

PREFACE

IN my work entitled *Modern Egypt*, which was published in the spring of 1908, I brought the history of Egyptian reforms down to May 1907, at which date I left the country, but the account of the principal political events connected with purely Egyptian, as distinguished from Soudanese, affairs stopped at the date of Tewfik Pasha's death, which occurred on January 7, 1892. I had, at the time of publication, written an account of the events which took place shortly after the accession of Abbas II. to the Khedivate. For reasons which must be obvious to all who are possessed of even a cursory acquaintance with Egyptian affairs, I did not at the time consider it desirable to deal publicly with this period of Egyptian history. The circumstances which militated against publication have now passed away. Owing to the peculiar conditions under which Egypt has been governed since 1882, it was inevitable that the personal character of its ruler should exercise, if not a decisive, at least a