

OUR FOUNDER

Acharya Giris Chandra Bose, the Founder and Principal of Bangabasi School and College, was born on the *4th of Kartick, 1260 B. S.*, corresponding to the 29th of October, 1853, at the tiny village of Berugram situated on the bank of river Damodar in the district of Burdwan. Though a small village, Berugram contained ancient families of high social status. It was in such a family that Giris Chandra was born. His father was Janaki Prasad Bose, a man of wide outlook, large heart and liberal mind. These traits of character meant a lot in these days of stern conservatism when modern liberalism had just begun to dawn upon Bengal and met with stout opposition from the conservatives. It is but natural that born in such an illustrious family Giris Chandra imbibed these traits in his character from his early boyhood.

Giris Chandra had his first lesson in Bengali in the village Primary School, and learnt English at home with his father Janaki Prasad. From his very boyhood Giris Chandra showed a remarkable keenness and desire to learn which was encouraged by his father, and at the age of ten he left the village school and came to Hooghly to live with his uncle (জ্যাঠামহাশয়) the late Raj Ballav Bose who was then serving as a *peshkar* in the Civil Court, along with his two cousins, late Umesh Chandra Bose who was older than him by a couple of years and late Jogendra Chandra Bose who in late life started the well-known weekly *Bangabasi* in 1881 and became known to the public as the editor and proprietor.

of the newspaper. Giris Chandra's aunt, who was then living with the uncle at Hooghly, used to look after the comforts of Giris Chandra and his cousins. Umesh Chandra and Girish Chandra were admitted in the last class but one in the Hooghly Branch Collegiate School, while Jogendra Chandra who was younger than Giris Chandra by two years, joined a private Primary School. While at school, he was brought up by his aunt with all motherly love, and the character that he had formed, under the noble example of his liberal-hearted parents, was influenced also by the equally noble inspiration of his aunt.

After passing the Entrance Examination from the Collegiate School in 1870 with credit, Giris Chandra was admitted to the Hooghly College from where he passed both the First Examination in Arts and B. A. Examination, the latter in B. Course in 1876, and in the last Examination he stood high in order of merit. In the B. A. Examination he obtained high marks in all the subjects and the highest marks in Botany, which was his favourite subject not only then, but had always been so in his later life,—a subject in which he had all along been working, a subject which had become popular to thousands of students only through his untiring zeal.

The academic attainments as evinced in the brilliant show in the Examination where he secured a very high position captured the imagination of Mr. Woodrow, the then Director of Public Instruction who inducted him as a Lecturer in Science at the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, where he joined on February 8, 1876 and continued in that post till December, 1881 when he left for England for higher studies in Agriculture at the Cirencester College,

being selected as Government Scholar.

When Giris Chandra was in service at Ravenshaw College, he was married in 1877 to Niradmohini, the youngest daughter of Peary Charan Mitra of Burdwan through the auspicious negotiation of Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar who was a great friend to this Mitra family. The marriage took place at the Burdwan residence of Niradmohini's cousin Dr. Ganganarayan Mitra who was a great liberal and a philanthropist like Vidyasagar. And Vidyasagar himself was present all through during the marriage ceremony and his bountiful blessings on the married couple not only shaped the future career of Giris Chandra but also made the two lives happy and blissful.

On the eve of his departure for England there was hostile opposition from his orthodox relatives, but Girish Chandra's strength of mind and his indomitable moral courage made him boldly to withstand this opposition, and he proceeded to England in 1882 and joined the Cirencester Agricultural College in February of that year.

When in England, he was joined by his most intimate friends, Mr. Bhupal Chandra Bose (father-in-law of Sri Aurobindo), Mr. A. K. Roy and Mr. Byomkesh Chakravarty, once the leading Barrister of the Calcutta High Court, all of whom went to England to study Agriculture, and Mr. Satyendra Prasanna Sinha, afterwards Lord Sinha, who studied Law there. Subsequently he was joined by the noted litterateur D. L. Roy and Jagadish Chandra Bose, the famous scientist. His friendship with all of them was enduring and he received immense help specially from three of them, namely, Bhupal Chandra Bose, Byomkesh Chakra-

barty and S. P. Sinha when he started his own educational institution in his own country. Lord Sinha, Bhupal Chandra Bose and Byomkesh Chakravarty were its first batch of teachers and Lord Sinha was made a trustee of the College and a member of the Governing Body and he continued to be so till the last day of his life. With the blessings of Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidsasagar and generous co-operation from his three life long friends and co-workers, Girish Chandra built up the Bangabasi School as a national institution to provide education in simple ideals minimum cost and helped to create a tradition of its own by inspiring his friends to volunteer their services as its first batch of teachers.

