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UNVEILING OF THE STATUE

OF THE

LATE HON'BLE

PROSONNO COOMAR TAGORE, C. S. I.,

AT THE SENATE HOUSE

BY THE MOST HONORABLE

THE MARQUIS OF RIPON, K. G., G. M. S. I.,

&c., &c., &c.,

Viceroy and Governor-General of India,

AND

Chancellor of the University of Calcutta.

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1884.

UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF THE
LATE HON'BLE PROSUNNO COOMAR
TAGORE, C.S.I.

THE ceremony of unveiling the Statue of the late Hon'ble Prosunno Coomar Tagore, C.S.I., was performed yesterday afternoon by His Excellency the Viceroy in the Senate House, before a large and influential gathering of European and native ladies and gentlemen. The members of the Senate, in academic costume, received His Excellency, who was robed as Chancellor of the University, at the entrance-hall, and a procession having been formed, they entered the Senate-house in the following order:—

The Registrar.

Members of the Syndicate.

The Vice-Chancellor.

The Chancellor.

Ex-officio Fellows.

Remaining Members of the Senate.

The ex-officio Fellows and the Members of the Senate occupied seats on the daïs, the remaining Members of the Senate being seated to the right and left of the daïs. The Chancellor having taken his seat,

The Hon'ble Sir JOTEENDRO MOHUN TAGORE addressed his Lordship in the following terms:—

My Lord,—The near relationship of blood in which I stand to the honourable gentleman whose statue Your Excellency has very kindly consented to unveil this evening, forbids my saying anything with regard to his personal merits, but it is very fortunate for me that his public spirit and liberality are too well known to need any mention from me, and it is on public grounds, apart from the profound veneration and love in which I cherish his memory, I consider that his name should be perpetuated in a tangible manner in a place where one of the many acts of his beneficence is bearing fruit every year to the benefit of the country. I have therefore, with the sanction of the University authorities, placed his marble effigy here, and I now beg to make it over formally to Your Excellency as the Chancellor of the University. I beg further to request that Your Excellency will be pleased to perform the ceremony of unveiling the statue.

H. E. the VICEROY said:—

Maharaja Joteendro Mohun Tagore, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, ladies and gentlemen,—I have, I can assure you, very great pleasure in accepting the invitation which has been made to me by my hon'ble friend, Maharaja Joteendro Mohun Tagore, to take a part in the ceremony to-day, and to unveil the statue of his distinguished relative, which is for the future to grace the approaches to this Hall. It seems to me that it is peculiarly appro-

priate that I should do so, both in my capacity of Her Majesty's representative in this country, and in that of Chancellor of this University. As Viceroy, it is very fitting that I should be ready to do honour to a distinguished citizen of Bengal (applause). As Chancellor of the Calcutta University, it seems becoming that I should be ready to acknowledge the gratitude of that University to one of her most munificent benefactors. You, Maharaja, with a natural modesty, have abstained from entering upon the many claims of your illustrious kinsman to the gratitude of his countrymen, and of this University. But I am not bound by any such reasons to refrain from speaking of them. And yet I am sure I need not detain this assembly long, because the name and the fame of Prosunno Coomar Tagore are well known to most of you, and many of you were personally acquainted with him. His life was not spent upon battle-fields, nor in the arduous duties of public administration; but it seems to me not the less on that account worthy of admiration and respect. Born at the beginning of the century, he lived through sixty-seven eventful years of Indian history. He saw great changes, and passed through times of great trial. But in all of them he won the respect of those who knew him, the attachment of his countrymen and the confidence of successive Governments (applause). Sprung from a distinguished family,

