PREFACE.

Consequent upon the award of the Government of India Research Scholarship in Humanities for a period of two years from April 1957 to April 1959, I was able to carry out research on the relationship that existed between Mysore and the Marathas in the 17th century. I am highly thankful to the Government of India for its generous help. My grateful thanks are also due to the authorities of the University of Mysore for having granted me leave for two years.

In preparation of this thesis, I have taken help from several scholars. But the help I have received from Prof. S. Srikantasastri - my teacher for the last ten years - can never be expressed in mere words. I do not know how to thank him adequately for the inspiration he kindled in me in undertaking this work; the keen and sympathetic interest he has evinced in guiding me throughout the work. I can not adequately acknowledge the debt I owe to my beloved teacher Sri V. Raghavendra Rao for his patient revision of my manuscript.

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To the authorities of the Deccan College, Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Poona, Bharatiya Itihasa Samshodak, Mandal, Poona, Kannada Research Institute, Dharwar, thanks are due for generous permission to consult original records and books in their possession when I paid visit to them in December 1953.

A word about the plan of this thesis: The introduction is intended to show the importance of the subject, some neglected aspects and events and several knotty and disputed facts of our History. And it is also intended to show the methods adopted to construct a compact critical study of the Mysore-Maratha relations. The critical survey of the sources at the end of this introductory chapter discusses the character of the materials that I have used in this work. In the second chapter I have discussed the early career of Shahji as well as the rise of Mysore under Raja Wodeyar, Chamaraja Wodeyar, Immadi Raja Wodeyar and Kanthirava Narasaraja Wodeyar with special reference to the declining fortunes of the Aravidu dynasty of the Vijayanagara empire. The succeeding three chapters are devoted to explain the coming of Shahji into Mysore and his relations with the Rajas of Mysore. The sixth chapter describes the various Maratha leaders that were working in south India as Governors and also the celebrated battle of Erode. The next three chapters deal with the influence that Bangalore wielded on young Shivaji, Karnataka expeditions prior to his coronation, the
object of his famous Karnatak expedition of 1677 and his defeat at Srinangapatna by Chikkadevaraja of Mysore. The tenth, eleventh and twelfth chapters detail the governorship of Sambhaji in Mysore, his wars with Chikkadevaraja of Mysore and his end with special reference to the attitude of the Moghals towards south India in general and Mysore in particular. The thirteenth chapter deals with the flight of Rajaram to Gingi and the relationship between the Marathas and Mysore under him. In the concluding chapter I have made an attempt to describe certain outstanding peculiarities of the Marathas and Mysoreans, the summary of the thesis and the lessons that one may learn from such a study.

Another point I want to make clear here is that by Mysore I mean old Mysore which was formed before the reorganisation of States.

As my main object is to view the relation of Mysore and the Marathas from the angle of Kannada sources, I have translated freely all the kannada sources into English and put them in inverted commas. Therefore most of the quotations that are found place in the thesis are my own.

This being a pioneer attempt in this line, I am sure it can be an eye opener to scholars unfamiliar with Kannada Literature.

With due respect and regard, I have taken the liberty of departing from the established theories of several scholars. On the basis of a number of historical evidences, I have arrived at certain conclusions which in my opinion are just, logical and correct. If fresh points of view are given in the notes of opinion by the scholars, with all my respect and gratitude I shall acknowledge and incorporate them in the work if it finds a chance of seeing the limelight of the day.