

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The present work has been taken up as my thesis for the Ph.D. degree of the University of North Bengal as a whole-time U.G.C. Research Fellow attached to the Department of History. I must admit that I have been fortunate enough to work under the encouragement and guidance of Dr. Pranab Kumar Bhattacharyya, Jadunath Sarkar Professor and Head of the Department of History, North Bengal University.

I am also deeply obliged to a large number of scholars and historians including Dr. D.C. Sircar, formerly Carmichael Professor, Calcutta University, Dr. B.N. Mukherjee, Carmichael Professor, Calcutta University, Dr. S.K. Chakraborty, Director, Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal, Dr. Amalendu De, General Secretary, Asiatic Society, Calcutta for their valuable suggestions and help which I received on many occasions. I also express my gratitude to Sri Nirmal Chandra Chowdhury of Jalpaiguri for allowing me to use valuable books and journals of his personal library.

I owe my gratefulness to Mr. S.B. Chowdhury, Librarian, Asiatic Society, Calcutta, Librarian and staff of the National Library, Calcutta for helping me in one way or another.

I wish to record my thanks to many friends who encouraged and helped me during the long period of my research work.

I also owe indebtedness to the members of the Executive Council, University of North Bengal, Mr. B.K.Bajpai, Registrar and Mr. R.K.Ghosh, Deputy Registrar, University of North Bengal, for their kind help in accomplishing the project.

I would also like to thank all staff of the Department of History and University Library, North Bengal University, fellow research workers and Mr. Ranabir Das, Stenographer, University of North Bengal for preparing type-scripts of my monograph.

Lastly, thanks are also due to the authorities of the University of North Bengal and U.G.C. for kindly offering me a Junior Research Fellowship.

30TH JULY, 1982
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL,
DARJEELING.

ICHHIMUDDIN SARKAR