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Box 08, Folder 07 - (Indian Twilight) "Author's Preface" (E.M.S.)

Edwin Mortimer Standing

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE

(Top and One Carbon or Small paper)

In 1921, through the instrumentality of Dr Maria Montessori the famous Italian educationist, I was brought in touch with Mr and Mrs Sarabhai of Ahmedabad, At that time Mrs Sarabhai was looking for an English Montessori tutor for her family, and I was eager to go to India to study Oriental philosophy.

(early in)

I met the Sarabhais in London, and after discussing the matter it was arranged that I should follow them back to India as soon as was convenient.

Jan in 1921
After stopping in Barcelona to confer with Dr Montessori

It was one of the happiest decisions of my life, and in early in 1921 I arrived in Ahmedabad, and settled down at once to may work as a family tutor, along with ~~one half a~~ ^{one of} some half dozen teachers ~~from~~ ^{dozen Indian} ~~xxxxxxx~~ instructors who lived in Ahmedabad.

See over page

In all India I do not think I could have found more pleasant and attractive children to work with, not more sympathetic and understanding parents.

I had left many relations and friends behind in Europe, and in order to keep in touch with them, since I could not write to each separately I decided to send round a circular letter at intervals.

Thirty years afterward - when I had completely forgotten about these letters, when one day - ~~thirty years afterwards~~ - when I was rummaging about in my sister's attic in London I came across a ~~whole~~ ^{sheaf} of faded papers bound together. Turning them over listlessly I suddenly discovered that they were the circular letters I had written so many years before, describing my experiences in India. My mother - good soul - had religiously kept them, and before her death had handed them over to my sister.

As I read them after that long interval ~~to time~~ it

I was one of some half a dozen tutors,
the rest being Indians + living in
the city of Alameda.

For no one likes

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for no ~~likes~~ to read a story and leave it as it were suspended in mid air without properly coming to an end .(in so far as it can ~~could~~ have one) I am ~~most~~ grateful to her , also , for editing this MS and making the arrangements for its going through the press.

I should like to take this opportunity ~~for~~ ^{also} to express our gratitude to Mr Ravishanker Raval who - from memory - drew the illustrations for this book . One has only to look at them to realise that they are the work of a master hand . Mr Raval is seen , as a young man , along with the other Indian tutors on page (bottom left) .

Since that time Mr Raval has carved out for himself a distinguished career , and has become one of the best known artist in Gujerat - indeed in the whole of India . He has occupied many important positions in the world of Indiaⁿ Art , such as the President of the Arts Society of India , Member of the Art Advisory Board for the Central Government ^{etc} - and has himself ^{published} ~~published~~ a number of important works on Indiaⁿ Art.

Finally we should like to ^{re}cord our ~~thanks~~ ^{to} the late Mr Maria Montessori . It was she who , in the first place , established the link between the Sarabhai family and myself . This ~~was also for her~~ ^{book as well as for me} the beginning of a long friendship between the Sarabhai family and herself . Years later Dr Montessori gave one of her famous six months International Training Courses for teachers in the Shahibag compound under the auspices of Mrs Saraladevi Sarabhai ^{and} as her guest.

for her

How much I owe to Mrs Sarabhai I could never be able to say ^{best} ~~I can~~ ^{do so by quoting Dr Montessori} ~~best~~ and this preface by saying that ^{own words in her} ~~Montessori herself~~ dedicated the India Edition of her ~~SECRET OF~~ ^{over} CHILDHOOD , with these words : To Saraladevi Sarabhai ^{page}

N.P. How much I owe to Mrs Sarabhai I
should never be able to express: I can best
attempt to do so by quoting Dr. Missions
our words. In her dedication to the
Indian edition of her Secret of Childhood.

On Sep 14 To Saraladevi Sarabhai (next
page)

To Sarala Devi Sarabhai

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-The Ideal Montessori Mother
Who has dedicated herself to
The Cause of the Child in India .

E Mortimer Standing .

March ' 66

4831 35th Ave. S.W.

Seattle , Washington . U.D.A.

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it seemd almost as if I were reading them for the first time ^{and I} and I got the impression that perhaps they contained matter which might still be of interest to a ^{wider} ~~larger~~ audience .

In the first place they gave a fist-hand glimpse into the seething world of politics ^{the} - in particular ^{of that time - into} the Swaraj ^{Non} Movement led by Gandhi (who himself comes into ^{the} picture) ^{for India} ~~which xxxxxxxxxx~~ It was a critical epoch ^{the} the struggle between the imperialism of the British Raj and the new sprit of independence which trying to assert itself ^{It} was in fact the ^T Twilight of Imperial ^S Sunset over against that of an ^{Indian} Dawn --- the birth pangs of A new India about to be born .

Secondly, I realised these letters to a certain degree reflected ^{the} coming ^{together} of two different "Weltanschauungen" (philosophies of life) the oriental and the occidental ^{one} ^{and} this contrast is ^{enriched} by its very nature ^{of} perennial interest .

Thirdly - and most urgently - I was ~~first and an~~ ^a desirous of getting these letterz printed in order to be able to leave behind ~~me some sort of more durable~~ monument to the long friendship which has existed for nearly half a century between the Sarabhai family and myself . I am ~~particular~~ grateful then to Bharati Devi who , as I prophesied (p.) has become a brilliant author herself , for making the arrangements to have these letter published in ^{India} . Anything I think has some value ~~in it~~ if it helps to make clear that - in spite of profound differences of heredity and tradition - there exists a ^{that} deep common bond of humanity bewteen the East and the West .

I am most grateful too to Bharati Devi because - at my request she has written a chapter for this book bringing the various members of the Sarabhai up to date - for everyone likes ^{see back}

I am particularly grateful to Bhanabi Devi
(who years ago I prophesied would reveal
herself a literary ^{are}genius) for adding a
chapter to this book bringing the members
of the Sarabhai family up to date - for