The Panjab, the land of five rivers, has been from prehistoric times the seat of a high civilization. It was here that the first Aryan settlers chanted hymns of the Rigveda. In subsequent ages, it formed a chief centre of the Hindu power and civilization and later that of the Muslim when it passed under their sway. In modern times, it saw the foundation of the finest Sikh Kingdom. Before it was annexed to the British empire in India in 1849, various travellers, in their accounts had already hinted towards the great political and economic potentialities of the land of five rivers. But not being content with the second-hand account, the secret section of the Foreign Department, of the British Government was anxious to conduct investigations for themselves. For it was declared in a secret note by the Government of India in 1847 that the "correct estimate of the resources of the Panjab involves consideration of great interest and importance to the Government of India." And when all the enquiries had been made and information collected, British officers agreed in saying that "capacities of the Panjab are unquestionable and might be turned to better account that the discovery of the richest mine. There are springs of wealth at our feet, which need directed skill to bring them to the..."
With its thirsty plains, unutilized rivers, and willing manly population, the Panjab indeed was a country with great natural resources awaiting development. And when it was actually annexed to the British empire in India, Lord Dalhousie, while entrusting to the Board of Administration the Government of Panjab, was anxious enough to direct that every effort should be made to develop its resources and foster trade, when he expressed himself in the following terms:

"By prosecuting these projects of employment and directing the energies of the people to new sources of interest and excitement we may gradually wean them from those schemes of agitation and violence which the inveteracy of habits and the prestige of long and uninterrupted success under Maharajah Ranjit Singh have hitherto encouraged, and it may be our happiness before long to see our efforts crowned with the conversion of a martial and hostile population into industrious subjects cultivating the arts of peace and civilization".

An effort has been made in this thesis to see how far the above directions of Lord Dalhousie were actually carried during this period of 52 years - from 1849 to 1901.

Before understanding the plan of the thesis, it is essential to keep in mind that changes do not take place so easily in the social life of a country as in its economic side. The main departments of the economic life are agriculture, industry, commerce and finance whereas the study of the social life of a people has essentially to deal with their dwellings, dress, and food, their religious belief, and with their behaviour in the family and in society. Obviously, the subjects under the latter are not so amic as those under the former. The period

2. see Chap XI.
of 52 years may bring about a revolution in the entire economic structure of a nation, but it is too short for the social life to make a history of it. Particularly so in the case of people whose social beliefs and habits are so deeply bound with religious compulsions and constraints that a slightest deviation from them may bring a wrath from some 'unknown powers' in the heaven. And the Punjab, in the 19th century, was actually a country where religion of the people had a greater power in the conduct of their social beliefs and thoughts than any sense of right and wrong could be expected to have. The newly educated trader, the government clerk or a lawyer in the town might have changed his social habits under the Western influence, but this could not be so with the poor and illiterate agriculturist in whose house, as a matter of fact, the heart of the country throbbed.

The plan of the thesis, therefore, is one of purely economic history of a country, with the study of the social life of the people so far as it hinders or promotes its economic development, but with far greater details of the social life than are actually necessary, so that it can easily be called social and economic history, instead of only an economic history.

In the first chapter, thus, an attempt has been made to collect all the essential information regarding the physical factors and the natural resources of the country which affected its economic developments. This is followed by four chapters all under the heading 'People, their Life and their Manners', which deal with the social factors that influenced the economic developments. In these chapters, a study has been made, first, of the character of the population, its distribution and density
etc. Secondly, some interesting facts are collected regarding the village communities (a special feature of the Panjab), dwellings of the people, their costumes, food and amusements. The study under the heading 'Amusements', of the different games played by children in the Panjab will be found especially interesting. Next, an account is given of certain social habits of the people like 'infanticide', followed by a description of the status of women and the marriage system and allied subjects. Lastly, the actual religious beliefs of the people and the Caste-system in the Panjab have been sketched. The social part of the thesis is concluded with a short account at the end of the chapter of religious beliefs, of the various movements which took place in the Panjab basically to bring about a reformation in the social life and a separate chapter giving a critical account of the development of education in the Panjab.

