

form of government offered more immediate and certain prospects of success. The Gladstone cabinet would never have consented in any event; and it was opposed to his own desire not to hold the Egyptian people "in any irritating tutelage." He preferred rather that they "should lead their own lives and administer their own government unimpeded by any external anxieties and preoccupations." To secure stability and efficiency in the systems, while preserving all outward control in the hands of the Egyptian officials, Lord Dufferin, therefore, provided European advisers in every branch of the administration, but left all the public positions to be filled by Egyptians. The position of these advisers was extra-legal and they were subject to the control of, and in close touch with, the British Consul-General at Cairo; but the scheme has worked admirably for many years. Their duty was to furnish "sympathetic advice and assistance"; and, in the words of Lord Dufferin some years later, the reformation of Egypt was accomplished "not by what we did, but by what we did not do."

The author of the "Institutions" was firmly convinced that time was essential to the proper development of his system, that the people should be afforded every chance to learn the elements of self-government, and that Great Britain ought to remain in the country until the new régime was on its feet and the people able to take care of themselves. He was undoubtedly right. "Unless they [the Egyptians] are convinced that we intend to shield and foster the system we have established, it will be in vain to expect the timid politicians of the East to identify themselves with its existence. But even this will not be enough. We must also provide that the tasks entrusted to the new political apparatus do not overtax its untried strength. . . . We can hardly consider the work of reorganization complete, or the responsibilities imposed upon us by circumstances

