

PREFACE

The title of the present thesis is 'Derozio's Poetry: A Response to Bengal Renaissance'. My aim in this thesis is to provide a systematic, coherent and intelligent study of the different facets of Bengal Renaissance and to show the impact of Bengal Renaissance on the poems of Derozio.

An analysis of the poems of Derozio shows that his poems reflect almost all the characteristic features of Bengal Renaissance. Derozio initiated the struggle against the religious fundamentalism through his poetry. His relentless quest for Truth and Reason is unfolded in literary outputs and other activities. The note of the spirit of patriotism and the ideal of humanism is to be found in Derozio's poetry. He firmly believed that service to man irrespective of caste, colour, creed and religion is of supreme value. In this world man is the ultimate truth.

It can be said that the poems of Derozio are historically important because they are tinged with the characteristic features of the Renaissance movement, e.g., glorification of man, the idea of independence of man, the spread of the frontiers of human knowledge based on reason and truth, the evaluation of love in the true perspective of human relationship, patriotism and humanism. Thus Derozio's poetry stands the taste of time in its appeal to the readers. Being a Eurasian he thought of Indian's misery under the British rule and wanted to bring back an awareness of India's past glory and grandeur.

The present study is an attempt to trace the spirit of Bengal Renaissance in 'The Fakir of Jungheera', in the main, and in other poems of Derozio, in general. The study is submitted as a thesis for the Doctoral Degree to the University of North Bengal.