

GUEST HOUSE  
BARODA.

13-1-'38

Dear Saigidan,

(May I leave out the "Mr", and will you do so in return?). Thank you for your letter. Yes, of course I will try and write a few lines on the book, and have already asked Bant to do so. I shall not have time to try my hand at it before sailing (the 15th) but will do what I can on the boat - also try and put Satter Davies to work!

It will be sad to leave India in spite of the absolute necessity for rest. In many ways I feel I have struck roots here, and met kindred souls (your expression). Certainly the striving that has most struck me here has my whole-hearted sympathy. And certainly, too, the social and educational currents I have found here seem to me part of a world-encompassing current. Our interests, aims and troubles are common, that is perhaps the strongest impression I carry with me.

The Bombay meeting was, I think, the best we have had anywhere (you see, I was not at Aligarh!). We visited Gandhiji and, although I was prepared to find a figure that inspired reverence and devotion, I was not prepared for the immediate ~~to~~ lovability that would have knocked down all my defenses, had I had any - as I had none, I was moved almost to tears, and would have been prepared to sat a crocodile to give him the sincerest satisfaction. He looked

well to a layman, and spoke most delightfully about his scheme.  
I hope we didn't tire him — he was talking most of the time.

~~He~~<sup>I</sup> also had a talk with Mr. (thee), whom I liked very  
much, and who volunteered to join the NEF Section and lend  
it the support of his name.

Menon, the organising secretary  
in Bombay (or one of them), seems to me a very good man for the  
part of secretary of the whole movement in India. <sup>You remember we</sup> discussed him in <sup>Calcutta.</sup>

Let us keep in touch in the future. I do hope the  
NEF Indian Committee gets going in earnest.

With warmest good wishes,  
Yours

Lavinia Fillicenus