

outside the town of Suakin. It may therefore be wise to state exactly what is the disposition of the troops which have to defend Egypt and its visitors from any hypothetical hordes of invading dervishes. Suakin is a port on the Red Sea, which by a fast-sailing steamer can only be reached in eight days from Cairo. It is well fortified and garrisoned by 3000 Egyptian and black soldiers, officered by the British army, who are well able to repel any advances of the Soudanese, and can, if necessary, be strengthened by English troops.

At Wady Halfa, which is eight hundred miles from Cairo, and separated from it by a distance which can only be traversed in ten days by the fastest steamers, there are more than 3000 Egyptian and black soldiers, again commanded by Englishmen. There are also many strong forts, for the English policy is to act entirely on the defensive until the raids of the Soudanese become so impudent that it is absolutely necessary to chastise them, as in August, 1889. At Assouan, I have already said, there are forts manned by 2000 of the Egyptian army. In Cairo and Alexandria there are 3000 English soldiers of all branches of the service, who can be moved to any spot should danger threaten, and can be reinforced from Malta, Gibraltar, Cyprus, or from troops passing through the Suez Canal to or from India. The Soudanese