INTRODUCTION.

Nothing particular is known at the present state of research about the part played by Raja Tilokchand, the Zamindar of Burdwan, during the battle of Plassey in June, 1757. But it is evident from the subsequent British records that the revenues of the districts of Burdwan and Naddea were mortgaged and assigned over to the Company in January, 1758. Finally, the district of Burdwan along with the districts of Midnapore and Chittagong were ceded over to the Company by Nawab Mir Kasim of Bengal in September, 1760.

The study of the relationship between the Rajas of Burdwan and the East India Company is carried out mostly in revenue matters. The Rajas of Burdwan had practically no political role to play save and except the Rebellion of 1760. The attitudes of the Rajas of Burdwan, as the records reveal, were sluggish. This study may serve as a guide line for relationship between the Company and other zamindars of Bengal.

The study of the history of the district of Burdwan is a regional one; but it is true that Burdwan occupied an important place during the early phase of the British rule in Bengal. The district of Burdwan, in the opinion of Grant, was the most fertile and best cultivated in the Soubah of Bengal. Naturally, all the revenue experiments were first carried out at Burdwan and then observing its consequences, were introduced throughout (contd......)
the rest of Bengal. In this way, during the period of study, Burdwan served as the experimental field of the revenue business to the Company.

So far as the study of materials are concerned, special attention has been given to the records found in the Revenue Record Room of the Burdwan District Collectorate. For the first time, it may be said, these District Records are critically surveyed. These records contain the letters that passed between the Collectors of Burdwan, the Board of Revenue and the Governor-General in Council. These also include a number of petitions made by the different Rajas and Ranas of Burdwan to the Officials of the Company. A close survey of these records have set that these records played an important part in building up the relationship between the Rajas of Burdwan and the East India Company during the period under study.

But it is a matter of great regret that these important and valuable papers were not in a good state of preservation. Most of the papers were wormy and required immediate attention. Any further deterioration in the situation would mean the loss of this important source materials of the Early British Rule in Burdwan.
Relevant papers bearing on the subject of study were also available at the State Archives, Government of West Bengal, Secretariat Library, Writers' Buildings, Calcutta, National Library, Calcutta, Burdwan University Library and the Library of the Calcutta University which have been likewise fully utilised.