ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Words cannot adequately express my gratitude to my Guide Dr. J. Birje-Patil, M.A., Ph.D. (Manchester), Head, Dept. of English, M.S. University of Baroda. I thank him for taking me as a research student under his guidance in the midst of his innumerable other academic commitments and responsibilities. It was an exhilarating experience to be guided by him through nearly three centuries of British and Continental drama, in all of which he was equally and perfectly at ease. I am grateful to him for all the help, guidance and encouragement given to me.

I wish to thank Professor John Northam, Dept. of Drama, University of Bristol, for the preliminary discussion that I had with him in Baroda concerning my thesis and for his helpful comments on the first draft of two chapters.

I am obliged to Professor V.Y. Kantak, Emeritus Professor, Dept. of English, M.S. University of Baroda, Dr. C.K. Seshadri, and Dr. (Mrs.) R.V. Vanikar, of the Department of English, M.S. University of Baroda for the interest they took in my work. The discussions that I had with them regarding my thesis, though few, were very helpful.

Thanks are due to the members of the staff of the Dept. of English, M.S. University of Baroda for their kind hospitality in making me feel quite at home during the three-year tenure of my Research Fellowship in the Department.

I am thankful to all the members of the staff of Smt. Hansa Mehta Library, M.S. University of Baroda for their courtesy and help.

I am deeply indebted to the Management and the Principals, past and present, of Holy Cross College, Tiruchirapalli, for deputing me for the Teacher-Fellowship and for granting me leave and all the other privileges as required by the U.G.C. I thank
Sr., Emily who first encouraged me to do my Ph.D. and Sr. Elizabeth Rose whose keen interest and consideration enabled me to complete my thesis alongside my college duties which I resumed a year ago. I thank my colleagues of the Dept. of English for the affectionate interest shown by them in my work.

The aid given by the U.G.C. in granting me a Teacher-Fellowship (F.I.P.) from January 1977 to January 1980 to carry out research at the Dept. of English, M.S. University of Baroda, is acknowledged thankfully.

I thank Mr. S. Jesu Doss, B.Com. for his painstaking and neat work in typing and cyclostyling this thesis.

My husband and parents have been pillars of strength whose constant support has seen this work through till the end. I also thank my other relatives and friends who have supported this project with their prayers.

Above all, I praise and thank the LORD who has been an unfailing source of strength, comfort and inspiration.

Christine Gomez
Dept. of English
Holy Cross College
Tiruchirapalli.

February 1981.