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MESSAGE

The High Court of Judicature at Fort William was brought into existence by the Letters Patent dated 14th May, 1862, issued under the High Court's Act, 1861, which provided that the jurisdiction and powers of the High Court were to be defined by Letters Patent. On 28th December, 1965, the Letters Patent of 1862 undergone further change and excluding establishment of Supreme Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal enacted by the Letters Patent of 26th March, 1774, the Letters Patent of 1862 was revoked. In 1862 High Courts were established in Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. The High Court at Calcutta was formally opened on 1st July, 1862. On 28th December, 1865, Letters Patent of 1865 repealed the Letters Patent of 1862 and extended the jurisdiction of the High Courts. In 1935, Government of India Act was enacted. On 26th January, 1950, the High Court of Judicature at Fort William was renamed as High Court at Calcutta.

The First Chief Justice Sir Barnes Peacock who was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court along with others had taken their oath on 1st July, 1862. However, the actual sitting commenced from 9th July, 1862. Since then, as I could gather from the quotes of Hon'ble Judges and eminent Jurists from all over the World, this Court has sat in dignity for decades, administering justice with an equal hand. It has produced a brilliant Bar that honours our profession; and its Judges can sit in an honoured row of the World's distinguished jurists.

We, the present generation of Judges, who now command the scene, are committed to carry on in this old tradition of freedom under law that knows no distinction between rich and poor and which recognizes as valid no law that marks a line based on race, creed, colour or caste.

During its life this court has (as I know) won and maintained the highest reputation for the administration of justice and so has contributed to true freedom and the maintenance of the faith by which mankind alone may live.

We have dedicated ourselves to dispense justice to all who have knocked the doors of this glorious Temple of Justice and even reached people by extending legal aid to those who could not have access to justice.

Long may its fame continue as the guardian of law and dispensation of justice.

My best wishes will always remain with this great Institution. I wish the occasion a grand success.


(J. N. Patel)