After two years of his college residence in England Girish Chandra passed out of the Agricultural College in 1884 standing first in Agriculture at the Final Examination. While in the Agricultural College he passed in 1882 the Diploma Examination of the Royal Agricultural Society of England and was made a life-member of that Society. He stood first in the Examination and was awarded a prize of £ 50 by that Society in 1882. The same year he passed the Fellowship Examination of the High Land Agricultural Society and was made a life-member of that also, by virtue of which he had been receiving the Annual Journals of both these societies for over 50 years. In 1883 he was elected a fellow of the Chemical Society of England on the recommendation of Mr. Kinch, F. C. S., Professor of Chemistry in the Agricultural College.

Having completed his education in Cirencester College with all honour and glory, Girish Chandra left London on June 4, 1884 and after a continental tour embarked on his

was started, the College buildings were repaired out of Government grants for the purpose and the downhill movement of the College finance was arrested.

The period of temporary take-over being over, the University of Calcutta appointed Sri S. M. Bhattacharyya as administrator of Bangabasi Group of Colleges. After two years of University administration the Government of West Bengal initiated a bill which was unanimously passed by the State Legislature for permanent take-over of the Bangabasi Group of Colleges, but the bill still awaits President's assent. However, the four colleges of the Bangabasi Group are today run by four separate Governing Bodies constituted under Section 93 of the Calcutta University Statute.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS P. F. LIABILITIES

It was indeed a great moment in the lives of the members of the staff of the College when a few months ago the Government of West Bengal, in an unprecedented gesture of goodwill, accepted the liabilities of the Bangabasi College Employees' Provident Fund, thereby removing a seemingly insuperable barrier separating them from their legitimately earned terminal benefits.

THE EPILOGUE

Three scores and ten form the normal span of life of a human being-so says the Bible. But things made by man are often destined to live longer. This is specially true of an educational institution with a perennial spring of vitality as the Bangabasi College. It set itself the goal of a deep commitment to expanding the frontier of knowledge on the day it was born and it has seldom faltered since then in

home-bound return journey in the noon of June 20 and reached Calcutta on the 14th of July, 1884. A patriot at heart and a scholar by training, Girish Chandra immediately after his arrival in Bengal, devoted himself to the cause of education, and with this end in view, he started the Bangabasi School in 1885. In his noble and bold enterprise, with no finance to help him, he was joined by his dear friend Mr. Bhupal Chandra Bose, an agricultural scholar, who became later, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Assam. After the school was started, Girish Chandra was offered the post of a deputy magistrate, a post which carried no mean honour in those days. But being of a strongly independent mind even from his boyhood, and because of his firm determination to disseminate education in the country he declined the offer of the Government which had opened to view a delightful prospect of amassing a large fortune though. But he preferred to devote his time and energy to the cause of education in general and to the welfare of the School in particular. It is no small credit to his undying zeal and robust enthusiasm that he had all along maintained his iron resolution and through sheer force of undaunted courage, inflexible determination, brought education in Bengal to the high level of excellence.

Girish Chandra's mission was to start an institution on the model of Cirencester with a view to bringing agricultural knowledge to the door of the masses. When the School was started it had an Agricultural section. But with a hostile State and apathetic population such a big venture had a little chance of success. The financial strain proved too heavy for him. So the Agricultural section died out but the General section was a success. The first batch of students was sent up for the Examination in 1886 and the

result was so brilliant that it encouraged the young enthusiast to add College Classes and the College was affiliated upto the F. A. standard in 1887 and subsequently upto B. A., M. A. and B. L. standards. Prof. Manmatha Mohan Bose, the renowned Professor of Scottish Church College, was the first student to be admitted to the F. A. Class in 1887 with roll No. 1. In the first year of its existence, the College had twelve students on the roll, with gradual increase as years rolled on and now it has become one of the biggest and best Science Colleges in Bengal.

