CONCLUSION

The study of “Black Town – George Town Through The Ages” has brought out certain remarkable results which are sketched here under in a nutshell.

So far as the source materials are concerned, the scholars field survey has brought to light the tremendous changes occurred in Black Town – George Town, most of the places mentioned in the records have been identified and located.

As far as the topography of this region is concerned, a tremendous changes can be noticed. The R. Kuvam, R. North were flowing to its west and north of Black Town. A ditch or a canal run through the Broadway region. There were small ponds and eris found in this region. A ditch which was flowing to the south and Pedda canal has disappeared now.

The Buckingham canal or Cochrane canal flows to the north of the Town. The Cochrane canal carried goods and passenger between Madarsapattinam and Masulipattinam. The Buckingham canal extended up to Marakkanam in the south and Ganjam in North. Besides there was a “Hog hill” in this region. A number of Gardens and Paddy fields were shown in the maps drawn but by the British and the French. The Hog hill and the Paddy fields are not to be found in this region.

Both the R.Kuvam and R. North carried pure and good water in those days, it was utilised for agriculture and other purposes. The great Philanthrophist Pachaiyappa Muddaliyar bathed in the R.Kuvam and worshipped the dirty at KomaleeswaranPettai, Present day Chinthadripettah. Now the river has turned into a filthy dirty ditch and become useless with 0 % oxygen. The modern Industries have spoiled the river and no living beings or microbes are found in the river.

The original records prepared by the British are preserved in Madras Archives. Some of the early records are in a briddled condition, which have to be handled very carefully. The records from 1800 are better than the early records. Inspite of the fact, sufficient materials have been gathered from the available records. The epigraphical sources also throw valuable light on Hindu Temple and endowments made to it.
The chapter on Political Background of Black Town shown the region was very popular and remarkable right from the days of historic period. The Britishers established their settlement in Madarasapatnam in 1639, along with it the Native Town also grew. The Britishers were the Agents in the beginning, they were elevated to a position of Governor. There were about one hundred Agents Presidents and administered and rules Madarasapattnam. The list begins with Sir Francis Day and Sir Andrew Cogan, who established Madarasapattnam and Archibald Nye was the last Governor, who stayed till 1948 in India.

It is to be noted here that the frequent war with Dutch, the French, the Indians who made inroads into this region were the Mughals, the Marathas and Nawabs of Golconda, stressed the need for the erection of defensive walls around Black Town region. It is also to noted that the Indian rulers knowingly or unknowingly sold out their villages for a meagre price and presents (gifts) Their invasion caused heavy toll of life, loss of property, and frequent famine in this region. The frequent cyclones also created great havoc to the people and the environment.

Of the one hundred Governors of Madras Presidency only a few of them contributed their mite in the development of Black Town region. Sir Henry Greenhill received permanent Grant for their settlement. Aaron Baker was helped by the DubashSeshadriNayak and KoneriChetty. The new administrative system was introduced by him, the Adhikari, Kanakkapillai and PeddaNaik in Black Town.

During the Governorship of Sir Langhorne, the married Europeans were advised to settle in the Native Town. These Europeans complained about Indians as they were causing nuisance, troublesome and unhygienic and they were asked to clear the place.

Lord Gyfford introduced Police System in Black Town. Sir Thomas Pitt did a lot for the improvement of Black Town. Due to Right and Left hand dispute, he surveyed Black Town and Streets were created and named. He prepared first accurate map of Madarasapttinam.

Sir Elihu Yale took efforts to establish Corporation and Mayor in Madarasapattnam. He restricted the movement of the people during nights in Black Town region.

Joseph Collet created a new settlement at Turrivorriyur called “Collet Pettah”. The weavers and painters were invited to settle and provided all amenities to them. Likewise Chintadripettah was created by James Macrae.

Richard Benyon appointed LingiChetty as Mint manager. The French and Hyder invaded Madrasapattanam, which led to tremendous changes in topography of Black
Town region. Stephen Popham introduced various reforms in the such as modern police system, drainage system, street lights in Black Town region. He reclaimed waste lands and closed the canal and improved the land.

Sir Edward Clive, Elphinston, Richard Greenville Buckingham and others contributed their mite in the development of Black Town. A list of Governors is appended at the end of this chapter.

As far as the Extent of Black Town and George Town are concerned, the maps drawn out by the Britishers and French periodically helped us to identify the places. The European Town was named as “White Town”, Christian Town, Out Town and English Town. The Black Town was called as Gentoo Town, Malabar Town, Maratha Town, ArunachaleswaraPettai, Coral Town, PeddanaiguesPetta, ComeraPetta, Heathen Town, British Black Town.

The Madrasapatnam covers 1000 acres in area and ½ mile distance from Fort St. George. The Old Black Town was very close to fort St. George, the other two settlements were MuttilalPettah, PeddanaikenPettah. There were only 75 houses in Black Town region. There was no high raised wall between Black Town and White Town.

