The first connected history of the rise and growth of Calcutta was written by Mr. H. Beverley, C.S., as a part of his Census Report for 1876. In paragraph 109, page 36, of that report, he recommended the future historian of the town to draw for his materials upon the domestic archives of the leading Native families in the town, besides official records and the notices of Eastern travellers. When, therefore, at the instance of the Census Commissioner of India, I was asked last November, by the Deputy Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, to undertake the task of writing a short history of Calcutta, in connection with the Census Report for 1901, I applied to a great many Native Indian families for assistance, besides soliciting the help of Government for the loan of old books, papers and periodicals dealing with ancient Calcutta. While the officers of the Bengal and Imperial Libraries, and other Government officials promptly placed at my disposal all the available books and papers of reference that were requisitioned by me, very few, indeed, of the Indian gentlemen, except my own personal friends or relations, responded, and some even of those that promised help by allowing an inspection of the records in their family libraries, failed to carry out their promise. Consequently, a very small part of the materials upon which the history has been written, happens to be original, the bulk of it being, as the foot-notes will show, grounded upon matter already in print. The works of Beverley, Seton-Kerr, Sandeman, Hyde, Long, Talboys Wheeler, Holwell, Hunter, Millet and several others, including the Bengali writers Sasatri, Basu and Vidyanidhi, have been largely drawn upon. But the greatest help and the largest amount of matter have been obtained from Professor C. R. Wilson and his works. To him my cordial thanks are due for placing at my
disposal much of the original materials upon which Chapter VI is based, particularly for the copy of the translation of the Bainama or deed of sale, by which the English purchased villages Sutanuti, Govindapur and Calcutta, and for the list of rent payments made since the purchase, both of which have thrown a good deal of light on the dim traditions of the Savarna family of Bengal. My acknowledgments are also due to the following members of that family—the Venerable Babu Harish Chandra Ray Chowdry of Barisa; Babu Bijay Krishna Ray Chowdry, B.L., Vakil, Hooghly; Babu Kshirode Chandra Ray Chowdhry, M.A., Head Master, Ravenshaw College, Cuttack; Babus Radha Nath Ray Chowdry, and Binay Krishna Ray Chowdry of Halishar, and Siva Chandra Ray Chowdry of Pannihati and others, for kindly placing at my disposal a great many old records and papers and genealogies of the family. I am also grateful to Mr. Norendra Nath Sen, the Editor of the Indian Mirror for befriending me with the loan of several books, and to several ghatakas including Babu Preo Nath of Kalighat, for comparing the Savarna genealogies with their own hereditary documents, Mr. P. N. Bose, M.Sc. (Edin.). Deputy Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, has kindly overlooked the proof of Chapter I and Mr. E. M. Wheeler, M.A., has similarly looked over the proofs of six other chapters. To both these gentlemen I am greatly indebted for the favour.

Lastly, I need hardly state that, but for the guidance of the Census Commissioner in the early stages, both as to matter and form, the history would scarcely have been written or presented to the public in the form it has finally assumed.

Calcutta
The 30th June, 1902

A. K. Ray