Foot-prints on the Sands of Time.

I. The Life of Grish Chunder Ghose, the Founder and First Editor of "The Hindoo Patriot" and "The Bengalee." By One who knew him. Edited by his grandson Manmathanath Ghosh, M. A.

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II. Selections from the Writings of Grish Chunder Ghose, the Founder and First Editor of "The Hindoo Patriot" and "The Bengalee." Edited by his grandson Manmathanath Ghosh M. A.

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Sir Henry Cotton, in his recent work "Indian and Home Memories," speaking of "the Bengalee" during the first years of his sojourn in this country, says: "The Editor of the Bengalee was Grish Chunder Ghose, a name, I am afraid, now forgotten even among his own countrymen, but whom I remember as a most able publicist and a worthy fore-runner of Mr. Surendranath Banerji, his more famous successor." The half-reproach contained in the above passage is not undeserved. It is indeed a pity that our country has allowed a name so worthy of preservation to drop into oblivion. Grish Chunder Ghose was not merely an eminent journalist and leader of
public opinion. He was renowned as much for his rare oratorical powers as for his clever and trenchant writings. But above all, he was a man of spotless character, and combined all the excellences of the heart and the head which go to the making of a truly great man. And these, added to his tall, strongly built and imposing physique, marked him out as a king among men. Death cut him off, however, in the prime of manhood, with the promise of his life but half fulfilled. It is difficult for those who never saw him to form any idea of his personality by a mere perusal of his "Life", though it has been ably written by one who knew him intimately. But the letters appended to his "Life" and the "Selections" from his writings will enable the reader to form a good estimate of the man at first hand. For he possessed the rare gift of imparting to whatever he wrote some of the imperishable radiance of his soul. Newspaper articles generally lose all interest after a first perusal and will not bear republication. But in the writings of Grish Chunder Ghose, there is such an exquisite personal flavour apart from literary excellence, such an under-current of humour and kindliness, and such a strange mixture of deep feeling and keen sarcasm, that it is always a pleasure to read them. His mastery of the English language was simply wonderful, and his writings, as justly remarked by a reviewer, "are strikingly modern." The opinions of the Press and of a few eminent personages on the two volumes published will be found in the annexed pages. Every educated gentleman is invited to add these precious volumes to his library.
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The Editor,—90, Shambazar Street, Calcutta.
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OPINIONS.

Sir Henry Cotton, K. C. S. I., writes: "I have been reading with very great interest your life of your grandfather which you so kindly sent me. Among other things it is one of the best records of Calcutta life during its most interesting period that I have come across".

"I feel the greatest admiration for the general character of your grandfather's writings and for the high moral tone and political insight they display. They amply confirm the impression I have always entertained of his ability and literary gifts and show how great was the loss Bengal sustained by his premature death."

Sir Cooroo Dass Banerjee Kt., M.A., D.L., D.Sc., writes: "You have done well in presenting to the public an account of the life and writings of that distinguished scholar and journalist, who was one of the recognised leaders of educated Bengalee society and who was loved and respected by all his countrymen. Your book will, I am sure, be read with interest by everyone who has the welfare of Bengal at heart."

Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee C.S.I., M.A., B.L. writes: "It is an ably written and thoroughly impartial sketch of his life. In narrating the incidents of his life you have given an account of the times, of the hopes and aspirations of young educated Indians, of the cordial treatment which they received
at the hands of official superiors, of the history of journalism and of the growth of some of the educational and political institutions which I find very interesting.

The late Rai A. Mitra Bahadoor, the Home Minister of the Jammu and Kashmir State wrote: "I have read the Biography with greatest interest. The writings of your grandfather show his versatile genius, thorough mastery of idiomatic English and broad-minded views of rare character. The books published by you will, I am sure, be appreciated all over India and will serve as a stimulus to the present and future generations of journalists and writers of English in India."

