PREFACE

One day, while chatting with one of his friends, Swami Vivekananda remarked concerning the Vedantic experience of oneness: "How can this be?" Sri Ramakrishna heard this from his room. He came out and then touched Vivekananda and the magic touch of the Master brought a wonderful change over the mind of his disciple. I had found apparently no connection between Hopkins and Bharathi, for the one is known for his obscurity while the other for simplicity of style. But when my revered Research Supervisor highlighted the grounds for a comparative study between these two poets, the feasibility flashed instantly. Many of their poems were found to share thematic and structural similarities. Hence the choice of the topic for a comparative study. My acknowledgements are due to the following:

Dr. N.Natarajan, my Supervisor, for having inseminated the theme of my study, for his invaluable suggestions and able guidance, and for his magnanimity, patience and forbearance.

Dr. P.Balasamy, Professor and Head of the Depart of English, Pondicherry University, for his kindness and encouragement.

All the staff members of the Department of English, Pondicherry University, including the office staff for their goodwill and cooperation.
Dr. P. Kumuda, the Principal of Bharathidasan college for women, Pondicherry, for her kindness and constant enquiry about the progress of the Project.

Mrs. Lalitha Nair, Head of the Department of English Bharathidasan College for Women, for her keen and consistent interest in my welfare, and all my Colleagues in the Department for their goodwill and cooperation.

All my revered Teachers and Colleagues in Kanchimamunivar Post Graduate Study Centre and Tagore Arts college Pondicherry, for their goodwill and encouragement.

Mr.V.Mahalingam, Dr.D.Gnanasekaran, Dr.P.Raja and Dr.V.Ramasamy for their ever-readiness to help me in anything.

The Librarians of Pondicherry University Library, the Bharathidasan College for Women Library, the British Council Library, Madras, Kanchimamunivar Post Graduate Study Centre Library, the Tagore Arts College Library, and the Research Assistant, Mahakavi Bharathiyar Museum and Research Centre, Pondicherry, for their kind cooperation.

My mother, brothers and sisters, and, above all, my wife and children to whom I dedicate the thesis, for their constant support in all my endeavours.