Acknowledgements

I am much obliged to the University Grants Commission for financially assisting the work by awarding a Junior Research Fellowship to me. Among various institutions whose help I sought, I must acknowledge the assistance rendered by the Jawaharlal Nehru Library, University of Saugar; Kerala University Library, Trivandrum; Public Library, Trivandrum; Kerala State Archives, Trivandrum; Government Secretariat, Trivandrum; United Theological College Library and Church History Archives; Bangalore; Tamil Nadu Archives, Madras; National Archives of India, New Delhi and a number of other institutions.

In the course of my work, a number of scholars put me in their debt: Professor Hiralal Gupta, M.A., D.Phil., suggested the topic; Professor Bajjnath Shama, M.A., Ph.D., was ever helpful whatever the problem facing me; Dr. Girija Shankar Tripathi, M.A., Ph.D., under whose supervision only I could complete the work, my parents and brother for their assistance throughout the various stages of my work.

Though a number of persons assisted me, I must acknowledge the interest and assistance rendered in various ways by Rev. St. Alphonsa Mathalali, Mrs. E. Addiappa, G. Hari Ram Murthi and Valsa Tylkooshil in the completion of this work.