

it cannot be relied on as able to control the warrior hordes of Northern Arabia. The tribes which rove between Palestine and the Euphrates reckon their fighting-men by many scores of thousands; a very large number of whom are armed with Martini-Henry and other modern rifles.

For the peace and prosperity of Syria a strong Eastern frontier down the desert is essential. And is Edom to come within this frontier or to be left to the Arab, when the Turk is removed? The last European government which held Western Palestine, that of the Crusaders, found it necessary to build fortresses in the Edomite highlands and to push its arms by that direction as far as the Gulf of Akaba—as the Romans did before it.

All this is enough to make clear that the Power or Powers to whom the political future of Syria falls will have problems before them far more serious than any that Britain has had to solve in Egypt, and quite as heavy as those which gather along the northern and north-western frontiers of the Indian Empire.

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As I write these last paragraphs the news comes in of the liberation of Jerusalem from the Turk on the 9th December by a British force, including troops from all the British Dominions over the seas and Indian Moslems, as well as French and Italian detachments. It was, besides, the very day on which Jews celebrate the anniversary of her deliverance by Judas Maccabeus.

In his solemn entry to the Holy City the British General was accompanied by the attachés of France, Italy, and the United States of America. Guardians were appointed for all the Christian sanctuaries. The Indian Moslems were put in charge of the Mosque of Omar, and the hereditary Moslem custodians of the gates of the Holy Sepulchre were requested to continue their accustomed duties in remembrance of the