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LEBANON

IN

HISTORY

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES
TO THE PRESENT

BY

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TO

BAYLY PHILIP WINDER

with the hope that when he is old enough to
read he will find something worth studying
about the native land of "Jiddi", and that
he himself will make a contribution to the
welfare of its people

PREFACE

THIS is a daring attempt to sketch for the first time the meaningful events that have been squeezed through the ages into the area now covered by the Lebanese Republic and to record the achievements and distinctive contributions of the successive peoples who occupied it. In part, if not in full, the area has maintained an individuality of its own conditioned by its mountainous nature, proximity to the sea, Westward orientation and the character of its people. Possible relevance to the contemporary scene and relationship to world events determined what was considered meaningful. Those general events therefore were selected and that part of the past interpreted that were deemed valuable in facing the modern problems of the area and understanding its current happenings, and that were considered important from the standpoint of relationship to world affairs. In their ancient aspects the historic events in themselves are involved with those of Egypt, Babylonia, Assyria, Chaldaea, Persia, Macedonia and Rome; in their medieval aspects with others of the Byzantines, the Arabians and the Moslems; and in modern times with still others of the Ottoman Turks and the French, thus making the story that of a large part of the civilized world in miniature. Nevertheless no period in the long and chequered history of Lebanon — the Phoenician excepted, and that mainly in its relation to the Old Testament — has been adequately treated, least of all the modern period, to which a considerable part of this volume is devoted.

While the material was drawn largely from primary sources, enriched by the results of modern research, the presentation — as in the case of the author's *History of the Arabs* and *History of Syria*, of which this may be considered a companion — was aimed not at the specialist but at the student and general reader. The area is the one in which the author had spent his early days, to which he has since made repeated visits and with whose people he has kept in uninterrupted touch. If it is true that a knowledge of the past is indispensable for understanding the present, it must be equally true that first-hand acquaintance with the present is necessary for full appreciation of the past.

In the interest of brevity and clarity the author has consciously exercised a certain measure of liberty in dealing with controversial and complex episodes. In the footnotes he includes references to books which not only document the text but serve the interest of him who seeks further information. The reference to a book is given in full only the first time it occurs and the book is entered in the index under its author's name. Some books bear the Hijrah date (beginning A.D. 622) of publication.

The Reverend Father J. Franklin Ewing of Fordham University critically reviewed the material dealing with prehistoric times (Chapters IV-V); Professor Robert H. Pfeiffer of Harvard the chapters on the Canaanites (VI-VIII); the late Professor Allen C. Johnson of Princeton the section on the Greco-Roman period (Chapters XI-XVI); and my colleague Lewis V. Thomas the part dealing with the Ottoman period (Chapters XXIV-XXXVI). My sincere thanks are accorded to all these scholars, none of whom should be held responsible for any shortcomings in the material covered. My wife's assistance contributed to the improvement and acceleration of the work. Among other students in my seminar who offered valuable suggestions mention should be made of Caesar Farah, John Joseph, Robert W. Crawford, Ibrahim Abu Lughod, Richard N. Verdery, Norman R. Bennett, Peter B. Edmonds and George T. Scanlon. Through the kind offices of al-Amīr Maurice Shihāb of the department of antiquities of the Lebanese Government, of Professor Dimitri C. Baramki of the archaeological museum of the American University of Beirut and of Dr. George C. Miles of the American Numismatic Society, a number of photos were procured for reproduction in the book.

P. K. H.

April 1956

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