PREFACE

Largely as a result of the impact of western education and thought various socio-religious reform movements emerged in India in the nineteenth century. Movements like Brahmo Samaj and Arya Samaj have attracted the attention of historians, and much work has been done as to their contribution towards socio-religious reforms. However, little attention has been paid to the study and analysis of the British attitude and policy towards these movements.

The teachings of Swami Dayanand, the founder of the Arya Samaj, breathed a "spirit of nationalism." He and his Samaj sang the glories of India's past, and he asked his countrymen to "go back to the Vedas," the "most ancient scriptures of the world." Being an imperialist power, the British never liked these clarion calls of Swami Dayanand. His view, "a good Government is no substitute for self-government," was not relished by them for in that lay the death-knell of their Indian empire.

There is a large body of literature on Arya Samaj. But it largely concentrates on questions such as its social impact, its role in creating social awakening and promoting nationalistic sentiments. The present study is an attempt to assess and analyse the attitude and policy of rulers
towards this important movement. It is needless to say
that it is a subject that deserves a very careful and
detailed study for the British attitude, in its turn,
contributed to the changes in and development of the
Samaj itself.

This study has been possible only after tapping most
of the important primary sources like the Government of
India files, viceroys' private papers, Reports of the
Christian missionaries and Anglo-Indian Press, apart from
a vast literature on Arya Samaj, some of the contemporary
newspapers, journals, census reports, private papers of
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