and possessed of ample means, he was not content to rest upon those adventitious circumstances, but determined from early youth to fit himself by hard study and constant application for the duties of his life. It is related of him that when he was a young man, at a time when he first thought of taking up the legal profession, one of his associates came to him, and said in a tone of ridicule:—"What is the use of a wealthy fellow like you studying the law and wasting your time in getting up information which will be of no use to you?" He is said to have replied:—"The mind, my friend, is like a good housewife who is always sure to be able to utilize at some time or other whatever she has laid in store." And most certainly Prosunno Coomar Tagore did indeed utilize in his after-life those early legal studies, for I understand that he was possessed of an unusually profound knowledge of Indian law. I know well that in his career at the bar he won for himself alike the confidence of the judges before whom he pleaded and the public whom he served. Throughout his life he took a large part in public affairs in which he felt a kind and intelligent interest, and among the other public questions with which he specially concerned himself, the extension and development of education occupied a great portion of his attention. Towards the close of a long life of public utility, in which successive Governments had availed themselves of his counsel

and advice, he was at length admitted to the position of a member of the Legislative Council of the Governor-General, and he was the first native who ever filled that position. And thus a great and important reform in the constitution of India was effected in his person. And I must say that it is to me a source of satisfaction and of pride to remember that, when I was Under-Secretary of State for India, under my distinguished friend Lord Halifax, then Sir Charles Wood, it was my duty to pass through the House of Lords the Council Act of 1861, in which the appointment of natives of India to the Legislative Council of India became possible (applause). These few words, I think, are sufficient to remind you of this distinguished man, and what was the manner of his life. Intelligent, cultivated and public-spirited, he was successful as a scholar, a lawyer, and a public man; and he died full of years and honours after a career which well deserves to be commemorated in the imperishable marble of that statue. Maharaja, the thanks of this University are due to you for having presented to us this statue. I, as Chancellor, receive it from you, and tender to you our warmest thanks for thus placing under our guardianship the effigy of one to whom we owe so much; and surely, ladies and gentlemen, no one will doubt that it is highly appropriate that this statue should be placed in the portico of this building, for the University of

Calcutta has every reason to cherish the memory of him whom that statue represents. Prosunno Coomar Tagore left in his Will a most munificent bequest for the establishment of a law professorship in connection with this University. I need not dilate upon the advantages which Calcutta students derive from that benefaction. You know them better than I do, but no one can doubt that here was set an example which I trust hereafter may be followed by others. And thus this distinguished citizen of this famous city established for himself a perpetual claim upon the gratitude not only of this University, but upon the Government and all schools and colleges, by his efforts in the cause of public education. It is now two years, or nearly so, since I last had the honour of addressing an audience in this room, I then spoke at the annual meeting of the Convocation of this University, and I availed myself of the opportunity then afforded me to urge to the utmost of my power, those who are men of wealth and influence throughout India, to come forward and aid the cause of public education by founding schools, by aiding colleges, and by establishing scholarships. That which, for various reasons I need not now repeat, I pressed upon that occasion, had been already done on a large scale by Prosunno Coomar Tagore. I, therefore, naturally am bound to recognise his claim to be numbered among the benefactors not only of the University of

Calcutta, but of India at large (applause). And I cannot conceive any more appropriate place for the statue of such a man than the entrance to this building, where it will, I hope, serve to remind many generations of future students of the constant industry and great love of study by which Prosunno Coomar Tagore won his fame; and to stimulate men of his own class and his own position to emulate that public spirit and that munificent generosity which will entitle him to hold the foremost place in the grateful memory of his countrymen.

The procession then re-formed, and in reaching the portico, His Excellency the Chancellor unveiled the Statue amidst loud applause. The assembly who stood round the statue were photographed by Messrs. Bourne and Shepherd, after which

HIS EXCELLENCY, having returned to the dais, said that he had been requested to perform a duty which seemed to him to be wholly unnecessary. He had been asked to introduce to them Professor Monier Williams. * * * *

In conclusion, his Lordship desired to say that, as they looked on the statue which was unveiled that evening, and remembered what the late Prosunno Coomar Tagore had done for education, he hoped many would be stirred up to emulate his example, so as to afford young men the opportunity of taking advantage of the benefits offered by the Indian Institute.—*The Statesman and Friend of India, July 11, 1884.*