In the year 1676 Major Puckle divided the Town and designated as Christian Town into White Town and Native Town as Gentoo Town. The MuthiyalPetta covered 345 acres, which is also located ½ mile distance from Fort St. George. By the year 1700, the Native town covered a mile and half in circumference i.e 1 ½ mile adjacent to Fort St. George a permanent fortification were erected by Thomas Pitt. In the year 1711 a wall was erected around Old Black Town, with more than a mile and half circumference, and 17 ft thick wall. The Map of Sir Thomas Pitt (1710) shows three regions Comer Pettah, MuthialPettah, PeddanaikenPettah. It is also stated the northern boundary extended beyond 200 yards.

In a description Saloman States that the perimeter of Black Town was 3000 yards, but the length of the wall did not exceed a mile while repairing the wall the distance between two curtains are mentioned as 100 yards and 60 yards. These measurement reveals the circumference of New Black Town.

In the place of Old Black Town, Esplanade was created, 200 yards space of land was cleared, a fourty feet road was marked after the siege of French. The boundary of Esplanade is marked by six boundary stone placed at Parry’s corner, KondiChetty Street, Stringer Street and China Bazaar.

The Extent of New Black Town extended for 3 ½ miles along the northern and western bounds of the Pettah. The Black Town wall was constructed by Paul Benfield.
The wall was completed in the year 1772. *The town wall consisted 17 bastions and curtains averaging 300 yards.*

Thus the Native Town was called

**Old Black Town** – 1 ½ miles circumference Adjacent to Fort St. George

**New Black Town** – 3 ½ miles Northern and western Bounds

**Esplanade** – 200 yards cleared, but covered up to China Bazaar

George Town covers the entire North Chennai.

The boundary of Black Town has been demarcated as the northern boundary remained static, on the east lies Bay of Bengal, on the south the north wall of the Fort St. George, and on the west the wall tax road and the central Railway station.

SwamyNaigue was appointed to survey Black Town and assess the house tax. The PeddanaikPettah and MuthialPettah were fashionable settlement till the year 1755. After the purchase of Triplicane, Britishers turned their attention towards south. However, the Progress and development began only from the Black Town region.

So far as the Socio – Economic Condition of Black Town – George Town is concerned, it was a Pluralistic society populated by the Tamils also called as Malabaris, English,Gentoos, the Marathas, Moore, the Armenians, the Jews, the Portugueseof these people theChettis, the Mudaliars were predominant communities. Aasari weavers,Pariars lived in this region.

There was constant dispute among the two factions the Valangai and Idangai People. Sir Thomas Pitt was mainly responsible for the settlement of the dispute. It is to be noted here, this kind of disunity and dispute were the cause for the loss of territory and the Britishers enslaved the Indians.

The company merchants played a vital role in the progress of British trade. Prominent merchants were *SeshadryNaigue, TambuChetty, LingiChetty, SunkuramaChetty, KondiChetty, AngappaNaigue, Errabalu, NainiappaNaigue.* Some of them were involved in scandal and got imprisoned too.

The Britishers for their convenience replaced some of the Hindu temples from the sea shore to inner land. e. g. ChennakesavaPerumal and ChennaMalliswara Temple. Besides, they also helped to erected new temples in Mint Street- Ekambareswara and Tiruvorriyur.
Among the Christians worshipping place the Anderson Church, the Armenian Church and St. Mary’s Church, were erected in Black Town region. The Jews worshipped in the Churches erected by the Portuguese and the Britishers. *The Portuguese and Jews never showed any interest in Politics.*

The Armenians contributed their mite in improving the region, erected a church in the year 1712, which was renovated in 1772 after French devastation. *The Armenians established first school and printing press in this region. They published Magazines and Tamil books too.*

Slave trade was carried out busily from the Black Town region. Certain restrictions were imposed in exporting children and women. Frequent famine led to the establishment of Choultries, e.g. *Monegar Choultry is still functioning opposite to Stanley Medical Hospital.* War and cyclone were the two main reason for the frequent famine.

As far as Education is concerned, Free Schools were opened in this region. The Scavengers carts were replaced for the erection of these schools, land was allotted to the free school.

For the development of Native people, *Pachaiyappa Mudaliar erected a School in Black Town, in 1840 it functions till today with meagre number of Students.* The Pachchayappa’s College was shifted to Poonamalle High Road. The Muthialpet School was one of the oldest School in Black Town region.

*Madras Christian College,* was first as a School, later on it was converted into a college and *shifted to Tambaram in the year 1877.* St. Mary’s School attached with the church. The Don Bosco School in Broadway was also erected by them.

The Madras Medical School, the Stanley Hospital the General Hospital were erected by them. Besides several press were started in Black Town region. The News Papers “The Hindu” and Swadesmitran were first started in Armenian Street. The Madras government Press was established in Mint Street. Missionaries took effort to build school, *S. P. C. K* played a vital role in it.

