THE EGYPT OF THE FUTURE

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The Egypt of the future by Edward Dicey

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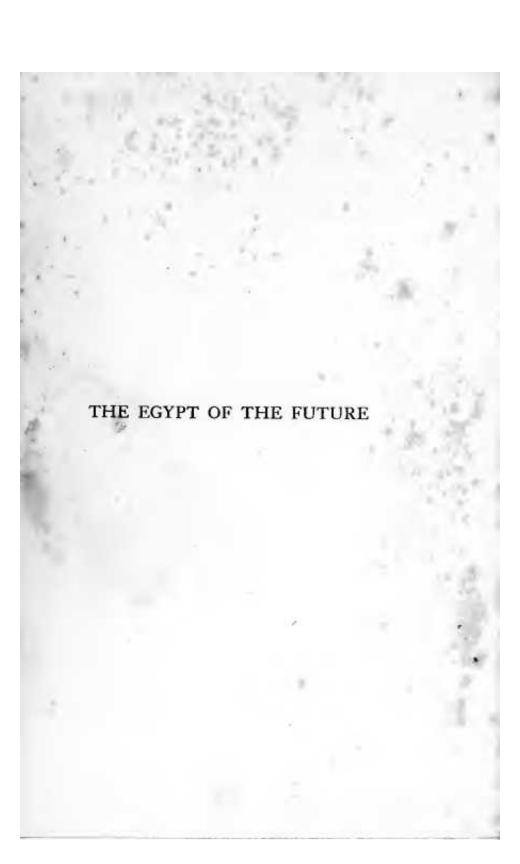
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EDWARD DICEY

THE EGYPT OF THE FUTURE





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THE EGYPT OF THE FUTURE

BY

EDWARD DICEY, C.B.

Author of "Story of the Khedivate"



LONDON
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1907

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THE EGYPT OF THE FUTURE

CHAPTER I

MY RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

In my Story of the Khedivate I endeavoured to narrate the history of Egypt from the day when Mohammed Ali landed in Egypt-as the envoy of the Sultan with a commission from the Porte to restore the authority of Turkey which had been almost reduced to a nullity by the Mamelukes-up to the present time when His Highness Abbas II. rules Egypt, nominally as the vassal of his Suzerain, but in reality as the figurehead of a British administration supported by British troops. My object in the sequel to the Story of the Khedivate, which I have ventured to call The Egypt of the Future, is to direct attention to certain defects in British administration under our Protectorate, and to the policy by which these defects could best be

rectified. Before, however, I can ask my readers to accept my views on the Egypt of the future as worthy of consideration, I deem it well to recall the general character of my relations with Egypt during close upon forty odd years. Let me tell this narrative as briefly and as impartially as is consistent with showing that, for the major portion of my life, I have played a humble part as an interested spectator, though never as an actor, during a very momentous period of history both for my own country and for Egypt.

The first occasion of my coming to the Valley of the Nile was the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869. The glamour of that gorgeous pageant comes back to me as I write, but to dwell upon the lavish hospitality displayed by Ismail Pasha towards his invited guests would lead me too far from my subject to justify me in saying anything beyond the bare statement that the reorganisation of Egypt owes more to the first of the Khedives than to any other man, native or foreigner, living or dead. After Ismail had fallen from his high estate it was the fashion of his critics to denounce him as a fraudulent bankrupt, who had squandered the money of his country in order to gratify his personal vanity