PREFACE.

The treaty of Yandabo (1826) effectively checked the Burmese aggression on India's North East Frontier. It made the East India Company not only the master of the valley of the Brahmaputra but also brought them in contact with the petty states and the tribes of the North East frontier. The unfortunate assassination of Raja Gobinda Chandra of Cachar (1830) within a few years of the aforesaid treaty made the English take the charge of that principality. The annexation of Cachar saddled the Company's administration with new responsibilities. The southern border of Cachar touches the fringes of the Lushai Hills and the incorporation of Cachar into British Empire brought the English in close contact with the Lushai-Nukies inhabiting in the immediate neighbourhood of their adjudicated frontier.

No comprehensive and critical analysis has been done so far by any scholar, Indian or foreign, on the history of the Lushais. Alexander Mackenzie's "British connexion with the North East Frontier of Bengal" is the pioneer and authoritative work on the subject. But it is principally a guide book and the learned author has devoted only one chapter on the Lushais. "Lushai Expedition" by Major R.G.Woodthrope gives us a very good account of the Lushai Expeditions but it covers only a fragmentary aspect of Lushai history. A.S.Reid's famous work "The Chin Lushais" covers a wider range but the information supplied by
are almost the repetitions of the earlier authors. Colonel J. Shakespear's "Lushai-Kukie Clan" is a very valuable book on the Lushai customs and sociology but it contains very little historical information. L.W.Shakespear's "History of Assam Rifle" like Woodthrope's covers the military expeditions in the Lushai Hills. But the learned author did not pay any special attention to the Lushais; like Mackenzie he is too-brief. "Chittagong Hill Tract and dwellers therein" by T.H.Levin contains many informations regarding the language and social customs of the Kukies. Inspite of Lewin's unique contribution in framing the Lushai Policy of the British Government the later researches have disclosed many errors of his observations. "British relations with the Hill Tribes of Assam" by Dr. B.C.Chakravorty is indeed a commendable work but he, too, has dealt with the Lushais in one chapter only. The above are the books on the Lushais. Although they contain important source-materials but they do not depict the real history of the Lushais.

An attempt has been made in the present work to depict the political history of the Anglo-Lushai relationship from 1844 to 1904. Both official and unofficial records indicate the beginning of the British connexion with the Lushais from 1844. Captain Blackwood headed the punitive expedition against the Lushai Chief, Lalchukla, in that year and his gun hurled the Company into the affairs of the Lushai Hills. Immediately after the Blackwood's Expedition, Colonel Lister headed another Expedition.
into the Lushai Hills in 1850. Lister apprehended the difficulties of the complete subjugation of the Lushais and recommended a policy of Conciliation which the East India Company and subsequently the Government of India followed till 1870. But the repeated Lushai raids compelled the Viceroy to adopt a Forward Policy. After the Lushai Expedition 1871-72, the spheres of British influence were extended into the Lushai Hills. The annexation of Upper Burma in 1886 wrought a significant change in the politics of North East frontier. From the standpoint of military strategy the annexation of Chin-Lushai country became inevitable. The Chin-Lushai Expedition was sent in 1889-90 and the Lushai Hills was incorporated into the British dominion in 1896. The annexation was followed by serious outbreaks throughout the length and breadth of the Lushai country. The British administration concentrated the whole attention in quelling the rebellion and restored law and order. After that, extension of civilization into the Lushai Hills became the most important task of the Government. This task was crowned with success because of the immense help rendered by the Missionaries. The Lushais were gradually pacified and civilized.

The work closes in 1904 when the British finally demarcated the boundary of the Lushai Hills district after rescinding the earlier treaty in 1870 made by John Edgar with the Lushai Raja Sukpilal. Thus the period under review is the period from the early contact till the consolidation of British rule in the Lushai Hills.
The thesis is primarily based upon the official records available in the National Archives of India, New Delhi and West Bengal State Archives, Calcutta. The materials from the secondary sources have also been exhaustively consulted from the National Library, Calcutta; West Bengal Secretariat library, Calcutta; Library of the National Archives of India, New Delhi; Map Section of the National Archives of India, New Delhi; Library of the Gauhati University and the State Central library, Shillong.

In the preparation of the thesis — which is highly topical because of the recent extraordinary development in the Mizo Hills — assistance of various kinds has been received from the Government and a number of learned men interested in the tribal problem of the North East frontier of India. But the help of Dr. H.K.Barpujari, the Head of the Department of History of the Gauhati University, far exceeds any body's. It was because of his constant help the collection of materials on a highly sensitive topic connected with the frontier became possible by overcoming the insurmountable political difficulties. Thus, in the present work, his function was not merely limited to supervision and guidance but to something more.

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