It was at the suggestion of Girish Chandra's cousin Jogendra Chandra Bose, who had then been running his newspaper *Bangabasi* that the institution was named **BANGABASI**. The College and the School were in a rented building in Bowbazar Street upto 1903 when it shifted to its present building at 25/1, Scott Lane (Now 19, Scott Lane), a building which was originally acquired and built by Acharya Bose at an enormous cost, out of his private purse and subsequently made of a gift of it to the College, one of the many instances of selfless devotion of Girish Chandra to the cause of higher education. When the new University Regulation came into operation the College passed for a few years through evil days and Girish Chandra's private purse was responsible for keeping the College going with its full staff without any retrenchment or cut in the salary.

As Principal of the College, he had been in constant touch with the University. He was nominated a Fellow of Calcutta University in 1906 and continued to hold the post practically down to 1926 when had to retire on account of his advancing years. Though not a Fellow after his retirement, he was for many years a member of the Post-

Graduate Council in Arts and Science. By his direct and most intimate association with the cause of education, he had acquired such a deep knowledge about the management of a University that even Sir Asutosh Mukherjee who was a great force in the University consulted Giris Chandra in all matters relating to the educational system. Sir Asutosh was a great friend of Giris Chandra and inspite of their friendship, both of them often carried on heated arguments among themselves in Senate meetings. Even a man like Sir Asutosh with all his iron will and towering personality had to yield sometimes to the dogged tenacity of Principal Bose. But tenderness was always behind the external roughness ; so when one morning the latter received the news of Sir Asutosh's death, silent tears trickled down Giris Chandra's cheeks.

Acharya Bose endeavoured to serve the cause of education in various ways. Shortly after his return from England, Acharya Bose created history by founding the first Indian Agricultural Journal in two languages, *Krishi Gazette* in Bengali and **Agricultural Gazette** in English. This was a great achievement of young Giris Chandra in the domain of popularizing the Food Sciences to the teeming millions of India when neither the Government nor the rich landed aristocracy cared to do anything along the line. The editing of these two journals roused his enthusiasm for writing books and today we find him the author of many books on various subjects like English Grammar, Agriculture, Health and Sanitation, Geography and Science. His books in those days were included in the syllabuses of School studies. He started writing primers in Bengali for little children, while in England he closely observed the life and habits of the people of Europe which, by contrast,

so sharpened his national pride that he wrote three books in Bengali, namely *বিলাতের পত্র*, *ইউরোপ ভ্রমণ* and *জন বুল* in which, while, appreciating generally the virtues of European education and tradition, he introduced snatches of sharp criticism of the culture and fashions of the then European society, which were larded with scintillating humour. After publication of his books written for children he came back to his favourite subject Botany and published the famous "*A Manual of Indian Botany*" for advanced students which became so popular among the teachers and the taught for its intrinsic merits that even now it is valued as an important land mark in the study of Botany. In a few books he also rendered the abstruse technicalities of science into simple Bengali for the facility of little school children, and thus brought science from the libraries of scholars to the playground of children.

Principal Bose was a versatile genius. He not only founded two important national institutions which hold a pre-eminent position in the academic world, he was responsible for the creation of a body of honest, sincere, efficient and selfless teachers and encouraged a spirit of comradeship among them not only in his own institution but in other institutions as well—comradeship among the vast body of teachers in the different schools and colleges in Bengal. It was mainly through his inspiration that teachers of non-official secondary schools established, for the first time the *All Bengal Teachers' Association* in 1921. They found in Principal Bose, though a college-teacher, one of their best and earliest friends. He became known as one of the first and foremost patrons of Teachers' Associations, both of schools and colleges in Bengal. And in many conferences of Teachers' Associations in

different places he was elected President. It was under his inspiration that the *All Bengal Teachers' Benefit Fund* was started in 1924 and he had been its President and Treasurer for many years. This laudable institution had honoured Principal Bose by enrolling him as one of their "Life Member" and his handsome donation of Rs. 1,000/- formed the nucleus of their Reserve Fund.

With this life of dynamism and dedicated activity, Acharya Bose reached his 80th year in 1932. Even in this ripe old age, though advised by his doctors to retire from all kinds of mental and physical labour, he was so inspired by a youthful enthusiasm to work that he was often seen scrupulously adhering to punctuality in attending the College and sitting at his table and scribbling away with rapt attention, absolutely indifferent to what was going on round about him. In appreciation of his devoted work, which was a religion to him, the 80th birthday of the veteran educationist was celebrated with great eclat by the staff and students of Bangabasi College and by those of Bangabasi College School as well as by ex-students and his admirers on the 27th November 1932, the 16th December and 17th December at Albert Hall. On behalf of the College staff an address was presented to him nicely printed on Murshidabad *Garad* and put within a silver casket on a decorated tray, along with a silver palm tree (the symbol of long life). The Principal, who apparently was greatly moved, made a suitable reply wishing welfare to his staff, students and the institution which was closest to his heart.

