PREFACE

The Netaji Publishing Society has great pleasure in presenting to the public the unfinished autobiography of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Netaji wanted to give his autobiography, when completed, the title “An Indian Pilgrim”. That is how his autobiography derives the name.

“An Indian Pilgrim” takes the reader from Netaji’s parentage, birth and early childhood to his Cambridge days—and what days!—when a young man of 24 had to make up his mind either to take a path, strewn with roses, which promised nothing but ease, luxury and official honour, or a path, strewn with thorns, inviting one to selfless suffering and sacrifice and promising nothing more than blood, sweat and tears. The result of the struggle is known to the world. But only handful have had the privilege to know the different phases of that struggle. Perhaps it was not in 1921 but a decade earlier that the battle within had been won and lost. Perhaps even earlier! That is a poser which we leave to the readers. But one thing is certain that the Rashtrapatibhumi and the Rebel President, the Desh Gaurab and the Netaji, the creator of the First Government of the Free India and the beloved leader of the Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and Parsees, had been moulded between 1897 and 1921. This is the period covered by “An Indian Pilgrim”. It is the masterly analysis of a Humanitarian, a Psychologist, a Statesman and a Soldier, looking back on the formative years of his life.

It is the earnest desire of the Netaji Publishing Society to place before the public all the writings and speeches, political and autobiographical, of Netaji. A
perusal of the yet unpublished materials at present at its disposal makes one's head whirl. One is forced into deeper thoughts at every step. The various facets of the struggle between the spiritual urge or the 'call of the Himalayas' and the cause of the suffering humanity; the nature of dreams Netaji used to have and their analysis by him and various other things make fascinating reading indeed, and they shall be made available to the public at the earliest opportunity. But many letters, articles, etc. written by Netaji are in the hands of the public. We would appeal to all to place them at the disposal of the Netaji Publishing Society so that they may run a thread through the scattered gems and return them to the world in the form of the most priceless ornament. We hope that all those who possess such materials shall rise above personal and private motives.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Shri Sudhir Chandra Roy Chowdhury (Mayor of Calcutta), Shri J. P. Mitter, Bar-at-Law, Shri Naresh Nath Mukherjee, Mr. M. V. Gough-Govia (Deputy Mayor) and Shri Madhusudan Dey of Messrs Thacker, Spink & Co., Ltd., for their kind assistance.

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