PREFACE

In the pre-Gandhian era, versatile personalities like V.O.Chidambaram Pillai, Subramania Bharathiar, Subramania Siva, V.V.S. Iyer and the like spearheaded the National Movement in Tamil Nadu. During the Gandhian era, the leaders like Rajaji, O.P.Ramasamy Reddiar, Avinashilingam Chettiar, Sathyamurthy, Kamaraj, Sardar Vedaratnam Pillai, N.M.R. Subraman and the like led the national movement in Tamil Nadu.

This thesis portrays Sardar Vedaratnam Pillai as a nationalist, social reformer, legislator and humanitarian. Sardar Vedaratnam Pillai followed Mahatma Gandhi's footsteps in letter and spirit. He carried out constructive programmes like eradication of untouchability, introduction of Prohibition, basic education and amelioration of the conditions of women and the downtrodden in society.

In writing this thesis on "Sardar Vedaratnam Pillai: A Historical Biography, 1897 - 1961" I had the privilege of getting help from a number of scholars. In this long list I must single out my Research Supervisor
and Guide Dr. N. Rajendran, Head, Center for History, Bharathidasan University. But for Dr. N. Rajendran, I would not have submitted this thesis in History.

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