary celebration of the abolition of "Sutee" at Albert Hall on Wednesday evening, Sir Charu Chunder Ghose gave a historical survey of the abolition of "Sutee" in India. In course of his speech Sir Charu Chunder said that Lord William Bentinck could not have passed this law unless he was supported by the dominating personality of Raja Ram Mohon Roy.

For many years prior to 1829, the "barbarous custom" of burning Hindu widows and in some instances of burying them alive with the dead bodies of their husbands had attracted the attention of the British Government. The Government of the country had tried several means up to 1825 to suppress this custom but the Court of Directors while deprecating the custom was afraid that the suppression of the custom alleged to be interwoven with Hindu religion might create conflagration in the country which might travel overseas and strike at the gate of the house where the Directors had their court.

The old Mahomedan law of the country laid down that it would not amount to murder if the murder was brought about by the request of the slain. In other words, the man who could put up a defence that he had killed a Hindu widow either at the instance of herself or at the instance of her dying husband or her relations would not and could not be convicted of murder.

This was the state of things in 1799 when the Supreme Court had been established in Calcutta and the Regulating Act of 1784 had been passed. The Nijamat Adalat which had its seat at Murshidabad, had its attention drawn to the custom but they did not interfere in the matter. What they did was that by a circular letter they directed that the Pandits who were attached to both the Sadar Dewani Adalat and Nijamat Adalat, might be consulted as to what was their "*Byabastha*"

according to the Hindu Sastras. The Pandits said that four of the superior castes could not be interfered with. They took seven years to return this answer. In 1812 the Nijamat Adalat forwarded the voluminous correspondence to the Governor-General in Council, who said that in as much as it was clear from the answers of the Pandits that this custom had the sanction of the Hindu religion, they did not intend to interfere with it. But one member said that something should be done within the limits of law to suppress this custom. They therefore addressed the Magistrates and the Superintendents of Police in the country that widows who had not attained puberty and those widows, who had infant children should not be allowed to sacrifice themselves and that widows should not be instigated to burn themselves on the funeral pyres and that men who were guilty of such instigation should be tired on a charge of abetment of murder. This regulation attracted the attention of the Court of Directors and in a despatch they said that the custom should be discouraged and discountenanced as a barbarous custom by the force of public opinion so that it might be brought in disrepute, but time had not arrived when the custom could be suppressed by legislative enactment. It was in the year of 1818 when there was no public opinion worth the name existing in the country, when there were no political teachers or leaders who could take up the matter and bring the weight of their personality and opinion upon the public mind. The despatch of the Court of Directors therefore amounted to nothing. It was at this juncture that a saintly man like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, a name which would remain imperishable so long India existed, took up the cause of Hindu child widows, who by force of custom had been condemned to sacrifice themselves on the pyres of their husbands.

Sir Charu Chunder then dwelt upon the works of the Raja and exhorted his audience to read it. The Raja, said the speaker, published a pamphlet, in the form of a dialogue, and presented a copy to every member of the House of Commons when the agitation reached England. The speaker then said that he had seen the private papers of Lord Bentinck which by his will could not be published for the next few years and he asked his audience to take it from him that prior to 1829 Lord Bentinck had the difficult task of convincing the Court of Directors, that they must take courage in both hands and pass a measure suppressing the custom. The Court of Directors were afraid that their revenue might diminish if there was internal commotion in India and their trade might suffer. They would be content with discouraging the custom by every means except legislative enactment. Lord

William Bentinck in reply told them to treat the letter as his resignation letter.

The Court of Directors took three months to deliberate over the subject and subsequently although there were minutes of dissension and disapproval the Court of Directors supported the action of the Governor-General whom they wrote a letter highly appreciating his motive and work in this direction. In those days letters from England took six months to come to India. On the evening of the day when the letter reached Calcutta Raja Ram Mohon Roy was sent for and shown the original letter. The Raja burst into tears. Lord Bentinck in his private papers had written that the old Brahmin remained mute and silent for minutes, while tears were coming down his eyes. In those days there was no Legislative Councils to pilot a bill through. Lord Bentinck, who was convinced of the rightousness of his cause, promulgated without any loss of time the Regulation 17 of 1829. If there were men who were to be regarded as heroes in the effort to abolish this custom it were Lord William Bentinck and Raja Ram Mohon Roy.

Proceeding Sir Charu Chander Ghosh said that the Regulation was promulgated on 4th December 1829. To-day they were there to celebrate the centenary of the day when the immolation of "Sutee" was rendered illegal. Their widows led the lives of usefulness and purity which were the admiration of all. He was almost certain, as certain as of his existence, that their widows were heerished in their families; there might be exceptions here and there in a way in which even the widows of America were not taken care of.

Continuing Sir Charu Chunder said that the Sarda Act of 1929 was the apostolic descendant of Regulation 17 of, 1829 rendering the immolation of "Sutee" illegal.

(*The Bengalee—December 5, 1929.*)

Sir Binod Mitter : An Appreciation

(1930)

It is impossible to describe what a profound shock it was to me on Sunday night when I received a cable from my friend, Arthur Hunter, conveying the sad news of the passing away of my most valued friend and relative, Sir Binod Chunder Mitter. It is not my purpose, however, to refer to my private sorrow, but it is the barest truth to say that his death is not merely an event in the legal world,

but has attracted wide interest and evoked the deepest sorrow in the community to which he belonged.

During the 31 years that he practised at the Calcutta Bar before his elevation as a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council he had gained wide popularity among a large clientele, enjoyed the unstinted confidence of the judges before whom he practised, and had been accepted by the profession as the finest lawyer in Calcutta.

He was not in appearance a physically powerful figure, but he expressed in his distinguished features a very great measure of force and intelligence. It is said of him that he never had a quarrel or a controversy with any judge. Never impetuous, nor at any time of sanguine disposition, his quiet strength, formidable industry and acute intellect were ever at the service of his clients. If he lost a case it was from no lack of technique. His forensic gifts were of a very high order, and a glowing and well deserved tribute was paid to him when he was Standing Counsel by that very distinguished Chief Justice, Sir Lawrence Jenkins, at the conclusion of a very sensational trial in the Calcutta Sessions. I refer to the trial of Sergeant Heelis.

Great as he was as Standing Counsel in the days when giants adorned the Calcutta Bar, he was equally great at *Nisi Prius* in the Original Side when he was engaged on unravelling the intricacies of the law before a succession of distinguished judges. He might not be considered to have been a great speaker like Sir Charles Paul or Sir William Garth, but his language was chosen with great taste and often expressed with great finish. He had a profound knowledge of the revenue law of the country and he was equally at home on the Appellate Side as on the Original. He possessd great courage, not courage in the sense of being able to beat down a recalcitrant jury or an argumentative judge, but courage in the sense of making sure that everything that could reasonably be said on behalf of his clients would be said up to the very last word, even though the judge from the start had been hostile, and this courage came because of his profound knowledge of the law and procedure of our Courts, added to an unrivalled acquaintance with case law since the establishment of the High Courts in 1862. I remember hearing from Sir Francis Maclean's lips that he was a veritable walking encyclopaedia of law.

Of the Chief Justices before whom he practised I have mentioned two, Sir Francis Maclean and Sir Lawrence Jenkins. Both of them had the highest regard for Sir Binod Mitter, and it is no secret that Sir Lawrence Jenkins had set his heart on having him as one of his colleagues

on the Bench. Lord Sinha was his close personal friend for over 30 years and I have heard from Lord Sinha that although in his estimation Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee was an outstanding advocate in his day, Sir Binod Mitter was a greater lawyer. The late Sir Tarak Nath Palit and the late Sir Rash Behary Ghose had an equally high opinion of him, and wonderful are the stories of his forensic tussles with those great masters of law.

Of his work as a member of the Judicial Committee this is neither the time nor the place to speak. Those however who visited England last year brought back the news that among his colleagues Lord Buckmaster and Lord Blanesburgh were most enthusiastic about Sir Binod. No less enthusiastic was Viscount Sumner, and it is no secret that these noble Lords expressed the warmest appreciation of Lord Caves' choice of Sir Binod as a member of the Judicial Committee. To-day his silvery voice is silent for ever, and those who are left behind can only mourn his loss.

In private life he was one of the finest gentlemen. Ever considerate, he was always eager and able to get into the other man's skin, and find out for himself in a most successful manner what was passing in the other man's heart. It is said that acute intellects often go with cold hearts. That may be true in some cases, but most certainly it was not true of Sir Binode Chunder Mitter. May his soul rest in peace !

(*The "Statesman" July, 1930.*)

Advocate. Cal. H. C
1866 - 1926

Death of "Tiger" Jackson

(1931)

At the Full Court reference, the Hon'ble the Acting Chief Justice (Sir C. C. Ghose) said as follows :—

The Judges are grieved to hear of the death in England of Mr. William Jackson.....He was called to tho Bar by the Hon'ble Society of Middle Temple on the 9th June 1865 ; he came to India before the Suez Canal was opened ; and was enrolled as an Advocate of this Court on the 8th May 1866. He had long exceeded the Psalmist's allotted span of life. He lived to practise before no less than seven Chief Justices from Sir Barnes Peacock to Sir Lancelot Sanderson. He retired from active practice at the end of the summer of

1926; but until two years ago, he was a familiar figure in the precincts of this Court. But although he had ceased to practise, his attachment to this Court and his affection for the Bar Library and its members subsisted throughout, at any rate, until the day of his departure for England in 1929. He was enrolled as an Advocate of this Court when a famous lawyer, Thomas Hardwick Cowie held the office of Advocate-General of Bengal and during his time at the Bar he was led by and had as his colleagues all the distinguished men who held the office of Advocate-General from Mr. Cowie downwards to Sir B. L. Mitter.

He made his way to the foremost place in the profession in competition with such men as J. D. Graham, Sir Charles Paul, Robert Lowe, J. T. Woodroffe, Sir Griffith Evans, Lewis Pugh, J. D. Bell, Arthur Philips, W.C. Bonnerjee, Manmohan Ghose, C. P. Hill, Geroge Branson, John Pitt Kennedy, W. Ingram, William Marindin and T. Palit. He survived all his contemporaries and a large number of his colleagues who had not been born when he came to practise in these Courts. And he was the last of the Romans.

In his early years he enjoyed an extensive and immensely lucrative practice on the Original Side before Judges of the eminence of Sir Arthur George Mcpherson, Sir Charles Pontifix and Sir William Markby. As a *Nisi Prius* lawyer, he had no equal either as a cross-examiner or as an Advocate. He brought to the Bar some amazing qualities which brought him with a rapidity, almost unexampled, to a career at the Bar of a degree of eminence and success which recalled the greatest triumphs of some of the most distinguished men at the Bar of England.

In the early eighties of the last century he decided to retire to England and enjoy a dignified leisure. He resisted the call of his Indian home, Calcutta, for about five years, but could not resist it any longer. He came back to Calcutta in August 1890 and within one week of his arrival was engaged on behalf of the accused in what is known as the Chartered Bank case before Mr. Justice Prinsep in conducting a defence which remains to this day a singular masterpiece of advocacy and of legal acumen.

Since 1890, he has, as I have said, been continuously in practice till 1926. It was a striking tribute to his character that those who had fought with and against him could not remember one ill-natured word said by him and I venture to think that the example of Mr. William Jackson still lingers at the Bar and will live forever.

I would single out a few qualities especially illustrative of his career. First his courtesy, a courtesy that was shown to every one at the Bar and perhaps most scrupulously shown to him that was most humble;

his inexhaustible patience and unwearied industry when preparing and marshalling the cases of his innumerable clients and thirdly his vehement and passionate desire for justice which marked him out as a terror to evil doers. His transparent honesty of character, his desire to befriend and protect the poor and the oppressed, his unshaken belief in the causes he championed, his unsurpassed earnestness in his advocacy and, greatest of all, his fearless independence of character marked him out as the fittest representative and upholder of the best traditions of the Bar of England. For the Bar, he was prepared to risk his all, because to him the legal profession was a great field for men of intellect, giving them the opportunity to use their powers for the furtherance of truth and justice and to develop their capacities and was a constant training ground, touching life at every point. Of his kindness to struggling juniors at the Bar, European and Indian, and to those who were in humble and lowly places, such as clerks, his generosity, unostentatious as it was, knew no bounds and from my personal knowledge of him from 1896 I am able, as I have no doubt several of my brethren on the Bench are likewise able, to bear testimony to his innate goodness of heart, to his kindly disposition, to his charities, irrespective of class or creed, and to his passionate desire to uphold what was best and enduring in professional life, whether on the Bench or at the Bar.

This is not the place nor the occasion to speak of his interest in other spheres of life; but I cannot omit a reference to his vigorous protest against the threatened abolition in 1892 of the Jury System in Bengal, a protest which, it is now on record, compelled Lord Kimberly, the then Secretary of State for India, to insist upon the retention of the Jury System.

