PREFACE

The thesis analyses the liquor policy of the British Government in Tamil Nadu for a period covering from 1858 to 1947. The central theme is centred round the social, economic and moral implications of the liquor policy. There is no study on this line. Hence the present study covers an untapped area, related to Akbári, which fetched handsome revenue to the Government. From the point of view of the alien-government, it did not much affect the social, economic and moral side of the people of Tamil Nadu. But when the Congress sphere headed freedom movement, it made picketing of liquor shop, as their main agenda to attract the mass to the movement. The analysis, I made in this thesis, on the above parameters, unfold many events neither to unknown to the Tamil History. The thesis is woven on the basis of original evidences collected from the Tamil Nadu State Archives, Chennai.

In undertaking this task, I owed my indebtedness to many. First of all, I express my gratitude to my Supervisor Dr T. Sundararaj, M.A., Ph.D., Professor and Head, Department of History, St Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli for his scholarly guidance, useful suggestions and expert advise in time. This thesis acquires the present shape due to his full concentration and help. Once again I place on record my deep sense of gratitude to him.

I also extend my heartiest thanks to Rev. Dr. S. John Britto, S.J., the former Principal of St Joseph's College for his constant encouragement. I also extend my sincere gratitude to Rev. Dr. A.G.Leonard, S.J., Principal.
St Joseph’s College for his full-support and encouragement. My sincere thanks are also due to all the staff members of Department of History for their assistance and their valuable suggestions.

I would record my gratitude to Mr. A.D.Jeyavera Pandian, our beloved founder of our College and Dr. A.D.Jeyam Pandian, Secretary, for his moral support. My gratitude due to our Principal and Mrs. P.Amirthavalli, M.A., M.Phil., Head of the Department of History for their permission and moral support to continue my research work.

I like to record my gratitude to Dr. M. Sundararaj, M.A., MLIS, M.A., Ph.D., of Tamil Nadu Archives, Madras for his suggestions and enormous help to complete my research work. I also extend my thanks to the Librarian and staff members of the Tamil Nadu archives. I like to express my thanks to Dr. V. Balambal, M.A., Ph.D., Reader in History (Retd.) of the University of Madras who rendered moral support and help in collecting materials in various Libraries in Chennai.

I extend my gratitude to the Librarians of the University of Madras and Connimara Library.

I have to show my heartiest gratitude to Mr. G. John Gilbert, M.A., M.Phil. for his support and help to complete my research work. My sincere thanks to Mr.S.Jesudoss, B.Com., BLIS for his part in this endeavour.

It is my sincere thanks to my husband Mr.R.Panneerselvam, M.A., B.L. who rendered all kinds of support for the completion of the Research work without which I could not have completed this work on time.

A. BREMA