As an ardent and genuine patriot, he had always realised that freedom clad in rags is ever more glorious than slavery with a jewelled crown. Truly national in his

dress and life, Giris Chandra imbibed all that is best in the West without in any way being affected by its evil. He is said to have been the first Indian in those days who after coming back from England, continued wearing simple *dhoti* and *chaddar*—a dress which he had all along put on, not only within the precincts of the College, but also when he had to see the Governor. A few years after he had come back from England, a certain gentleman came to pay him a visit in his residence and he expected that being educated in England the Principal would naturally put on European dress, as was the habit of other people who had just returned from England. On coming to his house the visitor met a man in *dhoti* and *genji* (banian) who was seated on a cot and was teaching a small girl. The visitor thought he was a private tutor in the family. He asked him 'where is Mr. Bose?' The man on the cot to the surprise of the visitor replied smilingly that he was Mr. Bose himself. The visitor was Mr. Pulin Behari Kar who had come for appointment in the College. Mr. Kar was, however, appointed lecturer in English later on and subsequently proved a very popular teacher and became the Head of the Department of English in 1929 after the death of Prof. Lalit Kumar Banerjee. There are many incidents like this in his life which testify to the intensely national spirit which Giris Chandra possessed till the last day of his life. In the cause of education he was a great nationalist. He was one of those who from very early days imbibed and spread the idea of making Bengali the medium of instruction in our schools and colleges. Himself he taught science even in the B.A and B.Sc. classes through the medium of Bengali.

His College had ever been an asylum for all political

sufferers who could not get any breath in any other College for their political activities. His patriotism, however, was a fact that remained mostly concealed, though there were instances in which he proved himself unafraid to reveal his spirit of patriotism. Hemendra Prasad Ghosh, the noted journalist, had referred to a memorable incident which shows the nationalist and patriot that lived in him. A student of a famous College in Calcutta who had secretly joined the terrorists, was asked by its Principal to leave the institution as the Principal feared that the Police would reprimand him if the boy was not expelled by him. In these circumstances the unfortunate boy approached the benevolent Acharya Bose praying for his admission to his College. Giris Chandra affectionately took him to a place of privacy and urged him to tell him the exact reason which compelled him to leave his former institution. When still the boy hesitated to give out the fact, Giris Chandra asked him to come out with the truth and assured him that he had nothing to fear if he told him the truth. At last when the boy made a clean breast of what had happened, Acharya Bose told him something which was not only most extra-ordinary and unexpected, but also was so noble and touching that, long after in his mature years, as Mr. Ghosh himself remarked, he was moved to tears as he recollected them. 'My dear Son' said Acharya Bose, 'are you still equally unbending and fearless in running any risk for the sake of the country?' Lovingly patting his hand on his back, Giris Chandra told him 'I shall surely admit you to my College. But you must make this promise to me that you will serve your country to the last breath of life with all fire and devotion.' Such instances of noble mission and silent heroism were part and parcel of his existence.

As a corollary to his intensely patriotic fervour, the redeeming feature of his character as an educationist was his love of independence in Educational policies and to keep educational institutions free from official control on the one side and party-politics on the other. He had the courage to express in emphatic terms, his strong views on the subject without any fear of the wrath of the bureaucracy. With this fierce spirit of independence he declared in one of his memorable speeches : 'The time is come when Education has to be saved from the invasion of official and red-tape control on the one hand and the incursion of the turbid whirlpool of party-politics on the other. I have always through my long life strenuously fought for the independence of education—the principle that Education is an end in itself and not a mere means to an end, however high it be'. And with regard to the noble profession of teachers he said elsewhere : 'The teacher who sings the hymn of hate is untrue to his vocation, but even more false is the cringing, cowardly teacher who will teach wrong things, inculcate false history and give lessons in dwarfed patriotism, for the sake of paltry gains in job or lucre'. This patriotic fervour and spirit of independence had all through been one of the marked features in the life and character of Acharya Bose in all spheres of activities—academic or otherwise.

