This dissertation is a modest attempt to examine the intellectual quest of Samuel Butler, a late Victorian writer and thinker. In course of my studies in the late Victorian period I gathered the impression that Butler as a thinker stood apart from many other leading intellectuals of his age. Religion and science occupied his chief attention which eventually led him to form his theory of panzoism. Shaw highly acclaimed his intellectual contributions; this acclamation rescued him from a state of oblivion and generated a wave of euphoria in him. After the First World War in the context of the fast-changing social norms many of Butler's ideas which were held as eccentric for a long time were found to be prophetically true. His view of family as an institution, his concept of Emergent Evolution (anticipating Shaw's concept of 'Life Force') to replace religion, the problem of the individual as an exile in life, the alarming increase of professionalism and mechanisation of life - all these are problems of the current century and in directing his attention to these problems he reveals his astonishing foresight.
and penetrating intellect. His theory of memory, though outdated by the subsequent findings of biological sciences, pioneered in the field of modern psychological studies. In spite of his criticism of some leading social norms of his time, ultimately he was a conformist. In his anti-Victorianism he ranks with Carlyle, Ruskin and Arnold, but in this field he occupies his own individual position. This ability to transcend the aura left by the other leading intellectuals should not be lost sight of.

In the Introductory Chapter Butler has been linked up with his age in the context of the social ferment that took place during the second half of the Victorian period. The aim and purpose of this dissertation have been stated here. Chapter I is devoted to discussing his intellectual quest as revealed in Erewhon which continues the old concept of Utopia against a changed pattern of society. In Chapter II his scientific books have been touched upon to show his concept of evolution which forms the foundation of his intellectual quest. This quest continues in his writings very systematically and this evolution of his intellect as revealed in The Way of All Flesh, his only novel is shown in Chapter III and Chapter IV.
dealing with *Erewhon Revisited* and Chapter VI with his Notes and Essays, published posthumously, follow up the gradual opening out of his ideas. Chapter VII sums up his position as an artist and as an intellectual. The Section I of the concluding chapter considers the evolution of Butler's style and this, I think, will offer an aesthetic evaluation of his intellectual quest.

I am greatly indebted to the authorities of the National Library, the British Council Library, the Calcutta University Library, the Jadavpur University Library for extending cordial co-operation in making the materials of this study readily available. Thanks are due to Mr. Shibaprasad Mukherji, a Mechanical Engineer in America and Dr. Goutam Sanyal (Bangalore I.I.S.) for sending me some very valuable books and journals from America. Poor availability of essential books and journals is a common problem which has to be encountered and solved by the Indian scholars. But for the generous assistance of Mr. Mukherji and Dr. Sanyal I also had to face the same problem. Thanks are due also to Mr. Saroj Banerjee who typed my dissertation with great sincerity.
Dr. Amalendu Bose, formerly Sir Goorudas Banerjee, Professor of English in the University of Calcutta, my teacher and supervisor, guided me in this project with extraordinary patience. His advice and instructions were more valuable to me than all the critical works I went through. I have neither the ability nor the competence to receive the full impact of his amazing erudition a slice of which has brought the present dissertation to life.

Several references that I have found it necessary to use frequently have been indicated in the text or in the footnote in a shortened form. Thus *Erewhon Revisited* - Samuel Butler, Page & Co., London, 1923 has been indicated briefly as *Erewhon Revisited* - Samuel Butler, 1923. The full details of the titles of the works appear in the Bibliography at the end of the dissertation. To avoid monotony the edition of books consulted is mentioned with the year of publication at the beginning of a chapter. Further references are offered without mention of the year of publication as the edition consulted is the same.

Department of English  
Krishnath College,  
Bermamope,  
West Bengal, India,  
The 1st January, 1984  

Arun Kumar Sarkar