



# **THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE**

**AND OTHER LECTURES**

**ANNIE BESANT**

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**BY  
ANNIE BESANT**

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from India as much as India can learn from you. But the first thing to realise is that you are not conquerors and conquered, but citizens of a common Empire, belonging to one imperial people. And when England recognises that in India, and India feels that she is friend and not only subject, then you will have a bulwark in the Indian people, while without that it will ever be a danger. In the time of your peril India will be your dearest friend, if you will give her sympathy, if you will let her grow into liberty today. But if you hold her back too long, if you will not listen to her reasoning, and cast scorn upon her longing to be free, then in the hour of your danger she will be your greatest enemy; and the nation that, rightly treated, would have been the bulwark of your future, will become a mine full of gunpowder under the foundations of your Empire. And the choice is yours far more than India's. For in your hands is the power, and therefore the responsibility.

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