With this love of nationalism and patriotism was mixed his love for truth and honesty in every department of life, His actions not only in the College and in its administration but also in domestic and personal spheres were based on fairness and justice. It was his zeal for this truth and honesty in a teacher's life that inspired him to address the teachers in stentorian voice in one of the teachers' confere-

nces : 'Strive for truth, acknowledge it wherever you find it, pay homage to it from whatever quarters it might come and success is bound to yours—and even if success does not crown your endeavours, the striving itself is its own reward. Remember, dear teachers your vocation is a mission, God's mission and not a mere profession.

His love for the students was almost immeasurable. However strict he might have been in his dealings with students and colleagues, as well as with other people, he had always a soft corner in his heart for them. He loved the students like his own children and the mission of his life had always been to look to the comforts and facilities of the students. Himself coming of middle-class family, he had always been inspired by a strong desire to help the poor students, in every way possible who could not afford to carry on with their studies. Innumerable instances are there where he had helped such students from his private purse. His love for students had ever been a thing of pleasure to him which spontaneously prompted him to declare once : 'No pleasure is more welcome to me than to find avenues have been made through our honest efforts to impart education to those poor students who can ill afford to pay for education. I take pride in the fact that my institution can claim boastfully to enrol in its register the majority of students who are afflicted with the curse of poverty.' Not only in his thoughts and speeches but also in his actions he had amply proved the truth of his noble aspirations. It is this sympathy and kindness towards the poor students, geniality to his colleagues, his noble enthusiasm in the cause of higher education, his single minded devotion to what had been the most cherished goal of a whole life time that had made him

an idol amongst his numerous admirers and so popular amongst the students who are now spread all over India and abroad.

Giris Chandra was thus a man whose motto since his childhood had been 'work is worship' and who, with the innocent simplicity of childhood, the fire and energy of youth, and with the grave wisdom of age, continued even after 80, his selfless unostentatious and silent work in the field of education. Having been surrounded by students young and old, for the last fifty years, he grew younger in his old age, and, to quote his own words, he was being inspired daily by the energy and enthusiasm of the youthful generation. He seemed to believe and amply proved that "old age hath yet his honour and toil" and "age is not all decay, it is the ripening, the swelling of the fresh life".

Acharya Bose was carrying on with this 'fresh life' in the pursuit of his dedicated mission, when, in 1933, his youngest son Prasanta Kumar, who had all through been a student of Bangabasi School and College, returned from England with Honours degree in English language and literature from the University of Oxford. On coming back he rejoined his post in the College as Lecturer in English.

A few months later, the teachers felt that as Acharya Bose was slowly advancing in years, he should, in all fairness, be relieved of the heavy duties as Head of the Institution, and in his place Prasanta Kumar, the young Oxonian, fresh from his foreign education, be vested with the responsibility of conducting the College-administration as its Principal. The generous and fair-minded Acharya

Bose, possessing all through a keen sense of fairness and justice, had, however, his own reservations about the matter, but the Vice-Principal Jitendranath Chakravarty and Prof. Rajumar Chakravorty, at the suggestion of the Professors' Union, sponsored the appointment of Prasanta Kumar as Principal and Acharya Bose as Rector of the College. Accordingly both took charge of the College as Principal and Rector respectively with effect from July 2, 1934.

For years together since 1934 father and son worked side by side. one looking after the day to day administration and the other being in charge of the finances and the direction of the policy. Rector Bose could never sit idle. His attendance in the College as Rector, punctually from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. was in a clock-like manner as when he was Principal. No one could discern any difference in his manner and deportment but he gradually slid into the position of an elderly Statesman in the College-administration. He had been slowly but surely guiding his son into the path of efficient administration of the College. As Rector he continued to direct with absolute efficiency the complex government of his beloved College to the last month of his earthly existence. At 85 years of age, the thin emaciated, but proudly erect figure could still be seen doing the daily round of corridors and lecture-halls. When the new building of the Collegiate School was being constructed at St. James Square (now Santosh Mitra Square) with a view to shifting the School from the College premises to its new home towards the end of 1938, he would often go to the site and watch for hours together the progress of the construction and one would be simply wonder struck to see the old man

of 85 slowly but steadily climbing the bamboo scaffold to reach the 3rd storey and then as slowly and steadily coming down to the base. This was a common sight when he went up and down the flights of stairs in the College which could hold no terrors for him. The teachers and the taught were inspired with a singular confidence. So long as that venerable figure passed and repassed, everybody felt all would be well.

