Acknowledgements

First of all I humbly place on record my deep sense of thanks to the Almighty God who has all along been showering me his choice blessings and helped me accomplish this great task of research and preparation of the thesis.

The help and guidance that my supervisor, Dr. R. Isaac Jayadhas, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D, Reader in History, Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam, has given me throughout the period of my research and preparation of this thesis was very great and I owe my sincere thanks and gratitude to him.

I also thankfully remember the help and encouragement that Dr. A. Devanesan, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D, Head of the Department of History, Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam, has extended to me throughout my research and preparation of this thesis. I convey my sincere thanks to him.

I make use of this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the Principal of Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam, Dr. N.Gnanadhas, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D., for having allowed me to make use of all the available facilities in the college to pursue my research. I also extend my thanks to Dr. P.Paul Raj, M.B.B.S., M.S., Correspondent of
Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam, for his kindly gestures to me during my research.

When I take note of the help and encouragement that several other people have extended to me during my research and preparation of the thesis, I am overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude. My beloved parents, brother and sister have helped me in several ways during my research and their kindly acts were a source of great inspiration to me. I acknowledge my sincere thanks to them. I also thank Dr. Austin John Manohar, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Mr. Arun George, M.A., M.Phil., Mr. Sundarsingh, M.A., M.Phil., Mr. Albin Dhas, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D., Mrs. Vinoba Gladis, M.A., M.Phil., and Mr. Suresh Kumar, M.A., M.Phil., for their timely help and encouragements. My thanks are also due to Mr. Justin, Assistant Librarian of Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam.

T. Thampi Dharmaraj Kurupatham