We are all the poorer by the loss we have sustained; but he has left a name and fame which will remain for ever imperishable.

I shall be grateful if an expression of our sympathy is conveyed to his widow and family at the loss of one who was for so many years a most distinguished figure in these Courts and whom we all regarded as the ambassador of his race.

Prof. H. M. Percival

(1931)

Unveiling the portrait of the late Prof. H. M. Percival at the Presidency College, the Hon'ble Justice Sir C. C. Ghose said :

He was one of the most distinguished professors in the Presidency College for an extraordinarily long period, that is, from 1880 to 1911. He wielded an influence over his students such as seldom been surpassed since the days of Mr. Sutcliffe. The reason why he was acclaimed on all hands as one of the most successful professors in this College was, in the first place, because of the range and variety and standard of his intellectual equipment and secondly because of his character as a man.

He went to London with a Gilchrist scholarship for his studies after passing the Entrance and the First Arts Examinations in our University and was entered as a student in University College, London in 1873. He obtained the B. A. degree in London during 1876-77, with Honours in Latin and English in the first instance and thereafter with Honours in Classics and French. He obtained the M. A., degree in Classics in 1879. He attended classes in Zoology, Geology and Botany and obtained a certificate of merit from the Faculty of Medicine. He went to Edinburgh for further studies in Greek and Latin and both in London and in Edinburgh he established in academic circles a repuation which has not been equalled by any Indian up to the present moment. And Mr. Percival was an Indian.

Thus equipped, he came to the Presidency College on the 19th January 1880 as a Protessor of English. He was an intellectual giant, whose work would survive as indeed it has done in undiminished splendour the lapse of years and he further demonstrated that his ideals were never sordid material prosperity but always spiritual excellence.

He was a great Classical scholar. He was a master of Latin and Greek as well as he was of the English language and its literature and I have often heard him say that no language could compete with the Latin of Virgil for compression and vividness or with the Greek writers for melody and force. In his moments of relaxation he used to talk to us about the tranquil wisdom of Thucydides, the priceless epigrams of Tacitus and the stories of Herrodotus that surpassed all fairy tales and yet were strangely and exquisitely true and the systems of Plato and Aristotle which gave the finest mental training to any one. He knew

French very well and I believe he had a working acquaintance with German. He was a great lover of Goethe. But his first and best love was Shakespeare.

Mr. Percival was the most renowned Shakespearean scholar of his time. In his interpretations of the characters of Shakespeare in "King Lear", "Hamlet", "Macbeth" and "Tempest", Mr. Percival drew upon the cumulative resources of a vocabulary, at once varied, cogent and precise. Those of us who sat at Mr. Precival's feet can never forget the inspiration of his teachings and with them it will remain for all time to come as an abiding experience once enjoyed but never to be repeated.

He was a great litterateur, fond of dwelling on what literature means and does for its votaries but he always insisted that if one was to derive permanent benefit from a study of English literature the reading must be with conscious effort and this effort, when there was also matter of substance and nutriment to reward it, made the value of reading. In other words, reading, according to Mr. Percival, must not degenerate into a mere mechanical suction of print into the mind. In his view, the study of literature developed an enquiring mind and he was often fond of repeating what Socrates said that life without enquiry was not worth living. Enquiry often, it is true, leads to dissatisfaction. The remedy lay, according to Mr. Percival, in further and closer study of literature because from such study the creative idea took root such as freedom, self-expression and originality. In one brief sentence, to stimulate the plasticity of the mind was the true object of education. The profound and permanent disappointments and disenchantments of life could not indeed be removed by reading. But Mr. Percival always said that they could at least be softened. The thing that mattered most both for happiness and duty was that we should all strive habitually to live with wise thoughts and right feelings. Literature helped us more than other studies to this most blessed companionship. Put in the simplest words, his teaching amounted to this that so long as we have a good health and a good library, life can hardly be dull. And his ideals were the same as were mentioned in the funeral speech of Pericles—freedom in act and speech ; tolerance and many sided culture ; a love of wisdom without arrogance and a leisure in the evening of life filled with delightful recreation.

Of his priceless gifts to his Indian students, his edition of Shakespeare I make bold to say is the edition which the Indian student has waited for so long and which he has at last got.

He enjoyed the unstinted esteem and affection of his students and in consequence he became the most successful teacher of his day

and the idol of his students in the Presidency College. He enjoyed the esteem and affection of his students because they, of all persons, understood what his character was and what it meant. When Mr. Percival came to his classes, the classes ceased to be mere lecture-shops and were converted into human institutions with visible and palpable contact between man and man. Long before he started his professorial career in this College, he had realised that education was the chief hope of the Indian people and he felt that it was a true instinct of the people of this province that turned the thoughts of multitudes towards education for the cure of wrongs and for the attainment of happiness. He was a believer in celibacy because he thought it was practically the only way to serve his students and to realise the beatific vision of God. His joy in his comparative poverty, his self-control, his humility, his sympathetic kinship with his fellow creatures, and his love were his chief characteristics. It will take me long to dwell upon each one of his characteristics. But I cannot refrain from stressing his asceticism of simplicity, an asceticism which is open to all. The one thing which he insisted upon and to what he practised is that the teacher and the taught must live on terms of mutual helpfulness and heartfelt love. This according to Mr. Percival could only be realised by self-identification on the part of the teacher with the taught. In other words, the teacher must be one in spirit and outlook with those whom he seeks to serve. This in his religious conception was the fundamental principle of love behind the incarnation of the Master he served

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Sir Ali Imam

(1932)

In the death of Sir Ali Imam Bengal and Bihar have sustained a loss the extent of which it is difficult to estimate. Sir Ali Iman was a Nationalist even from his early years. He went to England in the later eighties and in 1890 he rendered memorable services to the Congress Delegation consisting of the late Mr. A. O. Hume, the late Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, the late Mr. (subsequently Sir) Surendranath Banerjee, late Mr. Ranganath Narayan Mudholkar and Mr. (now Sir) M. V. Joshi which visited Great Britain in the summer of 1890. These gentlemen were appointed as delegates by the Indian National Congress which met in Bombay in 1889 and which was presided over by the late

Sir William Wedderburn and which was graced by the late Mr. Charles Bradlaugh M. P. with his presence. Mr, Bradlaugh had taken up the cause of India at the instance of the late Mr. William Digby who was for some time the London correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and also at the instance of the late Sishir Kumar Ghosh of revered memory. Mr. Hume, Mr. Bonnerjee and the rest of the delegation bore ungrudging tribute to Mr. Ali Imam's services. He visited in company with these gentlemen Northampton of which Mr. Bradlaugh was the junior Member in Parliament, Cardiff, Caermarthen and Bristol and spoke in support of India's cause at the meetings held in these places. His speeches which were pro-Congress attracted very great attention because at that time the late Sir Syed Ahmed had started his campaign in India against the Indian National Congress. Mr. Ali Imam had no difficulty in demolishing the anti-National arguments of which the late Sir Syed Ahmed was the reputed author but which arguments were in reality furnished by the then well-known member of the Indian Civil Service in the United Provinces at the instance of the late Sir Aukland Colvin. At the Congress which was held in Tivoli gardens in Calcutta in 1890 and which was presided over by the late Sir Pherozshah Mehta, a resolution was adopted thanking the Indian delegation and Mr. Ali Imam for their services to India in England. This resolution was noteworthy because the Congress had not at any time previously expressed in a formal way their thanks to one who had not enrolled himself under the banner of the Congress. Returning to India, Mr. Ali Iman confined himself to professional work at the headquarters of Patna and in the neighbouring districts. His first appearance in the Calcutta High Court was in connection with a dacoity case before Mr. Justice Ameer Ali and Mr. Justice Pratt. Mr. Justice Ameer Ali was so forcibly impressed by the arguments of Mr. Ali Iman in support of the conviction that at the close of his address he asked Mr. Iman whether he might have the honour of knowing his name. Mr. Imam abandoned definitely Patna for Calcutta in the summer of 1904 and was a member of the famous Moslem deputation to Lord Minto where the first separatist cry of the Muhammadans was uttered under the inspiration of the bureaucracy assisted by the Aga Khan.

The Moslem League held their meeting in Amritsar and the speech which Mr. Ali Imam as President made on that occasion so impressed Lord Morley, who was then Secretary of State for India, that it is well-known that he made up his mind to enlist Mr. Imam's professional services on behalf of the Crown. This explains why shortly after his migration to Calcutta he was appointed Standing Counsel to

the Government of India. For reasons which it is unnecessary to go into, Mr. Sinha (as he then was) resigned the Law Membership at the close of the Viceroyalty of Lord Minto and reverted to the Bar. At the urgent solicitation of Lord Morley, Mr. Ali Imam was appointed to succeed Mr, Sinha as Law Member.

From the very start Mr. Imam was fortunate to have the privilege of having the complete confidence of Lord Hardinge. There are several well-known instances testifying to this fact. But we shall refer only to two. During the short lived administration of Sir William Duke as Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, the Orissa Tenancy Act was passed in the then Bengal Legislative Council and was sent up to Lord Hardinge for the Viceregal assent. Mr. Imam thought that the Bill had been passed by the Bengal Legislative Council in the teeth of non-official opposition and advised Lord Hardinge to withhold assent. Sir William Duke repeatedly approached Lord Hardinge that before His Excellency left Calcutta intimation that his assent had been given might be conveyed to the Local Government. Lord Hardinge kept his mouth shut until the day when he was leaving Calcutta and then only he allowed it to be announced that his assent had been withheld. Sir William Duke was furious and in an unguarded moment he let himself go and said in the hearing of several persons on the day of Lord Hardinge's departure from Calcutta that the "black man" meaning Mr. Ali Imam "had done it". The other instance is this. Lord Hardinge had been sent out by Lord Morley as Viceroy with special instruction to pacify Bengal which was in an excited state on account of the partition of Bengal. Lord Hardinge consulted his colleagues but none of them except Mr. Ali Imam could suggest anything. Mr. Imam had been a constant and assiduous reader of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and he had been pondering over the suggestion of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* that Eastern Bengal and Western Bengal might be brought under one administration and that Bihar might be semi-detached and converted into a Commissionership like that of Sind. Mr. Imam did not agree entirely with the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* as regards all the implications of its suggestions but he saw his opportunity for doing good to Bihar and suggested to Lord Hardinge that the first portion of the suggestion of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* might be accepted and that as regards the second portion Bihar ought to be made into a separate province with Orissa and Chota Nagpur thrown in and that the pacification of Bengal might proceed on those lines. Mr. Imam's suggestions were endorsed by the Viceroy and communicated in telegraphic cipher to Lord Crewe who had then succeeded Lord Morley as Secretary of State for India. Lord Crewe agreed with

Lord Hardinge and desired that the matter should be brought formally before the Governor-General's Executive Council and a vote taken thereon. Lord Hardinge held a special meeting of his Executive Council from which even the then Home Secretary Mr. Archdale Earle was excluded. The Governor-General's Council agreed with Mr. Imam's views and the drafting of the celebrated despatch to the Secretary of State was left to Mr. Ali Imam and the Home Secretary Mr. Earle after the latter had been sent for by the Viceroy and told that if the thing leaked out he would be dismissed from his post. After the despatch had been completed Mr. Earle used to sleep with the same under his pillow from that date down to the date when His Majesty King George V announced the creation of a separate province of Bihar, Chota Nagpur and Orissa in the Durbar of 1911.

Mr. Imam's services in this connection were so much appreciated by Lord Hardinge and Lord Crewe that they thought at one time to signalise the creation of Bihar as a separate province by the appointment of Sir Ali Imam as the first Governor. But a difficulty was felt because of the necessity to provide Sir Charles Bayley, the then Lieutenant Governor of Eastern Bengal, with a gubernatorial post. The later history of Sir Ali Imam is well-known, but it is not known to the public that Lord Hardinge when he was nearing the end of his Viceroyalty left it on record that the first Indian Governor of a province should be Sir Ali Imam. It is true Sir Ali Imam did not become the Governor of a province but that was because Mr. Montagu desired that his tenure of office as Secretary of State should be made memorable by the appointment of his Under-Secretary Lord Sinha as the first Indian Governor of a province. But what was lost to the administration by the non-appointment of Sir Ali Imam as Governor was a distinct gain to non-official India, because Sir Ali Imam changed his views in a most remarkable manner on the question of the Moslem cry for separate electorates and decided to throw in his undoubted influence on the side of Nationalist India and became a valued collaborator of the late Pundit Motilal Nehru when the Nehru Report was being drafted. Sir Ali Imam's latest pronouncement on the question of separate electorates was last year when he presided over the Lucknow Conference and when he gave his final imprimatur on the topic of India for the Indians,—and Muhammadans, Hindus, Christians, Zoroastrians and Buddhists afterwards.

