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THE STORY OF
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BY
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P R E F A C E

It was in September, 1869, that I first set foot in Egypt. It was in July of the past year that I last quitted Cairo. During this period of thirty odd years I paid any number of visits to the valley of the Nile, and even during the intervals in which my visits were intermitted I was always in close communication with residents in the country in connection with Egyptian affairs, both political, social, and financial. By the accidents of fortune, I was closely associated with many of the leading personages, English, foreign, and native, who have had to do with the development of Egypt, and I can say with truth that there is scarcely any man of note in Egypt, throughout the last three decades, with whom I have not had more or less intimate, personal relations.

It so happened that the period in question coincides almost exactly in point of time with the course of events which has caused England to become the dominant Power in Egypt. The construction of the Suez Canal compelled England, as Mistress of India, to regard the ascendancy of any European Power in

Egypt as a source of peril to her Empire. The extravagance of Ismail Pasha, and the indebtedness which Egypt, under his reign, contracted abroad, necessitated International intervention by the European creditors. The Arabi mutiny led to the massacres of Alexandria, and to the armed intervention of Great Britain. The campaign, which ended at Tel-el-Kebir, brought about the military occupation of Egypt by British troops. The occupation, which was intended to be temporary, became permanent, owing to the insurrection of the Mahdi in the Soudan. The necessity of rendering Egypt capable of defending herself against external attack and internal disturbance led England to undertake the reorganization of Egypt under British supervision. The system of supervision developed, by the logic of facts, into British administration; and finally the reconquest of the Soudan by the Anglo-Egyptian army converted our nominal control into a virtual Protectorate.

It has seemed to me that a consecutive narrative of the events, which, under the Khedivate, has rendered England the permanent Power in Egypt, has not yet been given. It has seemed to me also that my personal acquaintance with the personages by whom, willingly or unwillingly, consciously or unconsciously, British authority has been made supreme in Egypt, gave me special facilities for writing such a narrative. Whether I have succeeded or failed in giving an intelligible account of a very curious chapter of

Egyptian and British history is a matter not for me but for my readers to decide.

Meanwhile, whatever the decision may be, I wish to express my gratitude for the valuable assistance I have received in the compilation of this narrative from my friends, Lord Cromer, Sir Charles Rivers Wilson, Boghos Pasha Nubar, Artim Pasha, and Charles Royle, the author of the Egyptian military campaigns. I, for my own part, shall be well content if the "Story of the Khedivate" should lead my fellow-countrymen to appreciate more fully than they, perhaps, have done hitherto, the part England has played in the fortunes of a country with which I, after a humble fashion, have been so long and so closely associated.

EDWARD DICEY.

LONDON,
1st January, 1902.

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