PREFACE

Since the formation of the Central Provinces two forces, viz. the British Government and the Christian Missions have played significant roles in the history of the Province and made abiding impacts upon the people during the nineteenth century. Several scholars have shown their interest in the political and administrative history of the region and some have drawn their attention to its socio-economic aspects. Yet another field of study, viz. the missionary activities in the region, has remained almost unexplored. Being a Protestant Christian myself, I have selected this virgin field for my investigation. In this research work I have endeavoured to examine the activities of the Protestant Christian Missions which were sent to India from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Sweden and functioned in the Central Provinces during that century. Investigations into the activities of the Roman Catholic Missions will form a separate subject of study and it will be taken up hereafter.

In this study I have tried to elaborate and discuss what the Protestant Christian Missions did rather than what they were expected to do. The missionaries actively worked in all the British districts and were quite effective everywhere during the last three decades of the century except in the feudatory states where they virtually remained unwelcome by their rulers. They undertook several philanthropic schemes for their work among the people, apart from their main aim of popularising the Gospel and spreading Christianity. Their activities can be visualised in their true perspective against the background of the contemporary British administration and Indian life and culture. I have treated a mission as an organised body and have dealt with its diverse activities highlighting in particular the
contributions of its leaders who rose into prominence by their outstanding work in any particular branch of its activities. In doing so I have brought into focus the impact of various missionary activities on the society, culture, economy and life of the people of the Central Provinces.

My entire work is based primarily on the archival sources available in the United States, United Kingdom and India as detailed in the bibliography. Almost all the materials preserved in the various mission archives and found relevant to my research, have been fully utilized. The secondary sources available in New York, London, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore, Delhi, Nagpur, Jabalpur and Sagar have also been used to fill up the gaps and to interpret the various activities of the Protestant Missions in their proper perspectives. This research piece is the result of more than three years' incessant labour. But for the kind help and cooperation of missions authorities in India and abroad during my pursuit of research, this arduous work could not have been completed. I am, therefore, sincerely thankful to the following:

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