(*Amrita Bazar Patrika—November, 1932, published under 'Contributed'.*)

Late Motilal Ghose and 'Amrita Bazar Patrika'

(1934)

In the course of a letter to Sri Tushar Kanti Ghosh, Editor, "Amrita Bazar Patrika", dated 4th September, 1934, Sir Charu Chunder Ghose paid the following tribute to the memory of the Late Motilal Ghose :—

In my opinion there have been very few capable publicists of the type of Babu Motilal Ghosh within the last 50 years. My recollection of him goes back to my boyhood and I can humbly say that my knowledge of public affairs is entirely due to my study of the writings in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of Moti Babu and his illustrious elder brother Shishir Babu. The memory of the present day public men is very short but I can recall what Viceroys like Lord Dufferin, Lord Lansdowne, Lord Elgin, Lord Curzon and Lord Minto thought of *Amrita Bazar Patrika.* They read the *A.B.P.* as edited by Moti Babu and Shishir Babu with great attention and very often than not they accepted the views of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika.* Of course, officials did not like the criticisms of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and when on one occasion a narrow-minded official, Sir Lepel Griffin, wanted permission from Lord Dufferin to prosecute the paper for libel, Lord Dufferin wrote to say that the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* occupied the same position as the *Irish World* occupied in Ireland, and Sir Lepel Griffin would do the Government no service whatsoever if he prosecuted the *Amrita Bazar Patrika.*

I do not know if your readers remember this letter of Lord Dufferin but it was published at the time in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika.* This was indeed high praise and Lord Dufferin's letter was subsequently quoted in the London *Times.* The *Times* declared that anything coming from a man of the international reputation of Lord Dufferin was worth cartloads of testimonials from the then members of Lord Salisbury's Government. Lord Lansdowne similarly had a very high opinion of the conductors of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and although Lord Curzon's opinion of the conductors has never been published, I am able to say that in the archives of the India Office there is to be found Lord Curzon's opinion in which he said that much as he disliked the antagonistic views of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* he very much wished

that all Europeans in India studied the paper and proved themselves to be worthy sons of India during their sojourn in this land. In short, his view was that Europeans can never learn anything by reading Anglo-Indian journals. To learn anything about India and her people, Europeans must study Indian newspapers of the type of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika.*

(The two communications—one on the "Operation of the Press Act in India", and another on "Indian Professors and Politics" both published in 1913, are given here, with extracts from letters of Sir Henry Cotton and Mr. F. Mackarness appended to them)

Operation of the Press Act in India

(*Letter to "The New Statesman", (London), on October 4, 1913*)

Might I ask the hospitality of your columns to answer briefly the letter of the "English Official" on the above subject appearing in your issue of September 27th ?

Your correspondent seems to think that the articles which '*The New Statesman*' might publish in London could with complete safety be published in newspapers edited by Indians in India.

I do not propose to enter into any controversy with your correspondent ; but may I just give you the latest illustration of how the Press Act of 1910 is worked in India ? There was a pamphlet recently published in Constantionople with the heading "Come Over into Macedonia and Help Us," with a preface by Sir Adam Block, the President of the Ottoman Bank in Constantinople. The avowed object of the publication was to draw the attention of His Majesty's subjects in the United Kingdom in order that they might move the British Government to such individual or concerted action as would put a stop to the outrages perpetrated in the Balkan States upon inoffensive Turkish subjects, which have shocked all feelings of humanity. A few copies of the pamphlet, written as it was in studiously moderate language, were sent to Mr. Mohamed Ali, of Delhi, the editor of the *Comrade* newspaper there. Mr. Mohamed Ali thought that it would be a good thing to reprint the pamphlet as a supplement to the *Comrade*, so that the attention of the Government of India might be

drawn to the matter, in order that they might move the Government at home to exercise their influence with the Balkan allies to put a stop to the atrocities, and he accordingly reprinted the pamphlet and published it as a supplement to the *Comrade*. The Government of India and the Government of Bengal soon after—that is, on July 16th and 18th, 1913, published notifications in the official gazettes declaring that the pamphlet in question contempts certain classes of His Majesty's subjects in British India, and that all copies of the said pamphlet, wherever found, should be forfeited to His Majesty the King Emperor. Mr. Mohamed Ali appealed to the High Court at Calcutta against the orders published by the two Governments in question, and his appeal came on before the Chief Justice of Bengal (Sir Lawrence Jenkins), Mr. Justice Stephen, and Mr. Justice Woodroffe, and the learned judges have now held that, although the notifications in question did not comply with the terms of the Statute, and that although the grounds of the opinion formed by the two Governments in question had not been disclosed as they should have been, they were, nevertheless, having regard to the language of the Press Act of 1910, barred from questioning the lagality of the forfeiture which the two Governments purported to declare. Sir Lawrence Jenkins said that it appeared to him that the provisions of the Statute were very comprehensive, and that it appeared to embrace the whole range of varying degrees of assurance from certainty on the one side to the very limits of impossibility on the other. He went on to add that it was difficult to see to what lengths the operation of this Statute might not be plausibly extended by an ingenious mind, and it would certainly extend to writings that might command approval, and that much that was regarded as a standard literature might undoubtedly be caught. The Chief Justice felt that, having regard to the terms of the Press Act of 1910, the burden of proof was cast on the appellant, so that, however meritorious the pamphlet might be, still, if the appellant could not establish the negative which the Act required, his appeal must fail. And what was this negative? It was not enough for the appellant to show that the words of the pamphlet were not likely to bring into hatred or contempt any class or section of His Majesty's subjects in British India, or that they had not a tendency, in fact, to bring about that result but the appellant must go further, and show that it was impossible for the words to have that tendency, either directly or indirectly, and whether by way of inference, suggestion, allusion, metaphor, or implication. Nor was that all; for the legislature had added to all this the all-embracing phrase "or otherwise." The Chief Justice accordingly, with great reluctance, dismissed the appeal.

Now, this is the latest illustration of the operation of the Press Act of 1910. Those of your readers who take an interest in Indian affairs will remember that soon after the passing of that Act Mr. Mackarness's pamphlet, on the methods of the police in India was proscribed. I have always held it was a thousand pities that his appeal, filed before the High Court Calcutta, was allowed to drop ; but one can assert with complete accuracy that it is not the case that an Indian editor can now freely and fearlessly publish comments either on executive action or on passing events in India. Everything that appears to the official mind in India anathema is considered as amounting to treason, and "English Official" knows that.

Then there is the policy which is being largely indulged in India at the present moment of taking securities to the extent of several thousands of rupees for good behaviour from journals of position and standing like the *Amrita Bazar Patrika.* The very newspaper which published the pamphlet referred to above, namely, the *Comrade* newspaper, has had quite lately to give security to the satisfaction of the Magistrate in Delhi.

I can only express my amazement at the way in which "English Official" has written to you.

Mr. Charu Chunder Ghose (as he then was) also tried to secure the support of British Liberals for an amendment of the Press Act, and the following lines from the letter of Sir Henry Cotton to Mr. Ghose, will be read with interest :

45, St. John's Wood Park,
London, N.W.
14th October 1913

My Dear Charu Chunder,

* * * *

In regard to the amendment of the Press Act I am led to the conclusion that it will not take much to induce the Govt. of India to take the initiative. It is the extreme of moderation to suggest that the Act should be so modified as to actually accord the safeguard it was intended to provide when the Act was passed.

* * * *

Yours sincerely,
Henry Cotton

Indian Professors and Politics

(*Letter to "The Times"—London, dated November 1, 1913*)

Your recent articles on the above subject have been read by a very wide circle, and all who have followed the trend of recent events in India will agree with you in thinking that the problems are such as are calculated to tax the resources of the highest British statesmanship. Indians know on distinctions, so far as India is concerned, such as divide political groups in the United Kingdom, and it is greatly to be desired that the humane but firm policy of Lord Hardinge should be continued and law and order maintained in every part of India.

There is one sentence in your article of October 4, which I feel sure you would not have allowed to appear in print if you were aware of the facts. I dispute the correctness of your statement in the said article that the recent dismissal of the three professors in the University of Calcutta was due to the fact that "their connexion with sedition was incontestable."

The three professors in question are Mr. A Rasul, Mr. A. M. Suhrawardy, and Mr. K. P. Jayaswal. Mr. Rasul is an M. A. of Calcutta and a B. C. L. of Oxford, and beyond the fact that he is a sympathizer with the Indian National Congress (a body which in recent times have been blessed by *The Times*) there is no other, and there cannot be produced any, evidence, documentary or otherwise, of his ever having been guilty of sedition.

Mr. Suhrawardy is an M. A. and a Ph. D. of Calcutta. He is a scholar buried in his books—and except for the fact that he is a warm supporter of Turkey in her recent struggles in the Balkan States, and has been one of the organisers of the Medical Mission to Turkey, there is similarly no other evidence of his seditious views and tendencies.

Mr. Jaysawal is an M. A. of Oxford, and is a research student of no mean merit. Some years ago he visited Constantinople on his way to India, and apparently the police of India have got hold of the fact to represent him as a sedition-monger. But Sir William Duke, the late Acting Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, went into the matter himself some months ago, and assured Mr. Jaysawal that no sinister meaning would be attached to his visit to Constantinople. These three

gentlemen are barristers of England, and if, as you say, "their connexion with sedition was incontestable," there is nothing to prevent the Benchers of their respective Inns to move in the matter. But they have not moved at all!

The Times enjoy, and deservedly so, a great reputation for fairness, and I sincerely trust that you will extend your courtesy to me and insert this communication in a corner of your valuable paper.

We reproduce below the following letter from Mr. Frederick Mackarness, which shows the effect of the letter to the Times about the three Professors :—

21, Montpelier Square,
S. W.
Nov., 1913

My dear Ghose,

Thank you for your courteous letter from Aden. It is always a pleasure to my wife and me to see our Indian friends when they come to England. I was indeed on the point of writing to you to congratulate you on your letter in the *Times* about the 3 Professors and the result that it secured in the shape of a full apology. If some others, who have been libelled and worse in the Press by persons of more importance than the *Times* had taken equally rigorous steps to assert their innocence, those in power would feel I think that they must be more careful in future.

You are doing good work in forcing the truth upon the British Public. Do try for an organised system of bringing real (not petty) grievances before Parliament. Keep M. P.'s who are really interested in India well informed. Good is sure to result though slowly.

Yours sincerely,

Frederick Mackarness.

Letters :

To Father

On board P. & O. 'Caledonia'
near Aden. 2. 5. 06

My dear father,

We shall reach Aden in a few hours and I am writing these lines to tell you how I have been since I left you on Thursday last.

I could not stand saying farewell to you and I broke down completely. I kept quite cool as I was leaving mother but when I got to my study—the room where I had sat for eighteen years now and the very walls of which had become part of myself as it were—all my feelings which I suppressed for two days came over me and I could hardly restrain myself. It was a terrible wrench coming away from you. I don't know I have even deserved a little of the kindness you have lavished on me and I feel I have failed you on many an occasion and must have disappointed you several times. I know my failures in life and conduct so well that I feel you must have thought on occasions that I was not coming up to the standard of which a son ought to be towards his father. However, I will not dwell on topics like these but shall feel greatly cheered and encouraged and strengthened by the idea that you believe I am making an honest effort to educate myself still further and to rise higher in that ideal of character and rectitude which I know too well but which I have hitherto been unable to attain. May God ordain that He may give me peace and contentment while I am away from home, that I may attain the objects for which I have set forth and be a source of satisfaction to you and mother.

I hope mother is bearing up my absence patiently and has not suffered in health on any account. The feeling sometimes creeps on me whether I was justified in leaving mother and yourself but I am strengthened by the knowledge that I have your full and complete approval. I am writing to mother separately but kindly tell her that nothing will please me more than to hear that she is taking care of her health. I do trust she will now take greater care of her health than before and thereby lessen in a substantial manner my load of anxiety.

* * *

I was much touched by Mr. Palit's taking the trouble to come to bid me goodbye and I am much beholden to him for the many kindly words of encouragement....The train was nearly an hour late in arriving

C. C. Ghose as a student in London (1906-07)

in Bombay and we were driven straight from the Victoria Terminus to the Ballard pier where the launch was in waiting to convey us to the mail boat. Hari Nath De and J. W. Cunningham were in the train and were and have been very good to me. De is a very clever fellow and is destined to be a great man some day. He knows so many things and so many languages that it is a great pleasure to meet him. Cunningham is a very quiet, modest and unassuming chap. I have not seen much of him on board as he is travelling second. De is leaving us at Port Said where he transhipps into the mail steamer to Brindisi and goes straight to Berlin. Cunningham will be coming to London via Marseilles with me. Our cabin is a comfortable one. We are three in it i.e. myself, De and Mr. Justice Sankara Nair. I had a note of introduction to Mr. Nair from Mr. J. Ghosal and he received me kindly and has been very nice to me. You will be amused to hear that Mr. Justice Nair (he has not yet been confirmed in his post) is keeping terms in Gray's Inn and goes now to finish eating his dinners. He is likely to be called to the Bar early in June. I do not know anything about his having already kept two terms during his last visit to England and he took me by surprise when he said that he, a Judge of one of our High Courts, was keeping terms in the Inns of Court in London. He knows some of the Benchers and I shall see if he introduces me to any of them.