The chapter on education is followed by a more detailed account of the outstanding developments in each of the main departments of economic life - agriculture, industry, commerce, and finance. Then follows an attempt to estimate the effect of all these changes and developments on the prosperity of the people. An attempt has been made in this chapter to see how far the ambition of Lord Dalhousie, as quoted above, was realized, and if it was not realized then who was responsible for the failure - the Government, the People, or both.

The Panjab being predominantly an agricultural country (see chapter II), the economic development of the great mass of the peasantry is allowed to have a full say in the plan of the thesis. Thus, whereas the year 1849 was selected as a
starting point for obvious reasons - it being the year when the
Panjab was annexed to the British empire in India - the year
1901 was chosen as a point of termination of our enquiries,
because it was in that year that the Panjab Alienation of
Land Act was passed which was bound to affect closely the life
of the peasant in the province. This is no place to discuss
the significance of this Act. Suffice it to say that the
year 1901 with this Act is a land-mark in the economic history
of the Panjab.

Many books are available on the economic development of
different countries. But the number of books on the social
history is not large, while books dealing with both the
subjects together are very rare. In fact, inspite of all
efforts, the author has not been able to find some such
books dealing with both the subjects together. Where the
title of a book evoked an element of hope, its actual reading
gave discouragement. It will not be hyperbolism to say,
therefore, that this is a rare example of a thesis of its type.

The thesis may prove important for yet another reason.
While in the recent years some very able researches have been
made in the political history of the Panjab, hardly has any
attention been paid to its social and economic aspect; which
latter is perhaps more important than the former, especially
for modern planners who are one among the people and not one
among the kings and who are working for the people more as
their servants than as their rulers. In fact, it would just
be proper to say that, in the modern democratic age, the history

of the kings and their glory is a thing of the past, whereas
the history of the people and their achievements can guide us
in our actions, today and tomorrow. And it is with this view
in mind that this thesis has been written.

Though no perfection is claimed, every effort has been
made to make the collection of the information and its
arrangement in the thesis as scientific as possible. And in
this connection, it may be added that the writer owes a heavy
debt of gratitude to his worthy professor Dr. Hari Ram Gupta,
who not only suggested the topic but also guided him throughout
his efforts. It will not, in fact, be out of place here to
say that the untiring and inexhaustible energy and the
selfless devotion with which Dr. Gupta is himself exploring,
and directing about one score of his pupils to explore the
hidden and yet untouched records concerning the different aspects
of the history of the Panjab from earliest times to the present
days, is bound to guide historians and administrators for years
to come.

Every effort has been made to collect the facts for this
thesis with strict impartiality. Most of the contemporary
writers being Englishmen, there is no doubt that some of their
works smelt of exaggeration of evils and drawbacks in the
social and religious habits of the people. Wherever such an
exaggeration was noticed, it was excluded. Yet no favour has
been shown to the people and where facts so commanded no
attempt has been made to withhold information which though
in some cases may actually injure the feelings of the people
concerned.
All the facts collected in the thesis are from contemporary original sources. Although all secondary works concerning the subject have been studied, none of them has been allowed to influence the views in the thesis unduly. At the same time an effort has been spared to consulting all the original sources as completely as possible and necessary. The subject of the thesis being very wide, the records of almost all the ministries, foreign, education etc. have been thoroughly consulted; all governmental reports, like revenue administration reports and education reports, have been fully made use of; contemporary journals have been studied; the works of all contemporary writers and travellers, dealing with the subject, have been consulted; and an extensive use has been made of the press opinion in the Punjab to make the account as balanced and authentic as possible.

In the last, it may be added, every effort has been made to make the statistical information as complete as possible. But unfortunately, it must be mentioned, not much datum was forthcoming for the years prior to the Seventies of the 19th century and wherever they are available, they are not always reliable, the reason being that the administrative machinery before that was not fully organised. In fact, the more reliable statistical data are available only after the year 1881, when the first census was taken in the Punjab.

Before closing, I must thank Dr. R. R. Koch, my teacher, who, guided me and really acted as a beacon light in my flight towards the goal.

30.12.1934.

U. S. C.