ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to place on record my sincere and most grateful thanks to Dr. K. Kamal Mustafa, M.A., Ph.D., Professor and Head of the Department of History (Rtd), Government Arts College (Autonomous), Coimbatore- 641 018, for his able guidance, valuable suggestions, objective criticism, fair comments and kind help for the completion of the thesis.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. (Mrs). Chandrakanthi Govindarajulu (Former Secretary), Smt. Nandhini Rangasamy, Secretary, Miss. W.T. Vasantha, M.A., M.Phil (Former Principal) and Dr. (Mrs). N. Yesodhadevi, M.Com., Ph.D., Principal, P.S.G.R. Krishnammal College for women, Coimbatore for providing me with all the facilities to carry out this research work successfully.

Equally I am grateful to professor S. Dharmalingam, Head of the Department of History, principal, professors and other staff members of the department of history, Government Arts College (Autonomous) for extending their ready help and encouragement in the pursuit of my research.
I am extremely grateful to Mrs. K. O. Malathi, M.A., M.Phil (Farmer Head of the Department) and Dr. (Mrs). Suseela Thayamal M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Head of the Department of History, P.S.G.R. Krishnamal College, Coimbatore for their constant support and help rendered during the tenure of this investigation.

I am very much thankful to the research officer, Librarians and Assistants working in the Tamilnadu Archives, Library, Madras Secretariat Library, Connemara Library, Madras University Library, Chennai for their help in the consultation of Records, References, Books, Journals, Magazines, Periodicals etc.

I am most grateful to Dr. Sundarahalan, M.A., Ph.D, Librarian Taminadu Archives, Chennai- 600 008 for his timely help in the collection of materials.

I must thank my husband Dr. D. Loganathan, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. Reader in History, Dr. A. Harinarayanan, M.A., Ph.D (Rtd), Professor of History, Dr. Ilango, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of History, Govt. Arts College (Autonomous), Dr. Balasubramaniam, M.A., Ph.D, professor of History, CBM College, Coimbatore for extending all possible help, guidance and encouragement in completing the research work.
I tender my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Mrs. Floris Francis, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of English (Rtd), P.S.G.R. Krishnammal College for her very practical help and kindness in correction of thesis.

I thankfully acknowledge and express my gratitude to Dr. (Mrs). S. Meera Bai, M.Sc, M.Phil, B.Ed., Ph.D., Reader in Botany, P.S.G.R. Krishnammal College for women for helping me in drawing the map work.

I also thank my son and family members for their exemplary patience, sufferings and sacrifice when I was out of station.

With great pleasure I express my gratitude and indebtedness to all my colleagues of the History Department, P.S.G. R. Krishnammal college for women for their kind encouragement.

My special thanks are due to Mr. Ramesh, Mr. Suresh and Mr. Kanagaraj, Kovai Data, for helping me in typing this thesis.