FOREWORD

The present work is the result of my strenuous labour of investigation in the different Social aspects of the Assamese people of the Medieval period. The Medieval period, beginning from the 15th century A.D. to the beginning of the 19th century A.D., is indeed a very long and significant period in the History of Assam. During this period, the Assamese Society not only attained a complete shape but also made remarkable progress and development in the different spheres of its national life, such as political, social, economic and cultural. For a systematic analysis and investigation in the subject matter, we have divided the whole work into four parts. They are: Part I - The Introduction, Part II - The Social aspects, Part III - The Economic aspects and Part IV - The Cultural aspects. In the fourth part we are making very limited discussions on two important cultural aspects, viz., Literature and religion, as they have already been thoroughly discussed by other scholars. I have tried my level best to present a complete and true picture of every aspect of the Assamese society of the Medieval period on the basis of genuine evidences by critically examining all the sources as far as possible.

At the outset, I express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. S. N. Sarma, Secretary, University Classes, Gauhati University, under whose supervision and personal care I had the opportunity to carry on my research work, for the invaluable advices and suggestions given to me in writing out this work, in spite of his multifarious works and busy time in the University. It must be acknowledged that late Dr. S.K. Bhuyan, the noted Historian of the State, rendered monumental services to the cause of the Historical and Antiquarian Studies in Assam. It is for his untiring labour that we have got enough sources for any sort of Historical investigation relating to Medieval Assam. I take this opportunity to record my indebtedness to late Dr. Bhuyan. Besides my sources, I have been much helped in my work by the works of the early period, done by my predecessors. I consider it my pleasant duty to mention a few of them, such as the 'Early History of Kamarupa' by K.L. Barua, 'A Cultural History of Assam' by Dr. B.K. Barua and 'The History of the Civilisation of the people of Assam' by Dr. P. C. Choudhury. I take this opportunity to record and to express my thanks to them.
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