Ultimately, as was fitting, it was his life of incessant toil, it was his tireless energy in his noble mission, it was his zeal for College affairs, which thwarted his challenge of age and brought about the inevitable end. And even when death came, it had to approach cautiously, struggling step by step with that bold and tenacious spirit. Towards the end of November 1938, a little boil made its appearance on the nape of his neck. Though painful it was, it caused little anxiety. And he would insist on attending a meeting of the Governing Body. He came in from the meeting feeling very ill; from next morning he had to take to his bed; and in course of three or four days, the simple boil had developed into a malignant carbuncle. The gravity of the case was realized; and the doctors left no stone unturned to burst the carbuncle. In the end it did burst; but the long struggle had left its mark; the vitality was sapped. The doctors began to shake their heads; but still the vein of iron held firm. At last, New Year's Day 1939—the day on which by an irony of fate, Bangabasi College School was to begin a new phase of its existence in a modern building—saw the beginning of the end. A little after mid-day, the heart and pulse were felt to be definitely failing; and only then did the last, lingering, despairing opti-

mism of those around him break down. They realized that it was now a question of hours and as the gloom of the winter's night settled like a pall over the house his life left its earthly abode.

Darkness fell before all in the passing away of the man who was the Institution. But the Rector was 86 and he died in the full splendour and ripeness of his life and with the satisfaction that the noble mission of his whole life has been fulfilled and that the College was in the safe hands of the new Principal and his colleagues most of whom had shaped their career under his inspiring guidance and completely indentified themselves with his beloved institution. Their slogan now was "work as usual" in loving remembrance of the Founder's motto "Work is Worship."

Thirteen days after the demise of Acharya Bose, *Giris Chandra Bose Memorial Committee* was formed at a representative public meeting held at Albert Hall, Calcutta on the 14th January, 1939 and the President and Vice President of the Committee were Sir Manmatha Nath Mukherjee and Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy respectively. On behalf of the Committee an appeal for raising funds was issued by a large number of distinguished citizens who were signatories to the appeal. Out of the funds raised a marble bust of Acharya Bose was installed on the quadrangle of the College and the bust was unveiled on the 10th August 1941 by Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy, one of the closest friends of Acharya Bose, who in his eloquent address, spoke of his fundamental qualities as a man and educationist. He concluded his address by saying that the man in Giris Chandra was much greater than his whole life work.

Such was the life of Acharya Bose—a life of selfless, service, of indomitable energy, of independence of thought and action, of intense patriotism, of dedication to a high mission full of unbounded hopes and noble enthusiasm, a life of noble deeds, nobly but unostentatiously done—a life that his innumerable countrymen love to contemplate with admiration and reverence. This picture of Acharya Bose's great and noble personality which was a rare combination of all the virtues that go to the making of a man reminds one of Antony's estimate of Brutus's life towards the close of Shakespeare's **Julius Caesar**—

*His life was gentle, and the elements
So mix'd in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, 'This was a man.'*

As a spontaneous effusion of this feeling of admiration and reverence for such a great personality—the revered founder of this great institution, the staff of Bangabasi College celebrated the hundredth birth anniversary of Acharya Giris Chandra in January 1954. The Celebrations were inaugurated by Dr. Harendra Coomar Mukherjee, the then Governor of West Bengal at the Senate Hall on 22nd January but on the 17th January the preliminaries started with the installation of a memorial marble tablet at the tiny village of Berugram on the site where Giris Chandra was born on the 29th October 1853. The memorial tablet was unveiled by the late Sri Hemendra Prasad Ghosh a renowned journalist of those days. The verse lines of the tablet are a fitting tribute to the great soul which shine with immortal glory and splendour across the mists of a century—

আজি হতে শতবর্ষ আগে জ্ঞানের অরুণ রাগে
যে শিশুরে জন্ম দিল এই ভিটা এই বেড়ুগ্রাম
শতাব্দীর পরপার হতে শিক্ষাতীর্থ যাত্রাপথে
তারি পুণ্য প্রিয় নামে রাখিলাম প্রাণের প্রণাম ।

*“Tho lost to sight to mem'ry dear
Thou wilt remain.”*