ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Tamil Nadu has the reputation of being one of the progressive states and is blessed with a stable administration. In the process of building up of a prosperous Tamil Nadu after independence, M. Bhaktavatsalam’s contribution is substantial. Holding important public offices for nearly 23 years, he had rendered immense service to Tamil Nadu. As a great patriot, a clean politician, an able administrator and a respected leader, his life and works are worth recording for the benefit of future generation.

In writing this thesis, my ideas have been shaped by several people. First, I would like to thank my guide and supervisor Dr. P. Kandaswamy, Principal, Pachaiyappa’s College for Men, Kancheepuram. Each interaction with him enriched my knowledge and added a new dimension to my work. I am grateful to him for suggesting this topic and for his patient, kind and scholarly guidance.

I express my thanks to Dr. R. S. Raghavan, Dr. R. Balakrishnan, Dr. P. R. Rangaswamy and Dr. M. Parasuraman former Principals of Pachaiyappa’s College and Dr. V. Rajendran, present Principal for permitting me to continue my research work in the Department of History, Pachaiyappa’s College, Chennai.
My thanks are due to Mrs. B. Suguna Bai, Head, Department of History, Pachaiyappa’s College, Chennai for permitting me to do the research work and for her encouragement.

I take this opportunity to thank Dr. G. Venkatraman, Professor and Head, Indian History Department, University of Madras for his valuable suggestions.

I express my sincere thanks to Professor Jayasekaran, Guest Faculty, Department of Indian History, Madras University for his help and encouragement.

I thank Professor T.G.Nagarajan, Head, Department of History, Arignar Anna Government Arts College, Cheyyar, for his timely help and suggestions in connection with my work.

I thank Smt. Sarojini Varadappan, daughter of M. Bhaktavatsalam, for having provided me with necessary materials and for having given interviews several times. She had given me informations about the versatile personality of her father.

I owe my gratitude to the Commissioner and Staff of Tamil Nadu State Archives, Chennai for their assistance in the collection of materials for this work.

I also profusely thank the Librarians of Connemara Public Library, Madras University Library, Pachaiyappa’s College Library,
Perasiriyar K. Anbalagan Research Library at Anna Arivalayam and Indian Express Library at Chennai.

My special thanks are due to my husband Dr. R. Balakrishnan, who has been a great source of strength and encouragement to me throughout this work by his scholarly interest and care. But for his encouragement and inspiration, I would not have entered into this arena of research and completed my work.

I thank Students Xerox, Kodambakkam for the neat execution of this thesis.

A.R.Visalakshi
(A.R.VISALAKSHI)