

General Gordon.

Ab, God, for a man with heart, head, hand, Like some of the simple, great ones gone For-ever and ever by.—TENNYSON.

He is come, he is come, we have seen him Far over the ocean's span; We have seen him a hero in China, And, too, in the wild Soudan—

One of our race—and we glory That one of our race should be So brave, and gentle, and loyal To chivalry's creed as he!

In bloom of his early manhood, The masterful power was seen That he drew from a clan of Scotsmen, Faithful to England's Queen.

Even then in Sebastopol's trenches— Where cannon and grape and shell Ravaged with red wings of slaughter— Wounded yet smiling he fell.

All his promise of youth that budded In so grave, dispirited time, Flashed into generous fullness In Asia's ardent clime:

There, quelled he with "wand of magic," The troublesome "fajping horde"; Thence sowed he the banks of Nilus With love's divinest word.

True soldier, none doubted his courage! Fear fashioned no terrors for one Who trusted his shibboleth, Duty, In shadow as well as in sun; Who ruling Mecca and Ben Naga, Where sepulchred kings once trod, Uplifted the Cross for the Crescent And for Allah, the Christian's God.

Oh, tender and wise and lofty, The heart and the head of the man Who ruled with a quiet spirit, Long years in the wild Soudan, Who gained the faith of the Arab, Till El Mahdi's force to-day, In worshipful fear of the Gordon, Falls silently from his way.

Yes, the man is come, who is simple And great in his earnest life Ever a friend of the friendless, And always a sower of strife— And he it is who lifted, A lone star of truth and right To comfort Egypt's troubles With his swift supplies of light.

If he fall he is still a hero— If he fall he is still the man Who, type of the heavenly ruler, Has walked through the wild Soudan, Touching to calm the fever Of restless Ethiop-foes— Cheering with hope and justice The tortured Moslem's woes. Yet how can he fall, whose valor Is born of a heart so pure That Sir Galahad's tenfold prowess Could never have been more sure? Face to face with the hosts of Satan, Face to face with the enemy's breath, He is victor of all, who is victor Of himself—in life and death.

R. S.

Biographical Sketches.

Following are a few brief sketches of some of the British officers now actively engaged in the campaign on the Soudan:—

COLONEL COVENEY.

Lieut-Col. Coveney, who is also amongst the dead in the recent battle, served with the Black Watch in the second phase of the Ashantee war in 1874, being present at the battle of Ansafu, the capture and destruction of the town of Basquah, the battle of Ordabus and finally the capture of Coomassie, was favorably mentioned in despatches and awarded a medal with a clasp.

COLONEL EYRE.

Lieut-Col. Eyre, of the South Staffordshire regiment, was an officer of 30 years service, having entered the army in August, 1853. He received his majority in 1876, and became Lieut-Col. in July, 1881. He served with the South Staffordshire, then the 38th regiment, through the Crimean campaign, including the siege of Sebastopol, receiving a medal with a clasp as also a Turkish medal. He was also engaged in the Indian campaign, at the assault and capture of Meangunge, seizure and capture of Lucknow and the affairs of Barree and Nugger, receiving likewise for these services a medal and clasp.

SIR CHARLES WILSON.

Col. Sir Charles Wilson, who succeeded to the command of Gen. Stewart's force on the 19th January, has not hitherto been heard of as a combatant officer, by reason of his not having seen any active service until he set foot in Egypt. He was for several years on the ordnance survey in Scotland and Ireland, was, as a subaltern, employed as secretary to Col. (now Gen.) Sir J. E. Hawkins in the making out of the land boundary between our possessions in British North America and the territory of the United States, and was in after years at the war office as director of the topographical department, a post he filled from 1869 to 1876. He was selected for service under the foreign office in 1879, was employed in Turkey and Asia Minor, acted as commissioner for the demarcation of the Servian frontier, and was appointed Council-Gen. of Anatolia, from whence he proceeded to Egypt. After taking part in the campaign of 1882, he was appointed to the head of the intelligence department, and as such accompanied Lord Wolseley's force from Cairo in the autumn of last year.

COL. BRACKENBURY.

Col. Henry Brackenbury, C. B. R. A., who is at present commander of the division advancing to Berber, in place of Gen. Earle, who was shot while storming the heights of El Kibekian, was born at Bolingbroke, Lincolnshire, September 1, 1837, and was educated at Tonbridge, Eton, and Woolwich. He was appointed to the Royal Artillery in April, 1856, and served in the suppression of the Indian Mutiny in 1857-8. Subsequently he was appointed to the staff of the Royal Military Academy at

Woolwich, first as officer for discipline, then as instructor in artillery, and finally as Professor of Military History. He served throughout the Franco-German war as chief representative of the British National Society for aid to sick and wounded in war; receiving the Iron Cross from the Emperor of Germany, and was made officer of the Legion of Honour of the French Government and Knight of the First Class of the Bavarian Order of St. Michael. Being appointed military secretary to Lord Wolseley, he served with him throughout the Ashantee campaign in 1873-74. He served as a member of the special mission to Natal in 1875, was Assistant-Adjutant-General to the Cyprus expeditionary force in 1878, and raised and organized the Cyprus Military Police. In 1879 he accompanied Lord Wolseley to South Africa as military secretary, and later succeeded Sir G. Cooley as chief of the staff in which capacity he served throughout the closing operations of the Zulu war and the campaign against Sekukani. In 1889 he was appointed private secretary to the Viceroy of India, and returned to England with Earl Lytton on his resignation. He was Military Attaché to the British Embassy at Paris from January 1881 to May 1882, when he was appointed Assistant-Under-Secretary for Ireland, to deal with all matters relating to police and crime in that country. He resigned the latter post, however, on July 19th, 1882. He was appointed on the staff of the Nile expedition, and accompanied Lord Wolseley for special service in September last.

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRES.

The first battalion of the South Staffordshire regiment, the 38th Foot, which was also engaged in the battle of El Kibekian, and to which Lieut-Col. P. H. Eyre, slain in the contest, belonged, forms a portion of one of England's finest regiments. The second battalion, or 80th Foot, and the third and fourth battalions, or 1st King's Own Stafford militia, are all stationed at Lichfield. The following ample list of names grace the tattered colors of the regiment, and speak volumes for their achievements: Egypt, Monte Video, Roleia, Vintiera, Corunna, Busac, Badajoz, Salamanca, Vittoria, St. Sebastian, Nive, Peninsula, Ava, Moodkee, Ferozeshah, Sobroon, Pegu, Alma, Inkerman, Sebastopol, Lucknow, Central India, South Africa, 1878-9, and Egypt, 1882. The regiment has always been one of the most successful and popular of the service, and numbers among its ranks some of Britain's bravest men. Lieut. H. C. Freer, adjutant of the military school at St. John's, Que., and Lieut. James Sears, of the military school of St. John, N. B., both hold commissions in the South Staffordshire regiment and only obtained leave previous to the present campaign. Both these gentlemen are graduates from the Royal Military College at Kingston and both served in the previous Egyptian engagements.

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