

horizon of practical politics—and above all, let us have done with cant.”*

Sir Eldon Gorst's report for 1909 was generally interpreted as a confession of failure, his report for 1910 is a defence and apology for that failure. The document has satisfied no one in Egypt, and is condemned alike by the European and native press. It is chiefly blamed for a want of sincerity, for no one can imagine that Sir Eldon Gorst altogether believes what he writes. Both Sir Eldon Gorst and Sir Paul Harvey, the Financial Adviser, write as if the Legislative Council and the General Assembly had the final say in all questions submitted to them. The Financial Adviser deplores the rejection of the Suez Canal Convention which cost Egypt four millions and incidentally gave him and the British Agency a most undeserved snub. But why was the scheme rejected? Simply because we had not the strength or courage to tell the General Assembly that legally their opinion was only consultative, that their advice need not be followed, and that the Egyptian Government would do what was best in the interests of the country.

Our present policy has been tried long enough and has proved a miserable failure. It should be changed. We must either govern Egypt as Egypt was governed in the days of Lord Cromer to the great benefit of the country and its people, or we had far better go.

Sir Eldon Gorst is somewhat unnecessarily severe on his critics. For example, he says:

To abandon the present system because a small section of the population have taken up an attitude of violent hostility to the occupation, and to rule the Egyptians with a “rod of iron” as has been suggested by some whose knowledge of the country and of the difficulties of the situation was to say the least extremely superficial, would be a sad confession of failure.†

Who has suggested to rule with a rod of iron? Surely this term cannot fairly be applied to Lord Cromer's system of government. The country needs a strong consistent Government, and a firm hand at the helm. At present it has neither.

CAIRO. June 1911.

A DWELLER IN EGYPT.

* ‘The Misgovernment of Egypt,’ by Dr. A. J. Butler, *Nineteenth Century*, October, 1910.

† Sir Eldon Gorst's Report, 1910.