PREFACE

History of Bengali literature has so far been generally discussed on the basis of the geographical framework of Bangladesh and West Bengal. These two locations are considered a flourishing ground for cultivation of Bengali literary mind. But a number of peripheral centres also went into making significant contributions to Bengali literature even from outside the two primary locations.

Not many works have come to our notice about a panoramic view of Bengali literature to have emerged from outside the locations of Bengal. Our task is to focus on the emergence and development of Bengali literature writings that became prominent in Assam in the nineteenth century.

In the beginning of this research work there was so much obscurity for us. There was almost dearth of instances, especially of primary sources like the Bengali writings of Assam in the nineteenth century. As our research work was on the run, so many rare books then came into our notice. Sometimes we came to know about the information of books and literary works. And now we believe that overall we made an overview of the Bengali writings of Assam in the nineteenth century.

'The Bengali Writings of Assam in the Nineteenth Century: A Critical Study' — We discussed about it over five chapters. These chapters are given below:

CHAPTER : 1
THE STATE ASSAM, PERIOD AND BACKGROUND :

1.1 Nineteenth Century’s Assam and its formation under British rule.
1.2 The environment and character of Bengali writings.

CHAPTER : 2
POETRY AND METRICAL COMPOSITION :

2.1 Verse and poetry of Ramkumar Nandi Mazumdar.
2.2 Verse and Poetry of Pyaricharan Das.
CHAPTER : 3

PROSE NARRATIVE AND YATRAPALA :

3.1 Ramkumar Nandi Mazumdar’s Prose Narrative ‘Mālinir Upākhyaṅ’.
3.2 Yatrapala of Ramkumar Nandi Mazumdar : ‘Bhagavatir Janma Abang Vivāh’.

CHAPTER : 4

HISTORICAL PROSE WRITINGS :

4.1. Haliram Dhekial Phookan’s ‘Āssām Buranji’.
4.2 Tariniprasad Sen’s ‘Bijni Rājbangsha’.

CHAPTER : 5

MISCELLANEOUS WRITINGS :

5.1 ‘Dandabidhi’ And ‘Rinādānbidhi’ of Hedamba State.
5.2 Anandaram Dhekial Phookan’s ‘Āin O Bybasthā Sangraha’.
5.3 Journals, Periodicals and Bengali Writings of Nineteenth Century.

Apart from these five chapters, there are introduction, conclusion and appendix where effort has been made to give an introductory note of several rare books.

Not only is that, even the title pages of few books included. However, some books couldn’t be included for discussion because only some parts were found of those.

Needless to say, in this way we tried to look into the subject, titled ‘The Bengali Writings of Assam in the Nineteenth Century: A Critical Study’.

‘If ideas rule the world’, I should first name the person who gave me the idea of the Bengali writings of Assam in the nineteenth century and introduced me to this subject by giving me a rare book ‘Bijni Rajbangsha’. He is Dr. Amalendu Guha.

But ideas soon fade into oblivion if they are not accomplished with a proper academic shape. This was the most difficult and pain staking task which was silently undertaken by my revered teacher and supervisor of my research work is Dr. Dipak Sen, former Reader Department of Bengali of Gauhati University. His thoughtful views, pleasant discussion, right direction made my ideas clear and transparent.
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