ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The thesis entitled “A Critical Phase in the History of Freedom Movement in Madras Presidency, 1885-1914” is an earnest attempt to focus the critical phase in the history of Indian Freedom Movement, because the period under study witnessed many riots throughout the Presidency. The people were not educated of their rights. Only after the partition of Bengal, the Indian population woke up from deep slumber. When they woke up and prepare for the fight, the world war came and the situation became more fluid and critical. Hence, this period is called as the critical period. There is much scope for the future scholars for further study. The topic is found academic importance too in all respects. As no scholar has made any attempt, I have made a pioneering attempt on this topic.

I started the work in 2000. But because of the circumstances, I could not complete the work in time. In collecting the sources too, it was highly painful and disappointing on occasions due to prolonged stay away from home leaving dear ones.

The source materials utilized for this study are varied. They are archival and non-archival. Non-archival sources include records found in the hands of the private repositories. Indeed, it is interesting to approach the private repositories and explain what is essential and what is not essential.
I deem it my great privilege to have done this research under the able guidance of Dr. T.S. Emmanuel, Reader and Head of the Department of History and Research Centre, Martandam. The entire burden of my research till the time of submission of the thesis for evaluation was shouldered by my guide. His valuable suggestions have made the study what it is today. With commendable patience, he went through the draft, suggesting alterations and corrections wherever necessary. But for his untiring help and encouragement, I would not have been able to complete my research successfully. I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to him.

I take this opportunity to thank the Principal, Dr. Gnanadhas, M.Sc., Ph.D. for the encouragement and helps that he had rendered.

I thank the staff members of Department of History for the helps, suggestions and encouragement that I have received from them.

I take this opportunity to thank Dr. K. Muthunathan, for all the helps, suggestions, changes, re-organizations that he had suggested at the typing stage. He has taken much pains in the midst of his heavy schedule. Indeed, it is a pleasure to discuss with him the subject in depth.

I thank the staff of National Archives, New Delhi, State Archives, Madras, the Librarian of Cannimara Library, Madras, Librarian of Adyar Library, Madras, the librarian of Nesamony Memorial Christian College,
Martandam and a host of friends who have helped me in the collection of sources for the present dissertation.

I thank Mr. D. Simon, Concordia Seminary, Nagercoil for the neat typing and execution of this work.

I thank my parents, husband and in-laws for their cooperation and help during the critical period.

Above all I thank God, the Almighty for his loving guidance throughout.