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NOTES ON THE REGULATION OF THE RIVER NILE.

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The subject of the regulation of the River Nile is a very large one, and covers so many interesting conditions that not much more can be done than scratch the surface, so to speak. The fascination of Egypt, its history, its ancient civilization, its imperishable monuments, its strange mixture of the old and new, its complex political system, its wonderful climate and great river, all would attract the attention, but the subject must be restricted to some points more directly connected with the engineering questions, which center about the control of the River Nile.

The River Nile has for ages been a river of mystery. Only in recent times has the riddle of its sources been solved, and even yet there is much about it that is still to be discovered. The lower portion of the river, through Egypt proper, has, from earliest times, been well known, and the monuments which still remain testify to the greatness and skill of the ancient civilization.

Since the British occupation a complete transformation has taken place in the state of the country, largely due to the engineering works carried out by the Irrigation Department. The Nile is truly the life-blood of Egypt, and its conservation is the most important question before the country. The earlier efforts of the irrigation engineers have been attended with such success, and have resulted in so much financial profit to the country, that they have at once furnished both the incentive and the means to carry out still greater improvements.

Leaving out much detail, and much that has already been recorded elsewhere, the following notes will give a brief idea of the