PREFACE

Inspite of her glorious past Manipur has failed to receive adequate justice in the hands of historians - Indian or foreign. J. Roy in his book History of Manipur has described the history of Manipur from the beginning of the eighteenth century to the middle of the present century in about one hundred and thirty pages. It is a popular work not based on original sources. In his invaluable work The Eastern Frontier of British India Dr. A.C. Banerjee has thrown some side lights on the history of Manipur till the Treaty of Yandaboo, 1826. Alexander MacKenzie in his North East Frontier of Bengal has described some aspects of the relations of Manipur with the Kachhas or Sootties and the Lushais that settled in the south and the south-west of the State. Likewise, Sir James Johnstone in his My Experiences in Manipur and Naga Hills and Mrs. Grimwood in her My Three Years in Manipur have discussed the political events in Manipur in the eighties of the nineteenth century. The treatment of these authors is sketchy and confined to a few topics over a limited period.

The object of the present work is to describe, in the light of available sources, British relations with Manipur from 1824 to 1891 - from the outbreak of the First Anglo-Burmese War till the establishment of British Paramountcy in this frontier State. It deals with not only the revolts and counter revolts of this period, but also the slow but steady
process in the extension of British influence and ultimately
surrender over Manipur. Incidentally, new light has been
thrown on the problem of the Kabav Valley, on the wars of
succession after Gambhir Singh, the repercussion of the Mutiny
in Manipur and on the Palace Revolution, 1890. In addition to
the relations of the Manipuri Chiefs to the frontier tribes,
the impact of the British on political organisation and socio-
economic life of the Manipuris are also discussed to some ex-
tent in this thesis. The introductory chapter provides the
historical background apart from the geography of the land and
its influence on the people.

The work is based mainly on official documents -
both published and unpublished preserved at the National Archives
of India, West Bengal State Archives and Manipur State Archives
A large number of secondary works and contemporary and semi-
contemporary publications have also been consulted - the text list
of which is appended in the bibliography.

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and Head, Department of History, Gauhati University, for his
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able suggestions for improvements in facts and language - these
are fully and faithfully embodied in the present thesis.

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