

This seminal correspondence is a testimony to a great friendship, showing how 'The Twain', the East and West, can indeed meet. In the compiled letters, one can see how Patrick Geddes, the Scots polymath and Rabindranath Tagore, the Indian Nobel Laureate, exchange, comment on and share ideas on education, the environment, rural reconstruction, while they remain staunch Peace Warriors in a climate of mounting world conflict.

'...The correspondence presented here centres on shared educational ideals. ...Inter-war internationalist idealism foundered in further terrible world war, but the ideas of Tagore and Geddes fed into later educational thought. Beside documenting a noble attempt at cross-cultural co-operation, Dr. Fraser's collection of correspondence restores to life the attractive personality of Geddes's son Arthur who, as disciple of Tagore, ...linked the world of two visionaries.'

Angus Calder
Historian, Journalist, Literary Critic and Poet

'I enjoyed reading the letters, and not least (the) perceptive introduction... These letters connect not simply two men but two civilisations together in one world. Both, in Tagore's words, 'started with this one simple idea, that education should never be dissociated from life'. Their shared legacy can be no greater than that.'

David McCrone, Professor of Sociology
Director, Institute of Governance, University of Edinburgh

'In this luminous exchange of letters between two kindred spirits Bashabi Fraser has revealed a new and fascinating side to the age-old relationship between India and Scotland. Rabindranath Tagore and Patrick Geddes were inspirational innovators and their quest for a dream of perfection was clearly a meeting of true minds.'

Trevor Royle
Associate Editor, Sunday Herald

'...Tagore and Geddes share an expansive vision of education and their letters cross the world developing this generalist, internationalist outlook. In an era of cynicism and hopelessness here lies inspiration from an earlier day when ideas were shared eagerly and 'globalism' was a source of joy and energy. Where education now has been reduced to a functionary training – here are two thinkers exploring what it means for cultural renewal, exchange and celebration of the human potential.'

Mike Small
Writer and Editor of The Journal of Civics and Generalism
(www.patrickgeddes.co.uk)



Bashabi Fraser

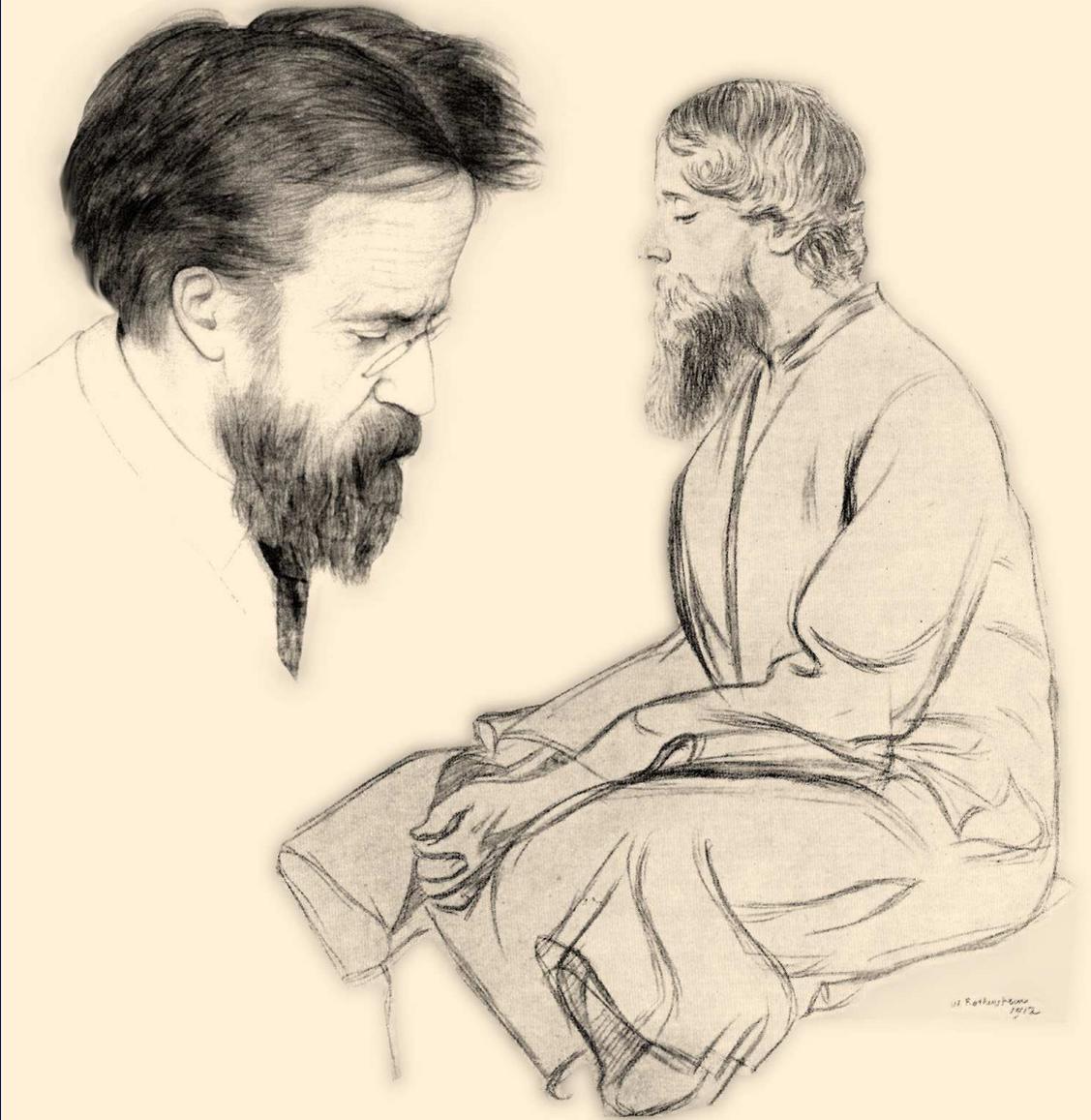
WORD POWER BOOKS

A MEETING OF TWO MINDS
Geddes Tagore
LETTERS

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Edited and Introduced by Bashabi Fraser