The Hon'ble Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjea, writes in the Bengalee "The biography which is before us is the record of a noble life, devoted to the service of the Government and that of his country. Work was the motto of Grish Chunder's life; and if he had been spared, for he died at the early age of forty, there were vast potentialities of usefulness before him which lay unfulfilled. In his public as well as in his private life he exhibited those qualities of amiability combined with strength and of unselfish devotion which are the crowning attributes of individuals and communities. The memory of such a man needs to be preserved as a precious treasure of the nation. We know of no memorial that has been raised in his honor. But his work will live, and this Biographical sketch which is before us will remind the present generation of the golden qualities of one who toiled for them but who, cut off in the prime of life, was not destined to reap the fruits of his labour."

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"Babu Manmatha Nath Ghosh, M.A., grandson of the late Babu Grish Chunder Ghose, the founder and first Editor
of the *Hindoo Patriot* and the *Bengalee*, has done well by publishing the big volume before us, containing selections from the writings of his illustrious grandfather. The contents of the volume will prove a mine of interesting and useful information to every student of Indian history during the third quarter of the 19th century from 1850 to 1869, a period of momentous events which have to no inconsiderable extent shaped our modern religious, social and political life. The selections convey a fair idea of the wonderful vigour and fertility of the writer's pen, the exhilarating freshness of his humour, the strength of his moral fibre and the loftiness of his ideals. Every specimen is stamped with the impress of an unmistakable individuality and reveals one or other of the thousand and one facets of a mind of uncommon brilliancy."

The Late Rai Narendra Nath Sen Bahadoor, wrote in the Indian Mirror: "Among the greatest assets of a nation are the biographies of its great men. One of these which affords both pleasant and profitable reading, is, "the life of Grish Chunder Ghose," the founder and first editor of "the Hindoo Patriot" and "the Bengalee" by "one who knew him" and edited by his grandson Babu Manmathanath Ghose, M.A. Babu Grish Ch. Ghose belonged to the generation that first came under the spell of English education. His contemporaries and co-workers were men like Harish Ch. Mookerji, Kristo Das Pal and Shumbhu Ch. Mukerji. These were pioneers of Indo-English journalism and their life and example exerted no small influence upon the mind of Bengali society of those days. The obituary notices of Grish Chunder Ghose alone bear testimony to his greatness. Professor Lobb—the eminent Positivist and educationist, called him "a man of high intellectual attainments"; Col. Malleson paid a tribute to "the brilliancy and fertility of his ideas," and Mr. James Wilson, one of the
distinguished Anglo-Indian journalists spoke to having read 'his manly and trenchant articles with undisguised admiration.'

Grish Chunder Ghose took great interest in female education and in industrial and social development. His "warmest sympathies were with the poor and the helpless, and the raiyat's cause always lay next to his heart." The late Rev. James Long spoke of his public services as follows: "There is unhappily in Bengal a wide gulf between the educated classes and the masses; between the Zemindar and the Raiyat. Grish Chunder aimed at bridging the gulf, and while the Zemindar enjoyed the benefits of the Permanent Settlement, he wished that permanent settlement should be made with the Raiyat also. His desire, in fact, was to elevate the Raiyat without levelling the zemindar." The greatest service which Grish Ch. Ghose did to his country was as a journalist. He was not only a pioneer of Indo-English journalism but he set an example as to how an Indo-English journal could be an instrument of intellectual and moral advancement.

The life of such a man as Grish Ch. Ghose is full of instruction for the present generation of Bengalis, and Babu Manmatha Nath Ghose, therefore, is to be congratulated on not only discharging a pious duty in chronicling the services of his illustrious ancestor, but also on affording an excellent object-lesson for his compatriots. He appears to have taken great pains in the collection of material and the result is an exceedingly interesting work which throws a good deal of fresh light on the early history of the Bengali society of Calcutta."