Mr. J. D. Nimmo has also been kind to me and I owe Mr. Bertram many thanks for introducing me to him. Mr. Justice Tyabji's son, Mr. F. B. Tyabji, Bar-at-law, is a fellow passenger and is going to meet his father who is now in Germany for the treatment of his eyes. He is also very good to me. There are several Parsee gentlemen, whose names I don't know, who speak to me kindly. Sir Currembhoy Ebrahim's son, Mr. Fazulbhoy, has been particularly nice to me.

The sea has been very calm and we have had nice cool breeze since we left Bombay. The food has been good (I am taking food sparingly) and the appointments of the boat are all first class. Till you get into one of these floating palaces you never have any idea of how luxurious travelling is on the Bombay to London line. The boat is in fact a big city on the seas and you can have anything you want except news from the port of departure.

I have been keeping very well and am enjoying the bracing air. It is so exhilarating that the breeze in the Bay of Bengal is nothing by its side. There has been no rolling and pitching thus far, but Mr. Nimmo tells me we may have a little rough sea as we get to Marseilles. But I suppose by the time I reach Marseilles I will have acquired the staying powers of a good sailor.

I am utilising my time in study during the day. In the morning I walk a good deal on the hurricane deck and in conversation with a very nice young Belgian Frenchman try to pick up a little smattering of French. I hear you must know a little French if you want to be spoken to in Europe. Dressing takes up a lot of time and it is a great nuisance to have to dress up for breakfast, dinner and what not. The English people are so very formal that their civilization is in some respects a veritable curse to them. May our people copy their many good qualities but never their civilization !

I want to know in detail how all of you are. I hope the children are doing all right,

* * *

I hope the numerous friends who used to take an interest in me will appreciate my reasons of not being able to see them and bid them good-bye and will excuse me. I am writing to two or three of them thanking for all that they have done for me. To Mr. Justice Mookerjee I owe the little love of books I have had since my college days. To Dr. Rashbehary Ghose I owe a great deal and if I have not been able to display in actual life even a small portion of the many splendid qualities of head and heart of these two men, it is entirely my fault. But I have the conviction in me that I have assimilated at least a portion of their teachings and should God grant the day I hope I may prove to be of some use to my family and to our people.

I forgot to mention that I got your telegram on Saturday in due time. It has been a source of great comfort to me already and it will remain with me during my sojourn as a precious message, the fountain-head of solace and strength. Of what I owe to you I dare not trust to committing to paper, for it is far too sacred a theme to be engaged upon.

I beg of you with all the earnestness I can command to retire from work and to be happy and cheerful. I promise I shall take care of my health more than even now and that I shall not afford you any cause for anxiety. Pray don't be anxious for me on any account. I am quite well.

* * *

Yours affectionately,
Charu Ch. Ghose

1 St. Luke's Road,
Bayswater, London W.
29/6/06

My dear father,

* * *

I wrote to you in my last that I was going to see Mr. Woodroffe on Monday last. He wrote to me to say that I should stop with him for a few days. However, on Monday I went down to see him. His place is in Devonshire in the South of England and on the sea i. e. the English Channel.....I shall not easily forget the generous kindness and the warmth of hospitality which Mr. Woodroffe showed towards me at his beautiful Devonshire home. He had come to meet me at the station, where I had to get out, from his house, a distance of nearly 2 miles, and he drove me home in his own carriage. There in the midst of valleys and hills clad with trees in their full foliage and with flowers in all the luxuriance of their summer bloom stands Mr. Woodroffe's house in a compound of nearly 100 acres. He introduced me to the members of his family and in less than a quarter of an hour I realised that I was in a typical English home, redolent of the simplicity and grandeur all its own. For the first time since I left home on the 26th of April last, he made me forget that I was in a distant and strange land and away from friends and protectors. I have no words to describe to you how kindly he and the members of his family received me and treated me during the afternoon and the night that I stayed under his hospitable roof. He asked me of you (I never felt so happy as then). He made enquiries after Dr. Rash Behari Ghose, and Babu Umakali Mookerjee, Mr. Sinha, Mr. Justice Ghose, Mr. Justice Mitra and Mr. Justice Mookerjee, Mr. B. L. Gupta and others. He was glad that I had joined Cozens Hardy's Chambers and he promised to introduce me to his son-in-law Mr. Mathew, Bar-at-Law, a nephew of Sir James Mathew (Sir James Mathew, you may remember, was one of the Judges in the Parnell Commission) who was until quite recently a Lord Justice of Appeal. At dinner the conversation turned on the incidents of old days, the days of Sir Barnes Peacock, Dwarka Nath Mitter, R. T. Allan, Sreenath Dass, Romesh Ch. Mitter, Louis Jackson, Markby, Paul, Doyne, Sir George Campbell, Seton Kerr, H. T. Prinsep and others. Even kind and generous to a fault towards my humble insignificant self, he would not even forget to tell his daughter that in his judgment he had the best junior latterly among the Vakils in me. He recalled to memory the many cases I was with him and how he had been attracted to me. I think it was in December 1898 that I had my first case with Mr. Woodroffe. It was not the first of the ejectment cases and little did I

dream that that the great and masterful advocate would one day be entertaining me at his English Home with such marked cordiality. The Education Bill now before the House Commons, the Catholic religion, the intolerance and bigotry of the pressent day, Nonconformists (Dr. Clifford is just now the protagonist of militant Nonconformity here), the fate of India in the House of Commons, Sir Charles Elliott. Sir Henry Cotton, Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, Deendoyal Bose, Mr. Sinha as Advocate-General of Bengal and Mr. Justice Ghose as Officiating C. J. were some of the other subjects of conversation. On the following morning, he took me out on a long walk through his beautiful gardens and after a hearty breakfast he drove me back to the station. He insisted on reaching me at the station and there I bade him goodbye, thanking him for all his exceeding kindness towards me. He charged me to convey his kind remembrances to you. I am sure you will be pleasant with the account I have given you of my visit to Mr. Woodroffe. May the great and good man live for many years to come. ! Please tell Dr. Rash Behary Ghose that Mr. Woodroffe made many kind enquiries after him.

* * *

I have had no other letter from mother save the one dated the 17th May last. Kindly ask her to write to me just a few lines only every mail.

I am quite well. I pray that you may be keeping all right and that all the members of the family are also well.

Yours affectionately,
Charu Chunder Ghose

---

1 St. Luke's Road
Bayswater, London
6th July, 1906.

My dear father,

* * *

I saw Sir Henry Cotton on Saturday last. He received me very kindly and made kind enquiries after yourself. Mr. Surendranath Banerjee had in the note of introduction mentioned your name but I had not known that Sir Henry knew so much about you as his conversation indicated that he did know and I was indeed most agreeably surprised. Henry is hard at work over Indian questions in the House of Commons and I think he deserves the unstinted support of the

country now. He told me in confidence that there was a very good chance of Fuller being removed and that Mr. John Morley's eyes were being opened to the state of things in Bengal and elsewhere. Sir Henry deprecated the idea of our people getting impatient and counselled moderation and sobriety of statement in everything reaching England from Bengal at the present moment. He asked me to come to the House of Commons one evening. I met his son also, but I must say I like the father much better. The old man had such a kindly way of talking to you that you at once feel quite easy in his presence. The son has however kindly asked me to see him whenever I have time at my disposal.

I learnt from Sir Henry Cotton that Mr. R. C. Dutt had arrived in England and that he was staying in the National Liberal Club. I wrote to Mr. Dutt asking whether I could call on him. In reply, Mr. Dutt wrote to me a most kind and cordial letter asking me to meet him at the National Liberal Club on Tuesday last. I saw him accordingly on Tuesday last and was glad to meet him. He received me very cordially and made kind enquiries after your health. He told me he had come to England solely for the benefit of his health and that he did not intend to address any meetings in this country. Whatever he can do in this country, he will try to do by means of interviews with leading men. I was very glad to hear from him that he had read my paper on the Partition of Bengal (Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjea had sent him a copy) and had found the same very useful and interesting. Mr. Dutt has asked me to see him as often as I liked. I thanked him for his kindness and expressed my wishes that his health might be benefited by his stay in England.

While I was with Mr. Dutt in the National Liberal Club, Sir William Wedderburn came in and Mr. Dutt very kindly introduced me to him. Sir William asked me if I had come to England specially to further the views of the Bengal leaders as regards the question of the Partition of Bengal. I stated to him the object which had brought me to England and I added that after my examinations were over I should be pleased to have the privilege of placing my humble services at Sir William's disposal. Sir William regretted that no deputation from Bengal had come over here and he said that in the members of the new House of Commons the Indian people had very admirable material to work upon but that they were letting the opportunity to slip by. Instead of two men like Messrs. Dutt and Gokhale, Sir William would like to have in England at the present moment one

hundred capable Indians. Sir William Wedderburn is a fine type of the kindly and general Englishman whom one meets in this country. I was very much impressed with his earnestness in and single-minded devotion to what after all is a thankless task. May men like Sir William Wedderburn continue to take an interest in our country.

* * * *

Yours affectionately,
Charu Chunder Ghose

1 St. Luke's Road
Bayswater, Friday
London W. 13th July 1906

My dear father,

* * *

I met Mr. Gokhale this week and had conversation with him about the prospects of India under Mr. Morley's Secretaryship.

He said he had had five interviews with Mr. Morley since his arrival and had found him to be very sympathetic. Mr. Morley was laboring under the disadvantage of knowing absolutely nothing about India and he (Mr. Morley) had been assured by the members of the India Council that it would be impossible to govern India if a liberal policy were adopted. Mr. Gokhale said that the removal of Sir J. B. Fuller from Eastern Bengal was very probable and that Mr. Morley was now convinced of the highhandedness of the proceedings of the authorities in Eastern Bengal but that Mr. Morley felt the supreme need of walking very warily over the great bogs of Indian Administration. I heard from Mr. Gokhale also that Mr. R. C. Dutt had a very good chance of being appointed to the vacant seat in the India Council. It would indeed be a very good day for India if Dutt were appointed, but I feel that the news is too good to be true. Mr. Gokhale seemed to be cheerful and optimistic over Indian's future. Let us hope and see what Mr. Morley does. I think in the end you will find that the bureaucracy will gain a complete mastery over Mr. Morley even. I am very sorry to hear from Mr. Gokhale that the terms between Mr. Morley and Sir H Cotton are anything but cordial.

It is said that Sir Henry has got irritating manners and that his precipitancy has led or is about to lead Mr. Morley into the hands of the bureaucracy. It is also said that Mr. O'Donnell is dissatisfied with Sir H. Cotton and that the former makes no secret of his opinion that Sir H. Cotton has by injudicious action wrecked all chances of the Partition Question being re-opened. It is difficult to know where the truth lies ; but I am disinclined to believe that Sir Henry Cotton is wanting in tact. The fact is the person who interests himself on behalf of India is always set down for onething or the other.

* * *

Yours affectionately,
Charu Ch. Ghose

---

31 Westbourne Terrace,
Hyde Park, London.
12 4 07.

My dear father,

* * *

You will have received by this time my cablegram of the 9th instant announcing to you that I have passed the Bar Final with the First Class Honours. I am the recipient of a Certificate of Honour from the Council of Legal Education and of a prize of £50 in cash from my Inn. I enclose herein the official list from which you will see that I come out fourth in order of merit. One of my examiners (Mr. J. A. Strahan) told me day before yesterday that if my Equity paper had come up to the standard of my other papers I would have undoubtedly stood first in order of merit and that answering of my papers, taken as a whole, was of a gratifyingly high order. A First Class at the Bar Final is a much coveted distinction in England and it means to me a great deal for it enables me to apply for call to the Bar in June i.e. within 13 months of my arrival in England.

