PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

The title of this book is my own. Certainly it is a more dignified title than the work properly deserves. I should tell my readers at the very outset that I am not appearing before the public as a rival to my illustrious countryman, the late Mr. Romes Ch. Dutt whose Ancient India is a highly admirable book; nor to Mr. V. A. Smith whose Early History of India is an inimitable work. In 1891, my headmaster, the late Rai Saheb Ratnamani Gupta of the Dacca Collegiate School desired me to write a history of our nation. Following his wish, I have worked so long, alone in a lonely field, groping my way in the dark ages of the past. If my chronology satisfy all, a great puzzle is then solved and the reconstruction becomes easier. Mine is an attempt at reconstruction and a very poor one indeed. Yet I believe, with a certain measure of confidence that whoever will work in the same field, he will arrive at almost similar conclusions.

In preparing this book, I have received valuable suggestions and encouragements from many generous persons, both Indian and foreign: in the initial stage of my labours and Indian travels, I was helped by Babu Harrendralal Roy, Zeminder of Bhagya kul; Babu Dharanikanth Lahiri, Zeminder of Kalipur; Raja Jagat Kinore Acharyya of Muktagacha; Rai Bahadur Banamali Roy, Zeminder of Pabna; Kumar Sci Harabhamjji Raoji M. A. LL. B. (Cantab.) of Morvi (Cathiswar). Immense is my debt to my professor and patron Mr. S. C. Hill who was ever alive to my interests. He brought me to the notice of his friend the late Viceroy Lord Curzon whose encouraging words cheered me at a time when my spirits were drooping in despair. To Col. Sir Richard Temple, editor, Indian Antiquary, belongs the real credit of this work, as he gave me the "search-light of true criticism." (Vide Ind. Antiquary, Vol. XXXI, 1902). Sir
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Asutosh Mukherji, Vice-Chancellor, the Syndicate and Dr. G. Thibaut, Registrar, Calcutta University, gave me indirect encouragement (1910). My thanks are also due to many scholars, authors, and writers of Bengal and abroad. This edition of the book is brought out with many imperfections. If it is fated to have a second impression, I trust I shall bring it out in due form and fashion.

Dacca.

Dec. 25th, 1917.

The Author.

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

The First Edition having run out soon, I venture to publish the Second, thoroughly revised and enlarged. The same has been due, not to the merits of the book, but to the generous readers’ sufficient indulgence due to a pioneering work.

"Old India," said Prof. Weber, "is still full of riddles." Mr. R. C. Dutt first cut a road to it. I add the political outlines. These present the whole Hindu History in a readable form. In reconstructing it, I have closely followed Hindu traditions in their rational forms. I have put in here all that I could carefully gather from the numerous sources, along with my own discoveries. The readers would be wrong to expect an authoritative work on the subject from this num-skull. That is reserved for a doughty scholar.

A regular Hindu History has been long a great desideratum in the world. I tried to meet it to some extent. But great was my apprehension when I first published my work lest it should be doomed to utter failure. To my great relief and joy, I soon
found the result otherwise. From the Magistrate, Dacca, to the authorities of the India Office, London and the Secretary to the President, United States, America—all gave a hearty welcome to my little work. Government of India, Foreign Department has encouraged my humble labours. Curator, Bureau of Education, Simla Secretariat, the Governments of the Central Provinces and the Punjab have purchased a few copies. Dr. M. E. Sadler, Vice-Chancellor, Leeds University and President, Calcutta University Commission, Mr. G. F. Shireas, Director-General, Department of Statistics, India, Dr. John Marshall, Director-General of Archaeology in India and others have encouraged me with friendly notes of appreciation. Kumar Devendra Prasad Jain, of the All-India Jain Community, Amtah Branch, was equally enthusiastic in his congratulation.

My special thanks are due to Lieut. Col. S. F. Bayley I. A., Resident in Nepal and to Major C. H. Gabriel I. A. First Assistant to the Resident in Kashmir, for their very noble and polite acknowledgements and interest taken for my humble work.

Like an Indian sage of old to whose clan I belong, I cannot but here sing the praise of three eminent, noble and true Hindu Princes whose large sympathy, noble appreciation and warmest thanks have urged me to bring out this edition in a comprehensive form. My debt is not so much to their gold, as to their golden hearts, noble instincts, and true gladness at the sight of a history of their remote ancestors: Bliest be the names and lines of His Highness Chandra Singh Shum-Sher Jung Bahadur, Maharaja-Rana of Nepal G. C. S. I., P. G. P., G. D. &c.; His Highness Virendra Kishore Manikya Bahadur, Maharaja of Tippur; and His Highness Sir Bhavani Singh K. C. S. I., M. R. A. S., Maharaja-Rana of Jhalawar in Rajputana.

I have spent my time, money and energies on the work for some 30 years. I have constantly thought of the Indian people and have written for their benefit. Recently, two gentlemen have joined me in this stupendous work. My friend Babu Indramohan Das B. A., Zeminder, Dacca and Babu Nagendra Kumar Roy,
a young and enterprising publisher of this town, have come forward to promote the interests of the nation, by publishing this edition at great costs.

To the generous British Government is due the recovery of a considerable portion of our past history. Archaeological Department has been working wonders. Yet, the results of researches are not yet brought home to the people in Vernaculars.

Only the learned few possess a correct knowledge of Ancient India. The mass still revel in marvels, delight in dreams and soar with hyperboles. To them, Ancient India is a dream-land—a veritable paradise on earth!!! Judging the present by those imaginary notions, they cherish grave discontents that know no remedy, because they never study the past. In Europe and America, all classes of people love history and geography. For, history makes man wise; history makes man practical. In India, it is generally neglected. Even in the Universities, it is reserved for the intellectual parrots who require no brain, but the “efforts of memory” to learn it. !!!! This neglect of history was one of the causes that led to the downfall of the Hindu nation. To be prosperous again, Hindus must study history carefully, remembering the wise remark of Prof. Max Muller: “A people that feels no pride in the past, in its history and literature, loses its main stay of national character.”

Dacca:

The 30th March, 1920.

A. K. Mazumdar.