

Jinnah & Nizam

To The Editor, Times of India

Sir.—Mr. Mirza Ismail's reference to the incident between Mr. Jinnah and the Nizam recall other instances which show the Pakistani leader in a somewhat different light.

On November 1, 1929, Dr. Annie Besant was staying as my guest for the day on her way from Madras to Delhi. I had mentioned this to Mr. Jinnah and he said he would like to meet her at ten o'clock in the morning on his way to the High Court. Punctually at ten he strolled in smoking a cigarette. All of us, including Mr. Jinnah, knew Dr. Besant's dislike for smoking. So I shouted, "Jinnah throw away that cigarette." "I am awfully sorry, Kanji, thank you very much," he said, and got rid of the cigarette. Dr. Besant overheard me and said to Jinnah, "It's all right, you keep on smoking". Jinnah said, "No, Dr. Besant, no. Kanji is quite right. I apologise to you."

The other incident took place on August 17, 1940, at Government House, Bombay. A week after the August 8 proposals, Mr. Jinnah was asked to meet the Viceroy. Just before that week Lord Linlithgow had announced his War Advisory Council on which he had, among others, nominated Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan, the Chief Minister of the Punjab. The Muslim League had announced its decision to boycott this Council and, in spite of it, Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan, a member of the League, had agreed to serve on this Council. Mr. Jinnah had stated in a press interview that Lord Linlithgow had double-crossed the Muslim League. Mr. Jinnah's appointment with the Viceroy was at 11 a.m. but Mr. Jinnah did not arrive at the Government House till 11.15 in spite of frantic telephone calls. Mr. Jinnah did not apologise for his coming late and, as they shook hands and sat down, the Viceroy is reported to have told Mr. Jinnah that he had seen a press report that Mr. Jinnah had misunderstood the Viceroy's action and he wanted to clear up the misunderstanding. Mr. Jinnah immediately got up and said he wanted no explanation from the Viceroy and, saying this, he left the Viceregal chamber.

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At least one Indian of the stature of Mr. Jinnah had the courage and honesty to tell the British Viceroy what he thought of him when other Indian leaders, including the Congress High Command, were lapping it up with phrases like "the best English gentleman," "the best Christian gentleman." I first met Mr. Jinnah in June, 1916, and last in December, 1946. During these thirty years of intimate friendship, though I was his junior in age and political hierarchy, I had nothing but extreme kindness, friendship and consideration from him.

KANJI DWARKADAS
Bombay, November 2.