* * *

However, now that I have got a First Class, I need not conceal from you the fact that I was suffering terribly for nearly 18 days just before my examination from insomnia and that I could get no relief from medication. I dare say I could have got relief by cessation of brain work ; but I had set my hand to the plough and I dared not seek

bodily relief at the time. I know it was foolish on my part and it might easily have landed me in a far worse position ; but there was no help for it. I confidently believe that if I had enjoyed normal health, just before my examination. I would have easily secured the first place among the succesful men. However, it does not matter to me in the slightest degree whether I stand first or fourth in order of merit, so long as I am in the first class. I am now getting good refreshing sleep since day before yesterday and I expect I will be completely set up very soon. Please do not be anxious about my present state of health. I have no doubt in my mind that I shall enjoy thoroughly good health, now that Mount Sinai is in sight, if one may say so. Mr. Cozens Hardy was immensely pleased on hearing of my success and he has kindly arranged that his father Sir Herbert Cozens Hardy (Master of the Rolls) will propose my call to the Bar which takes place on the 12th June.

* * *

I hope to hear from you that you consider my record in England to be satisfactory. Your good opinion is, in fact and in truth, the only thing that I value and care about. I hope you will tell Sir Gooroo Das Banerjee, Dr. Rashbehsry Ghose, Mr. Palit (I hope he is better) and Bhupen Babu about my success and convey to them my kindest regards. I can never forget that I have run a tremendous risk in leaving the little practice I had in the High Court and in coming over to England : may it be so ordained that my future may be such that I may not have any occasion to reproach myself for the course I have adopted.

* * *

Trusting you are all quite well and that the children are in good health.

Yours affectionately,
Charu Chunder Ghose

31, Westbourne Terrace,
Hyde Park, W.
London, April 19,1907.

My dear father,

* * * *

I am very happy to tell you that I have had this week the supreme pleasure, privilege and honour, if I may say so, of having an interview with John Morley. The thing came about by pure luck. You will remember I wrote to you sometime ago that Sir Richard Havelock Charles had taken great interest in my health and had made kind enquiries about my health before he went away in January last on a trip to Switzerland. I saw Sir Richard before he left London and in the course of conversation he suggested that I should go and see the old paintings and the statues in the India Office. Now, this was the very thing that I wanted to see and I said to Sir Richard that I would be much obliged to him if he introduced me to some one at the India Office. He offered to take me to Sir David Barr K. C. S. I. (member of the Council of the Secretary of State) on his return from Switzerland and to introduce me to him. That was how matters stood in January last. After my success at the Bar Final had been published in the *Times*, of the 10th instant, Sir Richard wrote to me, and I came to see Sir David Barr at the India Office on Wednesday last. I found Sir David Barr to be a charming person indeed. He had been apparently told by Sir Richard Charles everything about me and he congratulated me on my success at the Bar Final and wound up by saying that, thinking that I might like to have an interview with Mr. John Morley, he had spoken to Mr. Morley the previous evening and that Mr. Morley had agreed to receive me and had fixed the hour for interview at 11.45 that very morning. Imagine, please, what a surprise it was to me. I was to see in a few minutes the disciple of J. S. Mill, the friend and biographer of Gladstone, the distinguished man whose books are a perpetual solace and comfort to those who have read them, the statesman who pacified Ireland as no one else did in the life-time of the generation that is passing away, and the man who held in the hollow of his hand the destinies of India and who was the arbiter of her fate. For a moment or two, I was a little bit dazed and I doubted whether it was after all dream and or reality. I realised however that the chance of a life-time had come to me and I determined to utilize to the utmost my opportunity.

.....Sir David Barr said that he wanted me to carry to India this message—that he and his fellow members on the Council of the Secretary of State were in full sympathy with all legitimate demands of the Congress and that he hoped—"much sooner than most people imagined" something would be done to satisfy the just aspirations of the Indian people. I found Sir David to be a most attentive listener to everything I had to say and to be quite sympathetic towards Indian aspirations and views. I told Sir David Barr that I had read some of his contributions to Mr. Malabaris *East and West*—a remark which I could easily see, made him perhaps realise the fact at once that I was not the mere ordinary Indian visiting England but that I was familiar with the record of men like Sir David Barr.....We discussed a great many subjects, in fact, everything of importance in current Indian politics from the Partition of Bengal to the extension of Lord Kitchener's term of office and you can take it from me that my impression was that if we had the other members on the Indian Council of the same mind with Sir David Barr on the question discussed between him and my humble self, the Congress would have to justify its existence and Indian political solution would be near indeed. Sir David Barr frankly said to me that he would be quite prepared to allow to the Indians a "share in the direction of the policy in India." While we were thus talking to each other, the summons came to me that I was to go up to the room of the Secretary of State for India where Mr. Morley was waiting to receive me. Sir David Barr took me himself to Mr. Morley and introduced me to him in a few felicitous sentences.

.....If I had known that I was going to see John Morley, I would have taken care to prepare myself thoroughly for at least a week before the date of the interview. I hope I was of some use to our country in what I was able to state to Mr. Morley and that is all that I can say at present. Enclosed you will find a record of the conversation that took place between Mr. Morley and myself. I believe I have been able to reproduce with substantial accuracy, and almost in the very words that were used, the whole of the conversation between us. To me, this interview will be a matter of perennial interest, and Wednesday last would be a red letter day as long as I am alive. I find thet if there is anything more than another which Mr. Morley needs, it is instruction in Indian affairs. He has absolutely no knowledge of Indian affairs and I can quite understand how a Secretary of State is often led to do things which he would not do if he were not helpless, through ingorance about India, in the hands of the permanent officials. You will see

from the record of the conversation what Mr. Morley's position is. He is sincerely anxious to do smething for India ; but then he does not know his own mind and his way. I very much wish there were at the present day in London men like Mr. Dutt and Mr. Gokhale who could go to Mr. Morley often and talk to him. From what Mr. Morley said to me and from his manner of saying it, I could easily gather that Mr. Dutt's and Mr. Gokhale's visits had done a lot of good. But the great thing is to be to keep up the good impression, to follow the policy of eternal and unwearied vigilance as Holyoake would say, and for that purpose it is of paramount importance that we should have capable Indians always on the spot here. Never was there a time when Indian stars were more in the ascendant. The Liberals have come in to stay ! The sympathy of the Irish and the Labour members can be had for the mere asking : in Mr. Morley we have a Secretary of State who unites in him a historical imagination with the liveliest sympathy for practical reform. If we cannot seize this opportunity, it will be useless to bemoan our fate afterwards. Nations like men are by themselves made and the way to make our nation such as we desire to make is not to go about the country and deliver speeches like those of Bepin Pal and Kabyabisharad.....

Yesterday I attended a meeting of the National Indian Association at Caxton Hall where J. G. Ritchie delivered an address on State Education in England and in India under the presidency of Theodore Morison of the India Council.

.....I spoke for about 10 minutes after Ritchie had finished his address and I was gratified to find that I was in my old form again, so far as speaking was concerned, after an interval of nearly one year. Both Morrison and Ritchie agreed with me in what I said about the necessity of introducing Compulsory Primary Education in India.

Yours affectionately,
Charu Chunder Ghose

On Mother's Death

Dated, Calcutta,
6th February 1924.

My dear Rabi,

Your letter of the 17th January to hand.....I have no strength to write this letter. I have to convey to you the most mournful news that my beloved mother and your grandmother died yesterday (Tuesday the 5th February at 12-40 P. M.) of heart failure. She had been suffering continuously ever since August last and although at times she rallied, she never recovered herself during these long months. On the top of her other ailments, there came during the last Christmas holidays a troublesome attack of dysentry and although this was checked yet she got weaker and weaker. About 7 days ago she caught a chill (it was really a touch of influenza) and she suffered from a cough during the last few days. Yesterday at about 11 A. M. before I went to Court, she talked to me in her usual way and I did not suspect at all that she was to pass away for ever from me within the space of an hour and half from then. As I said, I had my last talk with her at 11 A. M. She told me that I should go to Court and I then went to Court. The doctors were to come at 11-30 A. M. and they came at the appointed hour. Dr. Brown and Dr. J. N. Bose examined the patient for nearly three quarters an of hour. They left at 12 noon and within a short time thereafter she had a fit of cough and in the effort to expectorate she expired. The end was peaceful and when I returned home about 5 minutes after, I found she had fallen off into a sleep as it were. The face had a peaceful look and it was calm and restful. What am I to say to you, my boy. We did everything that was humanly possible but could really do nothing. To her, it has been a release from an eternal succession of physical troubles, but to me it is terrible to have to live without consolation of having even one parent alive. She often made enquiries about you and you occupied her thoughts up to the very last.

To all of us, submission to God's will is inevitable and I am prepared to submit myself to the ways of an inscrutable Providence. In my bereavement, no solace would be truly welcome as the news that you are keeping well. I am anxious to see you back at the earliest possible moment. I pray that you will look after your health properly and do your best at the Final Examination. Do not give yourself up to grieve over *Majonani* for she is in a better land now. Your uncle is, as was to be expected, terribly upset.

Yours affectionately,

P. S. I have applied for a month's leave. C. C. Ghose.
C. C. G.

As Others Saw Him

On Success at the Bar Final Examination

From Sir T. Palit to Rai Bahadur Debender Chunder Ghose,
father of Sir Charu Chunder Ghose.

11. 4. 07

My dear Debender,

Provash (Sir P. C. Mitter) had anticipated you in giving me the good news (of success at Bar Final Examination) as soon as he received the telegram from you. I intended to write to you immediately congratulating you, but I thought that you would have left home for court before the receipt of my letter. I need hardly assure you how sincerely and thoroughly pleased I am but I can assure you it is no more than what I had expected of Charu. He is a boy of whom any father would be proud. He is blessed with all that endears one to others—good in appearance, bright in intelligence, quick in perception, amiable in disposition, loving and respectful, dutiful, public spirited, in fact good and lovable all round. I am sure you will be writing to him today, and I shall be so pleased if you convey to him my congratulations and my sentiments. You may enclose this sheet in yours.

Yours sincerely,
T. Palit.

186, Adelaide Road,
South Hampstead N. W.
April 10, 1907

My dear Charu Chunder,

My warmest congratulations to you on your great success. India has done splendidly in the Bar Final: three out of six in the first class is a record which could scarcely be bettered, considering the proportion of Indian to English candidates. I will not fail to dine in Hall on the night of your call. You know you are always welcome when you care to come and see me.

Yours sincerely,
H. E. A. Cotton
(Late President, Bengal Legislative Council.)

2, New Court,
Carey Street,
Lincoln's Inn,
12th April, 1907.

Dear Mr. Ghose,

I congratulate you very sincerely on your distinguished successes. Cozens Hardy ought to be proud of you and Sircar. I am very glad to hear that you feel you have benefitted by the experiences gained in Cozens Hardy's Chambers, which I hope will be of much use to you in your future career.

It will give me pleasure to propose you for call to the bar next June.

With all good wishes for your future, believe me

Yours very truly,
W. H. Upjohn.
(Barrister-at-law)

Ham
Devonfort,
April 15, 1907

Dear Mr. Ghose,

Your letter has at last reached me here after some delay or I should have answered you before. I congratulate you very sincerely on your success and I am sure that you will continue to succeed when you are practising your profession in India. I shall be in London in May and my adress will be St. James' Court, Buckingham Gate, where I shall be very glad to see you.

Yours sincerely,
W. C. Petheram
(Retired Chief Justice of Bengal)

As a Judge of the Calcutta High Court

(1919)

India Office,
Whitehall S. W. I.
July, 10. '19.

My dear Charu,

I must first congrtutate you on your appointment.....

It was many years ago, when you were a student in the Presidency College, that I asked your father to send you over to this country. Your father was willing, but you were not. Well, you came long afterwards and it is well that you did. I had the pleasure of seeing you as a tiny little boy, and I am glad I have lived to see you holding an honoured and honourable position in our country ; and what pleases me most is that you have resisted the allurements of wealth.

I also congratulate one of my oldest and best of friends that his son has done so well. I had often thought of you as fitted for a political career. I am sure you would have distinguished yourself if you had taken to politics, but you did not and now I am not altogether sorry.

I have helped to forward a scheme that in the Privy Council some of our practising barristers or judges still in office may be taken on a reasonable salary. Who knows you may not be sitting some day in the Privy Council as a P. C. of the realm ? It may not be in my time, but my manes will rejoice when it will come.

I shall not tell you the full history of your appointment. The proposal did not come from India, it went from here more in the nature of a mandate than as a suggestion..... .....Well, if I live to go back to India, I shall for one day at least don my dress of a solicitor and make my bow to you in court : that will please me.....

Yours affectionately,
Bhupendranath Basu.

