CONCLUSION

The comparative study of Scott and Kalki builds bridges across the countries. Kalki and Scott are the most lovable figures in all letters as historical novelists representing Tamil Nadu and Great Britain respectively. Scott was the founding father of historic fiction in Great Britain and Kalki was a pioneer in the field of historical novel in Tamil. Kalki belongs to the twentieth century whereas Scott belongs to the nineteenth century. Nationalism and patriotism link Scott and Kalki. Nationalism was the motivating force which impelled Scott and Kalki to write historical novels. Scott wrote historical novels in English at the height of the Romantic Movement in England by dealing with the manners and events of Scotland and England with imaginative faculty for the past in order to highlight the social, political, religious and economic aspect of the life of his motherland in a life-like and realistic manner. Kalki wrote historical novels in Tamil at the peak of Freedom Struggle in India with imaginative faculty for the past with the real intention of inculcating certain values in the minds of the people by dealing with the golden era of Pallavas and Cōlas dynasty in a life and realistic manner. Both of them were popular writers during their time. While Scott was in the height of popularity, his Abbotsford became a Scottish Mecca whereas Kalki led a very simple life by offering his house to Rajaji’s use when he assumed office as Prime Minister of the province.

In the historical novels of Kalki and Scott history is mixed with fiction as a literary hybrid by their imagination. Both of them were endowed with the secrets of the art of story-telling. Their fame rests on their historical romances. They breathed life into dull
facts through their imagination and made the past appear like the present in their historical novels. They revived the glory of their national past and merged their narratives with the actions and passions of their famous historical figures in their historical novels. As great artists they blended facts with fiction and history with romance in a wonderful unity in their historical novels. As great writers and thinkers they think alike and reveal the fact that human nature remains the same anywhere in spite of the rapid historical changes. They exhibited keen interest in the cultural heritage of their respective countries. Both of them were lovers of mankind and admirers of nature. Scott proved himself as an adventurer as well as a dynamic soldier who toiled and moiled throughout his life by producing more than thirty novels apart from publishing biographies and poetry as a national poet. Kalki emerged as a journalist apart from being a short story writer and social novelist by taking part in Freedom Struggle as a freedom fighter. Both of them were called ‘the glutton of books,’. They worked with great zeal and produced world-class historical novels in which they exhibit their patriotic fervour by dealing with the social, political, religious and national crisis of their respective countries.

Kalki takes the readers to the ages of Cōlas and Pallavas of tenth and seventh centuries respectively to reflect the customs, arts, painting, music, dance and cultural life of them in order to give us a real picture of their reigns which are described as the Golden Age of Tamil Nadu and the people of that time led a peaceful and prosperous life. Scott, on the other hand, takes the readers with him to the past and reflects in his historical novels the events such as the Jacobite rising of 1715 and 1745 and the religious struggles between the episcopalists and presbyterians and the political struggle between the Tory
and Whig parties and the conflict among the lords and nobles and impress upon us as a sincere historical novelist as Kalki.

Kalki’s in-depth analysis of history, politics and art and culture of Tamil Nadu during that period of time is indeed remarkable. It was an age of religious revival. Kalki was a genius. Scott was a combination of Shakespeare and Johnson. Both Scot and Kalki treated the historical novel as a work of art. Like Tolstoy both Scott and Kalki raise history to the universal by presenting a panoramic view of human history in their historical novels.

Kalki’s objective in writing historical novel is his love for his motherland and pride in the ideals and achievements of its foremost sons of the historic past whereas Scott’s objective in writing historical novel is to deal with the customs and manners of the Scots as Maria Edgeworth has done for her motherland.

Kalki’s historical novels have a regional base with a national outlook. His fiction is meant to foster nationalism. His mission is to achieve national integration through his historical novels. Kalki used his historical novels as a means of rousing patriotic feelings in his readers. Scott was also a nationalist like Kalki and supported the Union of Scotland with England. Scott wrote his novels with a view to strengthening the integration of Scotland and England as United Kingdom. The vividness with which Scott recreated earlier periods in his fiction actually influenced the writing of historical novels in the nineteenth century. Like Scott Kalki also influenced a number of writers.

Romances and adventures, joys and sufferings, successes and failures make the subject matter of both Scott and Kalki in their historical novels.
Despite the fact that Scott’s novels are known for loose plots some of his novels have organic plots such as The B.L. and W. They are his outstanding triumphs in plot construction. His Scottish novels reflect the manners and social history of Scotland. Construction of plot in Kalki’s historical novels is more compact. So his novels have organic plots.

Scott and Kalki are masters of characterization. Both of them depict a number of historical as well as fictitious characters but there is a great difference in the treatment of their historical characters. Scott gives minor roles to historical characters whereas Kalki gives major roles to historical characters. Scott gives primary importance to fictitious characters whereas Kalki gives primary importance to real characters. Scott deals with the lives of the people of England and Scotland better than Kalki because the fictitious characters of Scott are allowed to mingle themselves with the society. So, there is more scope for Scott to portray the lives of the people realistically.

With various techniques such as the device of disguise and twins and through soliloquy they portray variety of characters. Dialogue is a supreme means for the revelation of character to both of them. Kalki reveals the inward as well as the external life of his historical characters unlike Scott. Their use of symbolic imagery adds to the richness and meaning of their fiction.

Scott depicts popular historical characters such as Queen Elizabeth, Queen Caroline, King Richard I and the Duke of Argyle who was portrayed as the incarnation of the spirit of the Scottish folk. Kalki, on the other hand, portrays the most popular historical characters such as Mahentiravarman and Naracimmavarma, the Emperors of
Pallava Kingdom and Arulmolivarman who later became Rajaraja Cola of Cola kingdom. In spite of Kalki’s portrayal of popular historical characters, Civakami and Ayanar, Nantini and Nakananti and Alwarkatiyan are remarkable fictitious creations and will live in literature so long as mankind exists.

The historical novels of Scott and Kalki show an understanding of fundamental truths of life, the common possessions of humanity, for enriching the lives of the people of various countries irrespective of caste, community, religion and nationality.

Scott was a realist than a romantic. He has a good sense of humour like Kalki. His historical novels have been translated into many European languages and prescribed for study in many universities.

David Daiches observes:

Scott produced a series of novels which both illuminates a particular period and throws light on human character in general. His imagination, his abundant sense of life, his ear for vivid dialogue, his feeling for the striking incident, and that central, healthy sense of the humour of character, added of course, essential qualities to his fiction. But it was his tendency to look at history through character and at character through the history that had worked on it that provided the foundation of his art. (60)

Like Scott Kalki was a colourful personality. With his emergence as a writer the Tamil Literary World witnessed the dawn of a new era. He was a crusader for the renaissance of Tamil culture in art forms. He captivated the hearts of millions of people by his writings. He held sway over the cultural and political affairs of Tamil Nadu and
influenced them in many ways for well over a period of thirty years. He is called 'the Walter Scott of Tamil Nadu'. Arangarasan observes:

Kalki’s three historical novels become virtually the grammar of historical fiction for his successors. Till this day he remains unchallenged as the pioneer in the art of characterisation, choice of historical periods and narrative skill. He had the distinction of blending historical and imaginary characters in perfect agreement with the truth of the story as well as that of history (147).

Age cannot wither the charm of their historical novels nor custom stale their infinite variety. The scholar believes that this comparative study will be a source of inspiration for the prospective research scholars in the field.