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## PREFACE.

THE following pages are the outcome of what may claim to be an intimate acquaintance with Egypt, acquired during a long residence in the Levant and several lengthened visits to the country, made specially within the past three years to collect statistical and other information on the spot. Whatever, therefore, may be their merits or defects, few or none of the latter can be laid at the door of previous writers, who have indeed left me almost a virgin corner in the wide field of book-making on Egypt. The antiquities of the country have been exhaustively described by a hundred pens, from Strabo to the last excellent edition of *Murray's Handbook*; but, in English at least, I know of no systematic attempt to sketch its present material and administrative condition. In German, Messrs. Stephan and Lüttke, in their *Das Heutige Aegypten* and *Aegypten Neue Zeit*, have in part done so, but on very different lines from those of the present volume, and in neither case at all completely up to the date of their publications—respectively five and four years ago—since which, too, the situation has in many respects changed. I may at once, therefore, say that my obligation to these writers is *nil*. In French the case is different. Beside Clot Bey's *Aperçu Général sur l'Egypte*—which, although published forty years ago, contains much that is still instructive—and M. Gallion-Danglar's

*Lettres sur l'Égypte Contemporaine* (1865-75)—reprints containing much that was merely ephemeral, and which necessarily omit the whole of the recent administrative and judicial reforms—De Régney Bey's *Statistique de l'Égypte*, and Dor Bey's *Instruction Publique en Égypte* (1872) and *Statistique des Ecoles Civiles* (1875) are full of information of which I have freely availed myself, though not always adopting M. de Régney's figures up to even his date of writing. But barring these publications and such few others as are acknowledged in foot-notes, my information has been either personally collected at first hand, or has been communicated direct from the best official or private sources. In these latter cases I have spared no pains to collate and, as far as possible, to test the accuracy of the statements received. That the result is in every case exact, I cannot venture to say; but that in all it is approximately so, I have little hesitation in asking the reader to believe.

Besides many minor obligations, my acknowledgments are especially due to Ali Pasha Moubarek, *Mustéshar* of the Ministry of Public Works; to Riaz Pasha, Minister of Public Instruction, and to Dor Bey and Mr. Rogers, Inspector-General and Director of the same Department, for the materials of the chapter on that subject;\* to Mr. Fowler for the admirable map, which, better than any other yet published, depicts Egypt from the Mediterranean to the Equator, and also for much valuable information as to the Barrage and the Soudan railway; to General Marriott for details of the new railway administration; to Mr. Scrivenour and Mr. Caillard for similar information respecting the Customs and Post Office; to

\* This and the chapter on "Slavery" appeared in substance in the February and May numbers of *Fraser's Magazine*

Mr. George and Mr. Douglas Gibbs, for particulars respecting the telegraphs; to Mr. Bartlett, a practical farmer of long local experience, for much of the chapter on Agriculture; to Mr. R. J. Moss, for many details of Alexandrian trade; to M'Killop Pasha, for nearly all I have said about the light-houses; and to Mr. Anderson, for much of my information respecting the Daira sugar factories and other works.

A word in anticipation of a possible objection by my critics: Of the social life of Egypt I have said hardly anything—for the sufficient reason that this has been photographed once for all by Mr. Lane, whose vivid portraiture of the manners and customs of both Arab and Copt is as true still as it was forty years ago. The spread of education and the influence of a much larger European society have effected a few changes, but in the main the native private life of 1877 differs but little, if at all, from that of 1835, and in the *Modern Egyptians* incomparably the best description of it is still to be found.

J. C. M.

Temple, July 2nd.

## PUBLISHERS' NOTE

TO THE NEW EDITION.

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THE occurrences of the last five years have served only to augment the interest and value of this work as a picture of "Egypt as it Is." The reader who wishes to gain accurate information as to the present condition of that country, and the nature and objects of the conflict now raging there, will find the facts essentially necessary to the formation of sound conclusions duly set forth in this volume.

That the prosperity of Egypt and the general welfare of her people has been promoted by the subjection of the government to European intervention there can be no doubt. On the whole, that intervention has been wisely directed, and been the means of delivering the people from many grinding oppressions, and laying the foundations of a better civilization.

But human nature in Egypt is the same that it is elsewhere. The followers of Mahomet do not like to be under the rule of Christians, and the instinct of nationality among them is strong. The native populations revolt at seeing the Khedive under the sway of foreigners, who receive large salaries for administering the government according to European and Christian methods, and they choose to take the risk of whatever evils may result from placing the government again in the hands of native rulers.

The Egyptian instinct of nationality is represented by Arabi Bey, who, if he is less patriotic and noble than his partisans affirm, is certainly not the ruffian and cut-

throat that many too readily suppose him to be. It is impossible not to feel some degree of sympathy with a man, however mistaken he may be, who seeks the deliverance of his country from a foreign yoke.

The questions at issue in the present struggle are exceedingly complicated, and therefore difficult of satisfactory adjustment. The European powers, each one jealous to a greater or less extent of the others, are at cross-purposes and unable to agree upon a common plan of action. England, meanwhile, whose interests are of a more pressing nature than those of the other powers, has undertaken the task of putting down what it calls the rebellion of Arabi Bey and his followers, and restoring the authority of the Khedive, subject only as aforesaid to the suzerainty of the Porte and the intervention of the Powers. She disclaims any wish or intention to conquer the country and annex it to her own Empire, as she doubtless might do if unopposed by the other Powers, but professes to be acting in the interest of Europe and modern civilization, with no purpose of self-aggrandizement.

What will be the outcome, immediate or remote, of the conflict upon which England has entered, it would be idle to predict. That the Suez Canal will be protected for the world's use, in any event, no doubt need be entertained; but what changes may take place in the government of Egypt it is impossible to foresee. Let us hope that, as a consequence of those changes, or in spite of them, the course of civilization and Christianity in the East may be promoted.

August 1, 1882.

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