*Seven Wells* provided Good Drinking water to Fort St. George these wells are located to the north west of Fort St. George. *George Baker* was responsible for the completion of work in 1780. Subsequently, the water supply was bought from Red Hill region. Tax on water was levied by the Britishers. A new canal was excavated from Ennore River. Which was connected with the North River in Black Town. Mr. Hafeck was responsible for the excavation and enjoyed a lease of 45 years, with special privileges.
The Native women contributed endowments to the temple and created trustees for the maintenance of their properties. *The Devadasis stayed near Kachaleswara Temple.* Women also served as porters.

*The Nabob of Walajah had* grounds in Black ground region, which was claimed by her *daughter Nissa Begum*. The Nabobs family visited the Madrasapattinam and remarked as guests of the company and they stayed in Black Town. The first European Women landed in Madras were from Portuguese.

The European Women both married and spinisters arrived in Madras. Their arrival is recorded in the Registers but their subsequent where about are not known or recorded. Some of the European women did improve the Children and Women of European community, they established schools in Black Town and thought them 3 R’S.

As far as Economic condition is Concerned, these Major taxes were collected the *Quit Rent*, the *Scavenger’s Duty*, the land and sea customs regulations. Quit rent was collected on Land, House gardens; topes. Scavenger’s duty was collected for the maintenance of hygiene of the region. The inhabitants had to possess Quit Rent Bill or receipt. If they do not possess it they had to forfeit their property. *The land in Black Town was taken as company’s lands for levying Quit the Black Town region was divided into 15 Pettahs*, the houses, grounds were assessed and reported was houses, ground were assessed and reported was submitted. The total settlement area was measured to *600 yards*. This assessment was made in the year 1802.

Some of the Europeans settled in White Town exchanged their houses in Black Town. Stephen Popham sold out his land. Huts were removed and it was given to the Jews.

Wall Tax, for the erection of Black Town wall was demanded and fixed the tax, and the street was named as wall Tax Road. The pot makers and Brick layers also paid tax.

For collection of all these taxes, a Board of Revenue was created which assessed and collected *Land Customs* and *Sea Customs*. Revenue was also derived from Toddy and Arrack. For an *easy access to customs House, a new Road was laid out*, *peons were appointed* to guard the godowns and catch tax evaders. Bank salls were also created.

So far as coinage is concerned Mint was established at Fort, Late on it was shifted to Chintadripetta, from there it was transferred to the Black Town region. The Britishers issued Star pagodas and Madras Panam and Rupee. Apart from this the
Gold Mohur, Portonovo, and Mysore Pagodas, Silver Dollars and Maratha Rupees were also minted here the Thepperumal Chetty and Lingi Chetty served as the Manager of the Mint.

The Monuments in Black Town – George Town are classified into Hindu, Christian, Muslims and Public building built by the Britishers. Despite the fact, the Hindu Monuments during the modern period it bear the Dravidian Architectures style. The building materials have been changed, they used Brick, mortar and Chunam, stinted glass, teak wood etc.

It was the first business centre established by the British. The first market was started in Black Town the China Bazaar, the Guzili Bazaar provided necessary articles to the people. The shops and factories opened for manufacture of Brewry, Cigar, leather, Pencil, Building materials. Besides several Insurance companies were also opened in this region.

The monuments in Black Town – George Town are classified into Hindu, Christian, Muslims, Public Buildings. The Hindu Monuments erected on the beach line was shifted to interior place, Chennakesava and Chennamalleswara, Ekambareswara Temple. The Right and Left hand people erected temple e.g. Kachchaleswara Temple But these temples bear Hindu architectural features.

The Christian Churches, Basilica, Cathedral bears Indo saracenic architecture. Most of the Christian worshipping place is sepulchre in nature. The building material and position of main deity are different from the native temples.

The public buildings are the Halls, the Bank buildings, High Court and buildings in first line Beach Road. They bear Palladian and Gothic architecture. Since these buildings are occupied and busy all the time, the history of the edifice is given.

The Black Town provided protection to the Whites in Fort St. George. The Fortification was done mainly for the Whites, later on to the Natives. The following organisation and facilities began in Black Town region.

1. North Rampart wall – 1772
2. The Royapuram Railway station 1856
3. The Harbour
4. The Sea Customs – Land Customs Office
5. The Bank of Madras
6. The Choultry Court
7. The Magistrate Court
8. The High Court
9. The Banksals
10. The Armenian Church 1712
11. The General Hospital
12. The Monegar Choultry
13. The Press – The Hindu and Swadesamitran

Despite the fact the British noted that Black Town was a place of unhygienic, unhealthy but everything began only from here. It was the foundation, over which a big empire emerged. Still we remain almost the same, now the region is more congested, thickly populated, and it is a busy business centre, so to say, Black Town was the gateway to the British and colonisation of India.