The Modern Review says: The name of Grish Ch. Ghose is almost forgotten now-a-days, but this is but one of the many instances of the transitoriness of journalistic fame, for he was born in a well-known and gifted family in the metropolis of India.
about the close of the first quarter of the nineteenth century, and was the first editor of the Hindoo Patriot and subsequently the Editor of the Bengalee when it first saw the light of day as a weekly journal in the year 1862. Seven years later the Anglo-Indian I. D. News wrote of him as follows: "It is no secret that we held him to be at the head of his contemporaries in the Anglo-Bengalee Press...with more men of his stamp, we should not despair of the future of India." An eloquent speaker, a brilliant writer with a very wide command over the English and the French languages, a staunch friend of the oppressed and the down-trodden, he was admired alike by the rich and the poor, by Indians and Europeans. Col. Malleson, himself a distinguished literary man, was an admirer of Girish Chunder's scholarship and said that he had travelled over different parts of the world—Italy, Germany etc.,—but had never seen a more independent or more honorable man. His premature death in 1869 at the early age of forty was mourned over by every section of the Calcutta community and the sum collected at a public memorial meeting held in his honor at the Town Hall was devoted to the foundation of a scholarship in his alma mater, the Oriental Seminary, with a view to perpetuate his name.

It is well that the life of such a man should be written, and we are glad to be able to say that it has been ably written. The biographer chooses to be anonymous but it is quite evident that he is thoroughly competent for the task he has set to himself. His style is racy, idiomatic and interesting to a degree; he possesses judgment and the power of selection, and has taken care not to overload the narrative with cumbersome details. *

With the insight born of true sympathy, Sir Henry Cotton once observed that had he lived in India in any other time but
the present he would undoubtedly have attained the very highest rank. Hence Dr. Shambhu Ch. Mukerjee called Grish "a geographical mistake," * * * That which heightens the value of the present biography is the success with which the writer has woven into the story glimpses of the notabilities of the times so as to make the tout ensemble complete. Here, for instance we are introduced to men like Ramdulal Dey, Mr. W. C. Bannerjee, Harish Chandra Mukherji, Shib Chandra Deb (father-in-law of Grish Chunder) Gour Mohan Addy, founder of the Oriental Seminary, Herman Geoffroy, the distinguished linguist and scholar who was at the head of that institution, Capt. D. L. Richardson and Derozio of the Hindu College, David Hare, Rev. K. M. Bannerji, Ramgopal Ghose and others.

The printing and binding of the book are excellent, and we commend it to the public as a most instructive account of one of our foremost publicists in the last century.

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"Last year we had the pleasure of reviewing in these columns the life of Grish Chunder Ghose, the founder and first Editor of the "Hindoo Patriot" and "the Bengalee" and we are glad to find that the book has been followed with so short an interval by another volume containing an excellent collection from his writings. The book contains 692 pages, is excellently printed......and is handsomely bound. The specimens given in the volume convey a fair idea of the wonderful vigor and fertility of the writer's pen and the loftiness of his moral ideals. The volume is sure to prove a mine of interesting information to every Student of history."

The Hindusthan Review says:—"The Life of Grish Ch. Ghose is a very interesting book. His career is bound to interest students of the history of Indian public life. We
commend this book to all taking interest in the growth of the reform party in India. The Calcutta Review says:—"The work before us contain a great deal of valuable information relating to the early history of the Anglo-Bengali Press. * * * The work contains 4 portraits. * * The work is well-written, in a pleasing style. * * the matter is unexceptionable.

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"It must be confessed that Grish Ch. Ghose has been well-nigh forgotten by his countrymen although most undeservedly so, as we are the first to admit. His fame as a journalist has been completely overshadowed by that of Harish Chunder Mookerje, who died eight years before him, and of Kristodas Pal, who flourished in after years, to mention two Bengalis. But judged by his literary output and we add this in all sincerity—Grish Chunder appears to have been able to hold his own against either of those named above. Of the excellent quality of the work contained in the "Selections" there can scarcely be two opinions......The subjects treated of are more or less varied and interesting. We may here append a few headlines to show the variety of the subjects embraced and the versatility of the writer:—"The Mutiny and the educated natives," "The Paris Exhibition," "The Gagging order," "The Shoe question again"; "The Jorasanko Theatre"; "Annexation of Oude"; "Tax for Gas Light"; "the Metropolis and its Safety"; "How Volunteers guard"; "The trial of the Revd. Mr. Long"; "Death of Prince Albert"; "The Durbar at Agra"; "Thomas Carlyle and Governor Eyre"; "The Famine Commission"; "The Religion of the Educated Bengalee." Grish Chunder's articles display not only vigour, but occasionally gleams of humour—a quality for which few Europeans are disposed to give Indians credit. This is also shown in his letters, some of
which are included in his *Life*. The book is clearly printed and is neatly bound in dark green cloth...We trust in conclusion these writings of Grish Chunder Ghose will help to preserve his memory as that of a pioneer of the Anglo-Bengali Press, a talented publicist and a good and gifted man.

