Preface
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In this thesis I have attempted a study of the life and achievements of a dynamic multifaceted Irish lady, who succeeded in laying the foundation of Modern India through cultural rejuvenation. She came to India in 1893 and till her death in 1933 India had been her home. She devoted all her time for social upliftment, amelioration of the women and fervently fighting for Indian Home Rule.

There is hardly any research-based publication focussing upon the selfless work of this noble and distinguished woman. Her 'Memoirs' in the form of books were written by her contemporary friends - Sri Prakasa, C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar, George Arundale, James H. Cousins but all of them have focussed on one aspect of her life and ignored the other aspects. However, these books are not based on all the available source-material in different libraries and archives. My attempt is to make a comprehensive study of her activities from theosophy to nationalism.

I have consulted various sources such as: Private Papers, Oral Transcripts; Government Records and Reports. I have also taken the photographs from the Theosophical Society, International Centre, Madras Museum and Archives.

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