THE BAR'S FELICITATION

Mr. Justice Ghose, the newly appointed judge of the Calcutta High Court, took his seat on the Original Side on the 16th July, 1919. The Court room was packed with members of the legal profession and the litigant public who had come to see the new Judge take his seat. The Advocate-General welcomed the Judge on behalf of the Bar and Mr. Kali Nath Mitter on behalf of the Solicitors. The Advocate-General said :—It is the unanimous wish of the Bar that I should express to your lordship our sense of congratulation on your appointment as a Judge of this Court. Your lordship has had considerable experience at the Bar and we who practise at the Bar are confident that your legal attainments fit you for your post and your genial temperament will stand you in good stead. We feel quite sure that your lordship will be a great success. It is a glad day for your much respected father who was for many years Government Pleader at Alipore and who commands the respect of every body. I wish you a long and prosperous life and a long and continued friendship with the Bar. We will do our best to give you every assistance. We all wish you good health, prosperity and long life.

Mr. Kali Nath Mitter on behalf of the Incorporated Law Society associated himself with everything that had fallen from the Advocate-General.

Mr. JUSTICE GHOSE'S REPLY

Mr. Justice Ghose said :—Mr. Advocate-General and Members of the Bar, Mr. Kali Nath Mitter and members of the Incorporated Law Society of Calcutta. I thank you most sincarely for the extremely kind welcome you have been good enough to extend to me and for the handsome words you have used on the occasion of my being called by my King and Sovereign to the high office of a judge of this Court. As Mr. Advocate-General has reminded me, I began my professional career many years ago as a Vakil in this Court after serving a period of over two years as an articled clerk to my illustrious master, Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee. I have since been the recipient of such consideration and kindness from my fellow practitioners on both sides of the Court and it will be my endeavour, may I add my steady endeavour, to so conduct myself in my present office so that the efficiency of this Court may be promoted and so that I may maintain untarnished the

traditions of this Court. I warn you however that the time for rejoicing is not when a man putteth on his armour but when he taketh it off. To me the office is not only a high one but it is sacred. I want your prayers so that I may be enabled to continue the administration of justice on the lines set in this Court and so that nothing will deter me from doing right as between man and man and that I may never sacrifice my duty to expediency or applause. If any of you who are present here to-day can come forward truthfully when the time comes for me to lay down my office, to testify that during my incumbency I have done something, if it even be but little, to promote the administration of justice in this Court, then and then only I will gather my reward. The Advocate-General has been good enough to make a reference to my father. I wish to say how profoundly touched I am by his reference. It has been to me a source of very great plessure that my parents are alive to see me occupy my present office to-day. I thank you all once more for the reception that you have given me to-day and I need hardly assure you that the memory of to-day will live in my memory as long as I am spared.

CONGRATULATIONS BY EMINENT MEN AND THE PRESS

Patna
19. 7. '19

My Dear Charu,

I had been in the wilds of upper India when your appointment was announced. I returned to Patna night before last and then heard. I am genuinely pleased not for your sake but for the sake of the people. Your great ability will be a source of strength to the Court and an assurance to the people. You have no doubt sustained a personal loss but the service you will be rendering to the country ought to be a compensation. The Bar will a great loser by your departure from its ranks.

Yours sincerely
Hasan Imam

Lion's Paw
Mussourie
20th July, 1919

My dear Justice Charu Chunder,

I have just read with great pleasure your reply to the speeches of the Advocate-General and Babu *Kali Nath Mitter* on the occasion of your taking seat as a Judge in the High Court, and I congratulate you on that speach as well as on your appointment. To me it seems that only the other day you were in the Presidency College, joined the Bar as a Vakil, went to England, distinguished there as a law student and returned home and have been practising successfully as a Barrister. How soon you have gained a position much higher than any that you could have held, had you gone to England as I had suggested, for the Civil Service, is a matter of wonder to me and reveals no doubt the high moral as well as intellectual parts which I detected in you during your student life. May you become a great judge is my earnest prayer.

In these days—great judges, independent, honest, learned in law both human and divine, impartial, absolutely free from prejudice or any policy and fearless, are as much necessary as politicians and patriots.

Since my retirement I have been observing as to how justice is administered in our country and feel greatly interested and delighted when I see good and able men placed in the position of a judge.

Yours sincerely
P. K. Ray

Kilbronnau
Nr. Cardigan Wales
20, August, 1919

My dear "C. C.", though it is now more correct to say "Judge,"

As the vacation business has the junior judge in its grip I am hopeful that my letter addressed to the High Court will reach you. The news of your appointment has just reached me and I can't let a mail pass without letting you know how delighted I am, and offering you my best of wishes. I only wish I were younger to be your colleague in the dear old Court where I spent so many happy days.

With sincerest regards, I am
Yours sincerely
L. Jenkins

THE CALCUTTA WEEKLY NOTES

July 21, 1919.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. C. Ghose :

We offer our hearty congratulations to Mr. C. C. Ghose on his elevation to the Bench. This is the second time that an Indian member of the Calcutta Bar has been made a judge of the Calcutta High Court, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Choudhuri and Mr. Hassan Imam being the first Indian Barrister Judges who were appointed in 1912. He goes to the Bench with the good wishes of every member of the Bar with whom all round he has always been friendly. Apart from his professional work he took an active interest in public movements and was a careful student of political questions. In 1913 he was selected by the Government of Bengal as a witness for the Islington Commission on Public Services in India. He also gave his evidence before the Southborough Franchise Committee as a representative of the National Liberal League.

London
4. 9. 19.

My dear Mr. Ghose,

My congratulations and hearty blessings on your appointment as a judge of the High Court. When I wrote my last letter to you, the correspondence was going on and I knew it was coming. But it was, as I found, secret. I did not like to divulge it.

I hope you are quite well.

Yours sincerely
Surendranath Banerjea

"CAPITAL" July 18, 1919

Ditcher's Diary

There has been so loud and universal a chorus of approbation on the appointment of Mr. C. C. Ghose as judge of the Calcutta High Court that in adding my thin small voice I risk the charge of shouting with the herd. But he is a personal friend with whom I have become intimate since the foundation of the study circle. I would therefore have congratulated Calcutta on so signal on acquisition to the Bench had all the other critics been dumb. An enlightened and courageous Saxon once wrote in "*The Times*" that an educated Irishman went

very near perfection. The same may be said of an educated Bengalee of the type of Mr. Justice C. C. Ghose. He is a man of many graces and you cannot be long in his company without perceiving that they rest on a solid foundation of character and erudition. He has all the flair of a man of the world without a suspicion of frivolity; all the confidence of a man of law and letters without a touch of pedantry. His urbanity and quick sympathy should make him most acceptable as a judge. His career at the Bar was brilliant. He began as a Vakil and then became a barrister gaining wealth and fame in both forensic roles. He is now a judge in his early prime.

Pat Lovett.

A LETTER FROM SIR LAWRENCE JENKINS

Kilbronnau
Nr. Cardigan
30th December, 1924.

My dear Ghose,

The press cutting in your letter which I have just recieved describes a ceremony which literally and in truth comes to me as a complete surprise : I had no inkling of it.

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate and value the honour that my old and very good friends in Calcutta have done me; it is perhaps the most gratifying recognition I have ever received, and let me thank you all for what has been done. My only regret is that I can never come out to see it.

And before I close I must thank you, my dear Ghose, for the generous, too generous terms, in which you refer to my efforts while in the court I loved so dearly.

With kindest remembrances,

I am,
Yours very sincerely,
Lawrence Jenkins.

(*Sir C. C. Ghose's speech at the ceremony of unveiling the portrait of Sir Lawrence Jenkins at the High Court, Calcutta, is given on page 45.*)

On Receiving the Knighthood

19, Albert Road, Allahabad.
2. 1. 26.

My dear Sir Charu,

As I got down from railway carriage I purchased a copy of the *Pioneer* and lo and behold what did I see? The distinguished and generous host whose endless hospitality I enjoyed until the previous night had been Knighted. I have already wired my congratulations to you. How I wish I had stayed on. I would then have been able to personally congratulate you and to participate in the feeling of happiness of the family circle. I think no Judge has deserved this honour better than you and I trust you will not take it as a formal compliment. It is a most genuine feeling. May you and Lady Ghose live long to enjoy the honour is the prayer and wish of a devoted and admiring friend of yours.

* * * *

Yours very sincerely,
T. B. Sapru.

Mission Road, Cattack.
3rd January, 1926.

Dear Sir Charu Chunder Ghose,

Your rightly earned Knighthood though belated has been a source of sincere delight to us and I am sure the news will be received with the same feelings by those who had the opportunities of studying your life and character.

* * * *

Living as we do under the influences of two types of civilization, conflicting and contradictory in many respects, our duty should be to engraft the foreign civilization on the indigeneous seedling so that while drawing our inspiration from the history, traditions and the lives of our ancestors educated India might produce luscious foreign fruits on the engrafted branch.

From what little I have seen of you, you are an illustration of such a life.

May God give you long life to rise to higher planes and earn higher honours so that your country may be benefited by your life is the sincere prayer of

M. S. Das.

On Retirement from the Bench

"Capital"—February 6, 1934.

"Without Prejudice"

(From our Legal Correspondent).

It is with real and not merely formal regret that we note the retirement of Mr. Justice C. C. Ghose. Able judges, so far as the High Courts are concerned, are not rare. We have a right to expect ability and generally speaking we get it. But though his lordship referred to as such for the last time was an able, a very able judge, it is for his kindly, gracious and charming personality, combined with a whimsical humour, that he will be long remembered both by those who practised before him and by the wider public outside the Courts. Without being a stickler for cast iron etiquette, he was a strict, even a stern, upholder of the proper dignity and decorum of the King's Courts, wherein he set an example which we wish were more widely followed by some of his brethren, especially if we may respectfully say so, by some of those who are not members of the English Bar.

It seems incredible when one regards his appearance of robust and early middle age the judge has reached the age of retirement, and we trust that useful perhaps in these troblous days, more useful work remains for him at the hands of the Government, which he has long and faithfully served, thereby serving his countrymen.

We cannot pay him any greater compliment, nor one which we think he would appreciate more, than by suggesting as we do, that Mr. Justice Ghose would have been a worthy occupant of the Branch in the K. B. D. and that had he been such, he would not improbably have risen to preside over it.

As Member of Executive Council

Government House,
Calcutta, 10th Feb. 1934.

My dear Sir Charu,

I wonder whether you could see your way to help me by accepting appointment as a temporary Member of my Executive Council during the period that must elapse before permanent arrangements can be made. If you are willing to do so and your health permits it will assist me greatly in this wholly unforeseen emergency. The period should not be more than a few weeks at the most.

Yours sincerely,
John Anderson.

SIR C. C. GHOSE'S RESIGNATION

10, Debender Ghose Road,
Bhowanipore, Calcutta,
27th March, 1934.

Dear Sir John,

As I informed you yesterday, I do think my health will stand the strain of work as a member of Your Excellency's Executive Council. I beg therefore to be allowed to send in my resignation.

I had hoped to have the privilege of serving under your Excellency, but Fate is apparently against me. In any event, the memory of my association with you for this very short period will always remain one of the joys of my life. Should Your Excellency at any time desire to send for me to do anything in an unofficial capacity, I shall always be at your disposal, health permitting.

With many grateful thanks for your kindness,

I am,
Yours sincerely,
C. C. Ghose.

Government House
Calcutta.
29th March 1934.

GOVERNOR'S ACCEPTANCE

My dear Sir Charu,

It was with genuine regret—on personal no less than on official grounds—that I learnt that the state of your health is such as to preclude your continuing to assist me and my Government in the Executive Council. I shall always remember with gratitude the readiness with which you agreed to place your talents and your great experience at our disposal and as I have told you personally your tenure of the portfolio of Revenue Member, brief though it is, has been of great value in enabling Government to tide over successfully the difficult period of the Budget Session.

I am asking my Military Secretary to send for your acceptance a framed photograph which I would ask you to accept as a small momento of an association of which I shall always retain the happiest recollections.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,
John Anderson.

Tributes on Death

Simla
12-9-34

Lady Ghose
10 Debender Ghose Road
Calcutta

Their Excellencies wish me to convey to you their deep sympathy on your bereavement.

—Private Secretary
Viceroy.

Government House.
Darjeeling.
The 10th. September, 1934.

Dear Mr. Ghose,

I am desired by His Excellency (Sir John Woodhead) to say that he has learnt with deep regret the death today of your father Sir Charu Chunder Ghose.

His Excellency knew your father for many years. The brilliance of your father's achievements in the realm of law was only equalled by his sense of duty which led him, although not in good health, to step into the breach caused by the untimely death of the Late Sir P. C. Mitter early this year and to continue at duty at a time when he might have insisted on enjoying a well-earned retirement.

His Excellency desires me to express to you and other members of the family his deep sympathy in your loss, a loss which the whole province shares.

Yours sincerely,
N. Y. V. Symons
(Private Secretary)

R. C. Ghose Esq.

51, George Square
Edinburgh 8
13th September, 1934.