**The Hindoo Patriot** says: “Babu Grish Chunder Ghose, the founder and first editor of the *Bengalee*, left the world about 43 years ago, but the dutiful enterprise of his grandson has saved his memory from being “by the world forgot.” Babu Manmathanath Ghose has laid the public under an obligation by editing the life of his grandfather, which has been written by “one who knew him.” Like his friend and fellow patriot, Harish Chandra Mookherjee, Grish Chunder served both the Government and the public at one and the same time and with equal faithfulness to his not-always-identical-in-interest masters. * * * The materials of the memoir seem to have been collected with industry and worked up with judicious care. The life is written in an engaging style and bristles with interest from cover to cover.

The volume of selections from Grish Chunder’s writings, which Babu Manmathanath has also brought out is a fitting supplement to the life. It is, as it were, the text to which the life furnishes the index. The selections as a whole are calculated to provide profitable reading to the present day public, as being the faithful chronicles of the time they represent.

Both the Volumes are neatly got up and they should form a valuable addition to the stock of “Reference” literature in Bengal.”

**The Bengal Administration Report for 1911-12** observes: “Many original and readable biographies were published, showing that public interest in this branch of literature is growing. * * * One of the most noticeable is the life of
Grish Chunder Ghose who was the founder and first editor of "the Bengalee" newspaper.

The Indian Daily News writes "Selections from the writings of Grish Chunder Ghose edited by his grandson M. Ghosh, M.A., is a book of great interest. * * Apart from the literary merit of the extracts, which is great, they are strikingly modern".

"The Indian Review" (Madras) says: "He (Grish Ch. Ghose) was perhaps the first great journalist of India. A prolific writer on a variety of subjects his works bear throughout the stamp of his own individuality. * * Grish Chunder's forte lay in "descriptive and sensational writing, brilliant, dashing, witty and sometimes humorous, falling on his victims like a sledge-hammer." He had a wonderful power of word-painting. His contributions to the Calcutta Monthly Review are particularly conspicuous and bear the hallmark of his peculiar genius. He was in fact the founder and father of modern journalism in India. We are sure that these two volumes—the Selections and the Memoir—will be a valuable addition to the library of all interested in Indian journalism. They have besides a great historic value. They portray the period in vivid word-pictures and the India of the days of Grish Chunder is at once apprehended in all its manifold aspects. The devoted grandson of the great journalist has spared no pains to make the volumes in every way worthy of the distinguished subject of the volumes."

The India (London) says: Memories of Calcutta journalism in its early days are revived by the life of Grish Chunder Ghose, the founder and first editor of two leading Indian papers "The Hindoo Patriot" and "the Bengalee". * * Grish Chunder was a member of a well-known Calcutta family and belonged to a group of talented young men who in the middle
of last century made Bengalee journalism a powerful influence in the country. ** Some of Grish Chunder's letters are included in the life. They are written with much verve, and give an interesting glimpse into the affairs of Calcutta just before and after the mutiny. Several belong to the fateful summer of 1857 and describe the conditions of panic into which Calcutta was thrown by the incidents up-country.

Mr. Manmathanath Ghose has also made a selection from the writings of this notable Indian journalist. They fill a separate volume of substantial size and are instructive as a revelation of the attitude and interests of a Bengali reformer half a century ago. The leading articles which the editor has unearthed from the files of "the Hindoo Patriot" and "Bengalee" cover a wide range of subjects.