It is always a pleasure to hear His Excellency the Viceroy on any subject other than political. His generous instincts make him quick to recognise the evidences of individual merit, and his cosmopolitan sympathies draw him readily to any proposal or scheme that aims at social amelioration. Every one must have admired the tone and substance of his addresses at the University on Thursday afternoon. In the sphere of education Lord Ripon is entirely at home, and he has certainly the highest claims to be heard in any of its relations. Nothing more graceful or appropriate could have been said than that the generous tribute which he paid to the memory of the late Prosunno Kumar Tagore before unveiling his statue, which will henceforth appropriately grace the entrance of the University Hall. It was not only a fitting acknowledgment of an exemplary life and of a noble benefaction to the University, but a well-deserved compliment to an honourable family and a most practical lesson to the wealthy and noble families of India. Nor was His Excellency less happy in his recommendation of the Boden Professor of Sanskrit and his pet scheme of the Indian Institute at Oxford. It appears that he has always been a warm and generous supporter of this enterprise, and he demonstrated his interest in a speech, regarding its possible advantages both to Englishmen and to Indians, which was almost exhaustive. His powerful and thoughtful commenda-

tion of the scheme will no doubt win for it a large increase of popularity and support. Lord Ripon is always in his place on such occasions; and if he falls short of the rhetorical grace and polish of some of his predecessors, no one can doubt his thorough earnestness.—*The Englishman*, January 12, 1884.

ON Thursday last, the Viceroy unveiled the statue of the late Prosunno Cumar Tagore in a suitable speech. In thus honouring the memory of an eminent Bengalee, His Excellency has honoured the nation. The unveiling being over, Professor Monier Williams delivered an address in connection with the establishment of the Indian Institute at Oxford. We hope to be able to discuss Mr. M. Williams' discourse in our next issue.—*The Bengalee*, January, 12, 1884.

THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF PROSUNNO KUMAR TAGORE.

THE ceremony of unveiling the statue of the late Babu Prosunno Kumar Tagore, c. s. i., by His Excellency the Viceroy took place in the University Senate House at 3-30 p. m. yesterday.

There were present, besides the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor, the Hon'ble H. J. Reynolds; Rev. Dr. K. M. Bannerji; Hon'ble Syud Amir

Ali; Mr. B. L. Gupta; Mr. W. C. Bonnerji; Dr. Coates; the Very Rev. Father Lafont; Mr. H. L. Harrison; Dr. Hoernle; Dr. P. K. Roy; Mr. Robertson; Rev. Mr. Hastie; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mitter; Hon'ble Kristo Dass Paul; Babu Surendra Nath Bannerji; Rev. K. S. McDonald; Maharajah Sir Joteendro Mohun Tagore, K.C.S.I.; Rajah Sourindro Mohun Tagore; Rajah Sattyanund Ghosal Bahadur; Hon'ble Mahomed Yusuf; Nawab Abdul Luteef Khan Bahadur; Moulvie Siraj-ul-Islam; Rajah Harendra Krishna Bahadur and others. Some ladies were also present.

His Excellency the Viceroy having taken the chair, Maharajah Sir Joteendro Mohun Tagore rose and said :—

* * * * *

His Excellency then addressed the meeting in appropriate terms touching upon the principal features in the career of the late hon'ble gentleman, after which His Excellency in a procession came to the marble statue, and performed the ceremony of unveiling it. Here Messrs. Bourne and Shepherd photographed the statue and the assembly surrounding it.—*The Indian Mirror, January, 11, 1884.*

UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF BABU
PROSUNNO COOMAR TAGORE.

YESTERDAY afternoon His Excellency the Viceroy unveiled the statue of Baboo Prosunno Coomar

Tagore, which has recently been erected in the portico of the Senate House, in the presence of a large number of ladies and gentlemen, both European and native. The statue was enclosed by a rail and shrouded with red cloth, so as not to be visible until the time of the ceremony. Precisely at half-past three, His Excellency the Viceroy arrived at the Senate House, and was received by the members of the Senate in academic costume at the entrance hall. A procession was then formed in the following order :—The Registrar, Members of the Syndicate, the Vice-Chancellor, His Excellency the Chancellor, *ex-officio* Fellows and the remaining members of the Senate. The procession then proceeded up the centre aisle to the daïs, and Lord Ripon took his seat with the Hon'ble Mr. Gibbs on his immediate right, and the Hon'ble Mr. Thomas and Sir Stuart Bayley on his left, and the *ex-officio* Fellows and the members of the Syndicate on the right and left.