Dear Lady Ghose,

I cannot express the sorrow and surprise with which I read in yesterday's *Times* of the death of your husband. To me he was a close friend whose many kindnesses in the course of fifteen years work together can never be forgotten. When last I wrote to him I was full of hope that his long illness was about to give place to a good measure of health. I have lost one of my best and closest friends and I can only add my poor words of sympathy to the many sincere tributes to him which you and his family will receive.

Very sincerely yours,
G. Rankin
(Late Chief Justice of Bengal)

Giddapahar
Kurseong, 12. 9. 34.
Wednesday

My dear Rabi,

I was staggered to read in the papers yesterday of the sudden death of your revered father. Though I had heard that since his retirement from the High Court Bench he had been keeping very poor health, I never apprehended that his end was so near. Barely a week has elapsed since I read an appreciation from his pen of the late Moti Lal Ghose (of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*); and now I learn, to my great sorrow, that he has been gathered to his father. Knowing as I did, how dear to his heart was the cause of the public, I had been fondly expecting that what the Courts of Justice had lost the wider public forum would gain. But all is over now, and I in my heart and soul to yours in mourning the loss of one who was a devoted son, an affectionate father, a judge of unbending independence, a wise counsellor of men and above all, a man of spotless character. It is a great misfortune to his family and his country that he was taken away before he was full of years. I hope, however, that in your great sorrow, it will be some consolation to you that he died full of honours. My sincerest condolences to you and all members of the bereaved family.

Yours very sincerely,
Sarat Chandra Bose

R. C. Ghose Esqr.

Totehill, Slinfold,
Horsham.
13th September, 1934.

Dear Lady Ghose,

I was deeply grieved to read in the *Times* yesterday the death of your husband and please let this convey to you and to your family my sincerest sympathy and condolences in your great loss. I remember well first meeting your husband at the old Calcutta Club in Russell Street the day after I just arrived in Calcutta in November 1914 and we had been close friends ever since both whilst he was at the Bar and at the Bench. I shall miss him very much and although I had not seen him since 1927 when he was last in England I used to hear from him often and I always felt I had in him a valued and trusted friend.

In deepest sympathy

I remain
Ewart Greaves

11, Old Square
Lincoln's Inn, London.
September 18th, 1934.

Dear Lady Ghose,

Will you accept my very deep and sincere sympathy with you and your family in your great bereavement. I have grateful memories of your husband's courtesy and kindness and of the hospitality which he and you gave to me and my husband. He was a man of whom India and Britain could be proud and his loss to his country is great; and his loss to his large circle of personal friends and above all to his family is overwhelming.

May you be supported in this great sorrow!

Yours very sincerely,
Emmilene Pethick Lawrence

The Arama, Salem.
September 12, 1934.

Dear Srimaty Ghose,

I am so very sorry to read of the passing away of your beloved husband. He was a great friend of mine. I did not know that he was ill at all. Hence the sad news is the more distressing to me. To you and next to you to your children the blow must be very severe. On behalf of you all I beg to tender my very warm sympathy.

Yours very sincerely,
C. Vijayraghavachariar

'THE STATESMAN'

11. 9. 34

The death of Sir Charu Chunder Ghose so soon after retirement from the Calcutta Bench will come as a shock to a multitude of friends. From the High Court he stepped across to Writers' Buildings to help the Government of Bengal in the emergency caused by Sir Provash Mitter's sudden death, but it was soon apparent that he had listened to the call of duty at great cost to himself, and after filling the breach until Government had time to make other arrangements he gave up his office as Executive Member under doctor's insistence. He was a Judge for nearly fifteen years, and four times acted as Chief Justice.

'THE AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA'

11. 9. 34

The great shock that we have received at the sudden death of Sir Charu Chunder Ghose, one of Bengal's most gifted sons, is too deep for words. Though he had been keeping indifferent health since his retirement from the High Court, the suddenness of his death took us by the greatest surprise possible, for even on Saturday morning when we had a long talk with him we did not find any trace or any shadow of the end that was coming. For the sake of the present generation we make no apology to state that Mahatma Sisir Kumar and Motilal Ghose and the late Rai Debender Chunder Ghose Bahadur, father of the reputed Judge whose death we mourn to-day, were like brothers and that naturally the relation between the late Sir Charu and ourselves was as cordial and affectionate as that between brothers can be. He took all through his life a keen interest in the welfare of the *Patrika* as will be evident from the most heartening—but alas, the last—message he so kindly sent us on the occasion of the anniversary meeting which was recently held to do homage to the memory of the late Babu Moti Lal Ghose. He was a brilliant lawyer who built up a high reputation both at the Bar and on the Bench by achievements which will not be easily forgotten in future and had a keen intellect, sturdy independence and a high sense of public duty. His countrymen expected that freed from the trammels of office, he would enter political life in which sphere he showed conspicuous ability during the early part of his career. But Providence ordained otherwise. At an age which in other countries sees men still active and energetically doing public

duties, he has been snatched away from the country, leaving her to mourn his loss. Those who have had occasions to intimately mix with him could not but be impressed by his affectionate and genial temperament. Our sincerest sympathy and condolence go to the bereaved family. May the soul of the deceased rest in peace !

CALCUTTA CORPORATION'S TRIBUTE

All sections in the Corporation united in paying tributes to Sir Charu Chunder Ghose at the meeting of the Corporation on 10th September, 1934, which was adjourned as a mark of respect to his memory after adopting the following resolution, moved by the Hon. Mr. B. K. Basu.

"This Corporation desires to put on record its deep sense of loss at the death of Sir Charu Chunder Ghose, a distinguished lawyer, a great judge and some time a member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bengal, and expresses its sympathy and condolences with the members of the bereaved family."

Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu said: His keen and penetrating intellect, his sturdy independence as a judge and the great dignity and prestige with which he maintained the high office of Chief Justice of Bengal furnished an object lesson to all those who are anxious to establish the natural claim of the children of the soil to the highest office under the State.

Mr. C. C. Biswas said: Sir Charu Chunder Ghose filled a large place in the public life of Bengal. The greater part of his career was, however, spent on the Bench and in the pursuit of the legal profession. But so long as he was free from the trammels of office, he never grudged his services to his country, and at a time when they were looking forward to a period of long and distinguished services from him to be rendered to his country, it was sad to think that Providence had snatched him away from the scene of his earthly labours.

The Deputy Mayor (Mr. B. N. Roy Chowdhury) said : Sir Charu Chunder was a great Judge and he was held in great respect both by the public and members of his profession. To him his death was a personal loss, because Sir Charu Chunder held him in great affection and took a personal interest in his career.

The Mayor (Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker) said : In the death of Sir Charu Chunder Bengal had lost a brilliant son and this city a prominent and distinguished citizen, a charming and dignified personality. Sir Charu Chunder made a great mark in the High Court by his intellectual capacity, legal equipment and independent judgment, and he rose to the highest position to which a Bengali could rise, namely, the office of the acting Chief Justice.

'THE CAPITAL' 13. 9. 34.

The late Sir Charu Chunder Ghose was a man of whom Calcutta was proud and his death on Monday cast a gloom over the wide circle of men who enjoyed his friendship. As successively an advocate, a judge of the High Court and four times officiating Chief Justice of Bengal his position in his chosen profession was, indeed, an honoured one. He had many more contacts with the city than this, however, and his death means that Calcutta is considerably the poorer. He had been in failing health since he left the Bench last February and though the end was inevitable it was not believed to be as imminent or sudden as was actually the case. In the High Court he was a stickler for precision and etiquette but at the same time he was a lawyer of outstanding ability, independence of judgment and clarity of thought. A genial personality and a good friend had quitted the scene for all time.

"THE LAW TIMES" September 15, 1934.

Sir Charu Chunder Ghose, until recently a Judge of the High Court, Calcutta, died there on the 10th September at the age of sixty. Enrolled as a Vakil in 1898, he was called by Lincoln's Inn in 1907 and in the same year enrolled as an Advocate of the Calcutta High Court. Raised to the Calcutta Bench in 1919 he retired in January last. He was knighted in 1926.

"THE LAW JOURNAL" 15. 9. 34.

Sir Charu Chunder Ghose, a Judge of the High Court, Calcutta, from 1919 to January of this year, died in Calcutta on September 10. He was 60 years of age.

The late Judge was enrolled as a pleader in the Calcutta High Court in 1898. He came to London and was called to the Bar in 1907, being appointed a Judge of the Calcutta High Court in 1919. On four occasions he acted as Chief Justice. He was knighted in 1926.

UNIVERSITY'S CONDOLENCE

The Senate of the Calcutta University on 10th September, 1934, adopted a resolution condoling the death of Sir Charu Chunder Ghose and recorded their appreciation of the services rendered by him.

The Vice-Chancellor (Mr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee) paid a glowing tribute to the memory of the deceased and said that the late Sir Charu Chunder Ghose, a distinguished son of Bengal, was not at any time an ordinary Fellow of the University but he was an active member of the Governing body of the University Law College. He was also for several years a prominent member of the Governing Body of the Sir Taraknath Palit Trust, being nominated to it by the late Lord Sinha.

Sir Charu Chunder officiated for four times as Chief Justice of Bengal and as such he was an ex-officio member of the Senate. He was for 14 years a distinguished Judge of the Calcutta High Court and in that capacity he came to be recognised as one of the most eminent judges of this court noted as much for his versatility as for his independence. He was not a Judge alone. He also took an active part in the welfare of many institutions of this city and it was a fitting recognition of his devotion to culture that he came to be elected President of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. Bengal would remember long this distinguished son.

CITIZENS' TRIBUTE

("Amrita Bazar Patrika"—Dec. 1, 1934.)

A striking tribute to the various qualities of head and heart of the late Sir Charu Chunder Ghose was paid at a crowded and representative meeting of the citizens of Calcutta at the Town Hall.

The meeting was convened by the Sheriff of Calcutta and presided over by the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad.

The meeting adopted a resolution placing on record "Its deep sense of profound sorrow and loss at the sudden and untimely demise of Sir Charu Chunder Ghose, an eminent lawyer, a great judge, a wise counsellor of men, a loyal friend and a devoted son of his Motherland."

By another resolution it was urged that suitable steps be taken to perpetuate his memory by raising a memorial and an influential and representative Committee was formed to devise ways and means to that effect.

His Excellency Sir John Woodhead sent the following message which was read at the meeting:—

"It is fitting that a Sheriff's meeting of the citizens of Calcutta should have been convened to mourn the loss and honour the memory of Sir Charu Chunder Ghose, for he had deserved well of the city.

"Calcutta gave him his early education and to Calcutta he returned after his triumphs at the Bar Examination in England and here he spent the rest of his days.

"The brilliance of his legal career is reflected in the high judicial office which he attained and his sense of duty may be gauged from the fact that on his retirement from the Bench as acting Chief Justice of Bengal he accepted, although not in good health, an appointment as a temporary Member of the Governor's Executive Council.

"I knew him personally for many years and in the early months of this year, till ill health forced him to retire into private life, I had the pleasure and privilege of working with him as a colleague and can say without fear of contradiction that the reason why his fellow citizens are to-day paying him the highest honour in their power is not merely on account of his illustrious career which has brought credit to the city which nurtured him but also because he was very human and lovable man. We are the poorer for his loss, but the richer for his memory."

Sir Harold Derbyshire said that his first duty on taking his seat in the High Court was to offer condolences to the relatives of Sir Charu Chunder Ghose. He had little difficulty in doing that task. Although he had not the advantage of having met Sir Charu Chunder yet there was one thing that helped him and it was a very remarkable thing. After he was appointed to his office and before he left England, he opened his newsparer *The Times* one morning and saw a photograph of Sir Charu Chunder and also an obituary notice which, if he remembered aright, extended over a column in length, That was an extraordinary thing for *The Times* to do for any man. Usually less than a column sufficed. But in this instance there was a column and there was a photograph for a Judge who occupied office six thousand miles away from England here in India. It was a very extraordinary tribute for a chief English newspaper to pay a Judge in India. He read it and read it with great interest and it helped him when he came here to understand things which were told about Sir Charu Chunder Ghose. Another thing that helped him was a passage cited by one speaker

regarding what Sir Charu Chunder said when he was first appointed Judge : 'He did not want flattery but he wanted people to be able to say when he finished, that he had done his duty and had done it well.'

There was no one, concluded the Chief Justice, either in the High Court or in Calcutta or in any other part of India who could say that Charu Chunder did not deserve well both of the Court of which he was such a distinguished Judge and of the city of which he was an ornament. He could not speak of personal intimacy but he attended the meeting as the head of judiciary in Bengal and supported the resolution on behalf of his colleagues. (Applause.)

"THE TIMES" (London)

11th September, 1934.

Sir Charu Chunder Ghose, a Judge of the Calcutta High Court from 1919 to the beginning of the present year, died in Calcutta yesterday at the age of 60. He was a frequent visitor to London during the summer vacation of the Indian Courts, and his kindness and charm won him many friends in this country.

