ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This modest study, perhaps the first of its kind by a local researcher on an important minority community of the region, was able to see the light of day due to the cooperation of many persons.

I am deeply indebted to our revered Vice-Chancellor Dr. M. Abel, M.A., Ph.D (California) for his interest and encouragement in me and in my work. He was a great source of inspiration to me.

My thanks are due in no small measure to our beloved Professor and Head of the Department of History, Dr. B.R. Gopal, but for his sustained interest and valuable guidance this work could not have been completed on time.

I am personally grateful to my guide Dr. M.X. Miranda, Reader, Department of History, for the choice of this difficult subject and his painstaking efforts in giving shape to this dissertation.

All members of the Faculty of History deserve my enduring gratitude for their encouragement, suggestions and good wishes in the success of this undertaking.

I have a deep debt of gratitude to Dr. C.J. Nirmal, Professor and Head of the Department of History, Madras
Christian College for initiating me into the mysteries of historical methodology and sparing his precious time over many sessions of discussion.

My special thanks go to Mr. Amarnath R. Dass, of the Sociology Department, Dr. S. Ghousepeeran, Reader, Department of Chemistry, Mr. Sirajuddin of Melvisharam College, Mr. M. A. Hameed, Retired Post-Master, Anantapur, M. M. Masir Ahmed, History Lecturer, M.S.B. College, Anantapur and numerous friends, room mates, fellow scholars who had been of unfailing support to me in this enterprise.

(PATHAULLA KHAN)