

**FROM CAIRO TO
THE
SOUDAN FRONTIER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649589333

From Cairo to the Soudan Frontier by H. D. Traill

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

H. D. TRAILL

**FROM CAIRO TO
THE
SOUDAN FRONTIER**



FROM CAIRO TO THE
SOUDAN FRONTIER

FROM CAIRO TO THE SOUDAN FRONTIER



BY H. D. TRAILL
LONDON: JOHN LANE
CHICAGO: WAY AND
WILLIAMS MDCCCXCVI

THE HOLLAND LIBRARY

10-10-10

186440

Printed by BALLANTYNE, HANSON & Co.
At the Ballantyne Press

YRABBLI REVOON INT

P R E F A C E

THE sketches here published pretend to no other character than that of a record of impressions derived from a couple of brief tours in Egypt during the winters of 1893-4 and 1895-6. But it is hoped that their interest, such as it is—and some interest can hardly fail to attach to any truthful description of one of the most interesting countries in the world—may have been to some extent enhanced by the events of which the Nile Valley has subsequently become the scene.

I have attempted in these pages to portray to the best of my ability the life and character, the aspect and the manners of

that ancient and unchanging people, for whose destinies England, the last of many great Empires to undertake that duty, has by so strange a series of chances become responsible. At the time when my latest chapters were penned some weeks had yet to pass before the orders were given for the forward movement into the Soudan. But advance was already "in the air." Workmen were busy repairing the iron-plates of the armoured transports at Shel-lâl; signs of unwonted military activity, indefinable but unmistakable, were to be discerned at Wady Halfa; the restlessness of the Dervishes, especially as evidenced by their recent audacious and successful raid on a Nubian river village, well within the line of the English defences, was in all Egyptian mouths. Enough was to be seen to fill the mind of the least expert of civilians with suspicions which it needed only

the obstinate taciturnity of the military authorities to confirm.

Nor apart from these immediate premonitions of a forward movement could even the civilian aforesaid have failed to appreciate the cogency of the standing arguments for an advance. Every league of the Nile Valley from Assuán to Wady Halfa, and every line in the conformation of Wady Halfa itself is eloquent of them. For near two hundred miles of water-way you travel through a land of almost desolation ; often between rocks or desert reaching to the very river brim, never with more than the narrowest ribbon of tilth or herbage interposed between them and the stream. At the end of your journey you come to a so-called frontier "post," which might as well have been anywhere else in the wide wilderness for all that Nature has done to help man strengthen it. Another ten score