

ABDICATION

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Abdication by Edmund Candler

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EDMUND CANDLER

ABDICATION

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BY

EDMUND CANDLER

AUTHOR OF 'SIRI RAM'

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TO
MY WIFE

M712717

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

THE UNVEILING OF LHASA
THE LONG ROAD TO BAGHDAD
THE MANTLE OF THE EAST
ON THE EDGE OF THE WORLD
SIRI RAM: REVOLUTIONIST
ETC.

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ABDICATION

CHAPTER I

THE "HARTAL"

I

RILEY was aware of a perceptible lifting of the heart as he rode through the Mori Gate and left Anglo-India behind him. The frank squalor of the city pleased his eye if not his nose. Thompsonpur was efficient, and logically planned to serve the conveniences of life, but unsatisfying whether viewed by the inward or the outward eye. The barracks, the cupolaed telegraph and post offices, the hideous excrescent cathedral with its slate pepper-box spires, depressed him. The new Public Gardens with their half-grown trees, each bearing a zinc ticket inscribed by some sedulous botanist with its scientific name, made him think of real gardens and real trees; the garish flower-beds of homely herbaceous borders in cool lands; and the thinly sprouting turf, of genuine green lawns. The road beyond was straight and broad; one sighted folk a mile before one met them.

The shops and houses on either side were neither of the East nor of the West. Each was approached by an in-an-out drive, bordered by a clipped, dusty,