The remaining members of the Senate occupied seats on the right and left of the daïs. His Excellency the Chancellor having taken his seat, the Hon'ble Sir Joteendro Mohun Tagore stepped forward and said :—

* * * * *

His Excellency the Viceroy then said :—

* * * * *

His Excellency and the whole of the Fellows and Members of the Syndicate and Senate then left

their seats, and proceeded down the aisle to where the concealed statue was placed, every one in the Hall following after. When all had gathered round the figure, His Excellency loosened the covering which was adroitly slipped off, and the Statue was revealed to view. It was a pure white marble on a foundation of polished granite. The figure is seated, and has finely cut features, and wears a small head-dress, still worn by members of the family, while the drapery hangs on all sides in graceful and natural folds. It will undoubtedly form a handsome ornament to the building, and the position in which it has been placed seems to have been well chosen. His Excellency critically inspected the figure for some minutes, and the crowd round about showed great eagerness in straining to get a view. At length His Excellency and the members of the Senate re-entered the Hall, and proceeded to the dais, and the rest of the audience resumed their seats.—*The Indian Daily News, January 11, 1884.*

THE ceremony of unveiling the statue of the Hon'ble Prosunno Kumar Tagore, C. S. I., which took place in the Senate House of the Calcutta University on Thursday last, was very interesting. There was a large gathering of the *élite* of Calcutta, both European and Native. On His Excellency the Chancellor taking the chair, Maharaja Sir Joteendro Mohun Tagore thus addressed him :—

* * * * *

His Excellency then delivered an appreciative and feeling address, which we give below :

* * * * *

Lord Ripon has paid a well-merited compliment to the native community by thus honoring their respected leader and munificent benefactor. His Lordship has a happy knack of doing ceremonial things with good grace. Nothing could have been better in spirit and taste than the manner in which he performed this ceremony. We congratulate the Tagore Brothers on the honor done to their distinguished relative and thus to themselves. The statue bears a perfect resemblance to the original.—*The Hindu Patriot, January 14, 1884.*

APPENDIX.

*In publishing a likeness of the statue of the late Hon'ble Pro-
sonno Kumar Tagore, C. S. I., the "ILLUSTRATED LONDON
NEWS" of the 19th January 1884, makes the following
remarks:—*

PROSONNO KUMAR TAGORE.

MR. E. EDWARD GEFLOWSKI'S statue of the Hon'ble Prosonno Kumar Tagore, C. S. I., has been recently forwarded to Calcutta, where it will be placed upon its massive granite pedestal, and will occupy a central position in the verandah of the Senate House. The late learned Baboo, whose memory has been perpetuated in Mr. Geflowski's admirable work, was a conspicuous member of a distinguished and scholarly native family. His brother, the late Maharajah Ramanath Tagore, was president of the British India Association, and a widely-known philanthropist. The present Maharajah Jotindro Mohun Tagore, is a prominent member of the Legislative Council; whilst his brother, the Rajah Sourindro Mohun Tagore, is known far beyond our Indian Empire as a Doctor of Music. This statue is erected in recognition of the late Hon'ble Prosonno Kumar Tagore's public services in connection with law, education, and the foundation of law scholarships in the University of Calcutta. The statue was commissioned on the eve of the sculptor's visit to India. It is hewn out of Sicilian marble of exceptional purity; and, approaching the colossal in size, it has been pronounced by the numerous friends and relations of the Baboo as a striking and faithful portrait. As a work of art, it is worthy of commendation, also on account of the simple and unaffected dignity with which the seated figure is invested, and the skill with which the difficulties of native costume have been unobtrusively mastered.

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Street, Calcutta.*