Born in Calcutta on February 4, 1874, he was the eldest son of Rai Bahadur Debendra Chunder Ghose, well known as the Government Pleader, Alipore, and the owner at one time of extensive property at Darjeeling. Charu was educated at the Presidency College, Calcutta and enrolled as a pleader at the Calcutta High Court in 1898. After gaining a firm foothold in the profession he followed what was then a frequent practice of India lawyers of coming later to London and studying at the Inns of Court. He was called to the Bar in 1907, and gained the distinction of being Honoursman of the Council of Legal Education.

For the next dozen years he was enjoying a large practice at the Calcutta High Court, and he was raised to the Bench in the summer of 1919. Ghose was a competent rather than a strong Judge and had the warm esteem both of his colleagues and the Bar. He acted on four occasions as Chief Justice. He resigned his seat at the end of last January, a few days before reaching what is now the age-limit for the Indian High Court benches, 60. In the middle of February on the sudden death of his kinsman, Sir Provash Mitter, he was given the acting appointment of Revenue Member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bengal, Sir John Anderson.

Meanwhile the health of Sir Charu Chunder Ghose (who was knighted in 1926) was deteriorating ; and his hope of visiting this country again early next year was not to be fulfilled.

AT THE HIGH COURT :
SPEECH OF CHIEF JUSTICE OF BENGAL

At the re-opening of the High Court after the long vacation, on 12th November, 1934, Sir Harold Derbyshire, Chief Justice of Bengal, referring to the death of Sir Charu Chunder Ghose, spoke as follows :—

"During his long connection with the Court he held the esteem and affection of the Bench and the Bar and the confidence of his profession and the litigant public. I am told that his judgments were always marked with a keen desire to do justice. He was a mine of information on matters relation to the old history of the Court.

"In 1926 he was knighted.

"Amongst the public offices that he undertook outside the Court after he was elevated to the Bench was that of President of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

"I should like, at this time particularly as I am assuming my robes of office, to read to you an account which has been handed to me of Mr. Justice Ghose's reply to the welcome address which was given to him by the Bar and the members of his profession in this Court on the 16th of July 1919 when he took his seat for the first time. I think the character of the man he was is indicated by that and I shall read a long passage :—

> 'As Mr. Advocate-General has reminded me I began my professional career many years ago as a Vakil in this Court after serving a period of over two years as an Articled Clerk to my illustrious Master Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee. I have since been the recipient of much consideration and kindness from my fellow practitioners on both sides of the Court and it will be my endeavour, may I add, my steady endeavour to so conduct myself in my present office so that the efficiency of this Court may be promoted and so that I may maintain, untarnished, the traditions of this Court. I warn you, however, that the time for rejoicing is not when a man putteth on his armour but when he taketh it off. To me the office is not only a high one but it is sacred. I want your prayers so that I may be enabled to continue the administration of justice on the lines set in this Court and so that nothing will deter me from doing right as between man and man and that I may never sacrifice my duty to expediency

or applause. If any of you who are present here today can come forward, truthfully, when the time comes for me to lay down my office to testify that during my incumbency I have done something, if it even be but little, to promote the administration of justice in this Court, then and then only I will gather my reward.'

"This Court testifies that Sir Charu Chunder Ghose has gathered his reward and this Court places it on record; and to this widow and children this Court extends deep and sincere sympathy".

"THE CALCUTTA WEEKLY NOTES." September, 17, 1934.

The Late Sir Charu Chunder Ghose ;

We deeply regret to record the sudden death of Sir Charu Chunder Ghose which took place on the 10th instant. It was only in January last that Sir Charu Chunder retired from the High Court Bench, apparently in good health. At the time, he himself must have been without any anxiety as his physical condition, for almost immediately after his retirement he accepted a temporary position on the Bengal Executive Council.

.....We expected that he might do much useful work for the community as he was only sixty-one years of age and had taken a great deal of interest in public affairs in the earlier part of his career before he went on the Bench.

Calcutta 11. 9. 34

কল্যানীয়েষু

আজ্জকের কাগজে আপনার পিতৃদেবের পরলোক যাত্রার সংবাদে অতিশয় ব্যথিত হইয়াছি। ইহা নিতান্তই আকস্মিক।

আপনারা সকলে আমার আন্তরিক সমবেদনা জানিবেন। ভগবান আপনাদের শোকসন্তপ্ত প্রাণে সান্ত্বনা প্রদান করুন, এই প্রার্থনা করিতেছি।

আমার ইনফ্লুয়েঞ্জা হওয়ায় আমি যথাসময়ে সাক্ষাৎ করিতে পারিলাম না। ত্রুটি মার্জ্জনা করিবেন।

শুভানুধ্যায়ী

শ্রীযুক্ত রবীন্দ্রচন্দ্র ঘোষ শ্রীরামানন্দ চট্টোপাধ্যায়

দৈনিক বসুমতী—১১-৯-৩৪

কলিকাতা হাইকোর্টের ভূতপূর্ব্ব প্রধান বিচারপতি মাননীয় স্যার চারুচন্দ্র ঘোষ মহাশয় গত ২৪শে ভাদ্র সোমবার বেলা ১২টার সময় নিয়তির আহ্বানে পরলোকে প্রস্থান করিয়াছেন। স্যার চারুচন্দ্র কয়েকদিন মাত্র রোগভোগ করিয়াছিলেন, সেই সংবাদ তাঁহার নিতান্ত অন্তরঙ্গ আত্মীয়বর্গ ব্যতীত বাহিরের কোন লোক জানিতে না পারায় তাঁহার আকস্মিক মৃত্যু দেশবাসীর নিকট বিনামেঘে বজ্রাঘাতের ন্যায় প্রতীয়মান হইয়াছে।

···বাঙ্গলার আকাশ হইতে উজ্জ্বল জ্যোতিষ্ক খসিয়া পড়ায় বঙ্গভূমি ক্রমশঃ যে অন্ধকারে আচ্ছন্ন হইতেছে, তাহা কবে অপসারিত হইবে? স্যার চারুচন্দ্র ১৯১৯ সাল হইতে চির অবসর গ্রহণের সময় পর্য্যন্ত, চারিবার কলিকাতা হাইকোর্টের প্রধান বিচারপতি পদে প্রতিষ্ঠিত হইয়াছিলেন। বিচার কার্য্যে তাঁহার নিরপেক্ষতা, ঐকান্তিক নিষ্ঠা, এবং তাঁহার সুগভীর আইন-জ্ঞানের ইহাই উজ্জ্বল প্রমাণ। তিনি প্রধান বিচারপতির পদে স্থায়িত্ব লাভ করিতে না পারিলেও অতীত কালে কলিকাতা হাইকোর্টের যে সকল বিচারপতি এই বিচারালয়ের গৌরব বলিয়া পরিকীর্ত্তিত হইয়াছিলেন, স্যার চারুচন্দ্রের নাম তাঁহাদের গৌরবান্বিত নামের সহিত একসূত্রে গ্রথিত থাকিবে এবং তিনি বাঙ্গালী জাতির হৃদয়-মন্দিরে অক্ষুণ্ণ মহিমায় বিরাজিত থাকিবেন।

প্রবাসী—কার্ত্তিক ১৩৪১

স্যার চারুচন্দ্র ঘোষ অনেক বৎসর ধরিয়া হাইকোর্টের জজিয়তি করিয়াছিলেন এবং তাহার মধ্যে চারিবার প্রধান বিচারপতির কাজ অস্থায়ী ভাবে করিয়াছিলেন। পঞ্জাবে স্থায়ী দেশী প্রধান বিচারপতি হইয়াছিলেন স্যার সাদীলাল। বঙ্গে যে কোন দেশী লোক স্থায়ী প্রধান বিচারপতির পদ পান নাই তাহা যোগ্যতার অভাবে নহে। জজ হইবার পূর্ব্বে যখন স্যার চারুচন্দ্র উকীল ও পরে ব্যারিষ্টার ছিলেন, তখন রাজনীতি ক্ষেত্রে ও সার্ব্বজনিক হিতকর্ম্মের সহিত তাঁহার কর্ম্মময় যোগ ছিল; জজ হইবার পরেও রাষ্ট্রনৈতিক ভিন্ন অন্যবিধ অনেক দেশহিতকর কার্য্যের সহিত তাঁহার যোগ ছিল। এইরূপ আশা ছিল, যে, তিনি জজিয়তি

এবং পরে বঙ্গীয় শাসন পরিষদের সভ্যত্ব ছাড়িয়া দিবার পর স্বাস্থ্যলাভানন্তর আবার রাষ্ট্রনীতিক্ষেত্রেও উদার-নৈতিক দলের সঙ্গে যোগ দিয়া কাজ করিবেন। কিন্তু তাঁহার অকাল মৃত্যুতে সে আশা পূর্ণ হইল না।

8th October, 1934.

প্রীতিভাজনেষু

তোমার পিতৃদেবকে কাছে থেকে কিছুকাল দেখবার সৌভাগ্য হয়েছিল বলে নিজেকে ধন্য মনে করি। উত্তরাধিকারসূত্রে ধনী পিতার কাছ থেকে তিনি মাত্র অর্থ-বৈভব লাভ করেন নি, পেয়েছিলেন একাগ্র কর্ম্মনিষ্ঠা, কর্ত্তব্যবুদ্ধি ও ন্যায়পরতা—যেটি ন্যায্য সেটি তুচ্ছতম মানুষের কাছ থেকে এলেও তিনি তাই সতেজে সমর্থন করিতেন; উদার রাজনৈতিক ক্ষেত্রেও এর পরিচয় যেমন দিয়েছেন ও সমগ্র দেশের কৃতজ্ঞতা ও শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি পেয়েছেন তেমনই দৈনন্দিন ও পারিবারিক জীবনেও ন্যায়নিষ্ঠার পরিচয় প্রত্যহ দিয়েছেন। ন্যায়ের সঙ্গে স্নেহের একটা আপাত-বিরোধ আছে বলে যেন মনে হয় কিন্তু তাঁহার মধ্যে সে বিরোধ ছিল না—তিনি যে গভীর স্নেহশীল ছিলেন সেটি তাঁর কঠিন সংযমের মধ্যেও আমরা অনুভব করেছি। উচ্ছাস বাঙালী চরিত্রের একটি বড় দুর্ব্বলতা, সেটা তিনি কাটিয়ে গিয়েছেন সর্ব্ব ব্যবহারে, অথচ মানুষ তাঁর কাছে প্রিয় ছিল বলেই এত মানুষকে তিনি কাছে টানতে পেরেছিলেন, যাঁরা তাঁর অভাব আজ নিবিড়ভাবে অনুভব করছেন। তাঁর উদার চরিত্র তোমাদের পরিবারের সামনে স্থায়ী আশীর্ব্বাদের মতন প্রোজ্জ্বল হয়ে থাক্ এবং তোমরা তাঁর আদর্শে অনুপ্রাণিত হয়ে দেশের ও দশের সেবায় ধন্য হও এই প্রার্থনা করি।

শুভার্থী

শ্রীযুক্ত রবীন্দ্রচন্দ্র ঘোষ

শ্রীকালিদাস নাগ

PORTRAIT UNVEILED

His Excellency Sir John Anderson unveiled on 15th August, 1936 a portrait of the late Sir Charu Chunder Ghose in the rooms of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal yesterday afternoon in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering.

The portrait was presented to the Society by Mr. D. C. Ghose, brother of the late Sir Charu Chunder. It is the work of the well-known Bengalee artist, Mr. Atul Bose.

In unveiling the portrait, His Excellency the Governor said: As President of the Society, no less than as Governor of Bengal, I appreciate the invitation that has been extended to me to unveil the memorial portrait of Sir Charu Chunder Ghose and join in this tribute to his memory. It is indeed appropriate that his memory should be perpetuated in the rooms of the Society of which he was a distinguished member and of which for two suceessive terms he was the President.

The late Sir Charu Chunder was an eminent Judge and a prominent citizen of this province.

It was not however in his capacity as a Judge that it was my privilege to know him best. It was when only a month after he had retired from the Bench at the age of sixty, he became a temporary member of the Executive Council of the province that I first came into close contact with him and could personally appreciate his many qualities. That episode in his career was, however, as you know, unfortunately cut short by ill health and he died some few months after laying down the office which he had held for so brief a peried.

That he could at the age of sixty, after fifteen years of exacting work on the Bench, take up almost immediately such widely different duties in the executive sphere, is a tribute to the broadness of his outlook and catholicity of his interests. He did so, as I am in the best position to know, entirely from a sense of public duty. Such a man was fitly a member and fitly a President of this Society whose scope embraces the study of "whatever is performed by Man or produced by Nature" within the borders of the Asiatic Continent.