Field-Marshal Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, K.G.

BY

NANDKUVERBA, C.I.

MAHARANI OF BHAVNAGAR.

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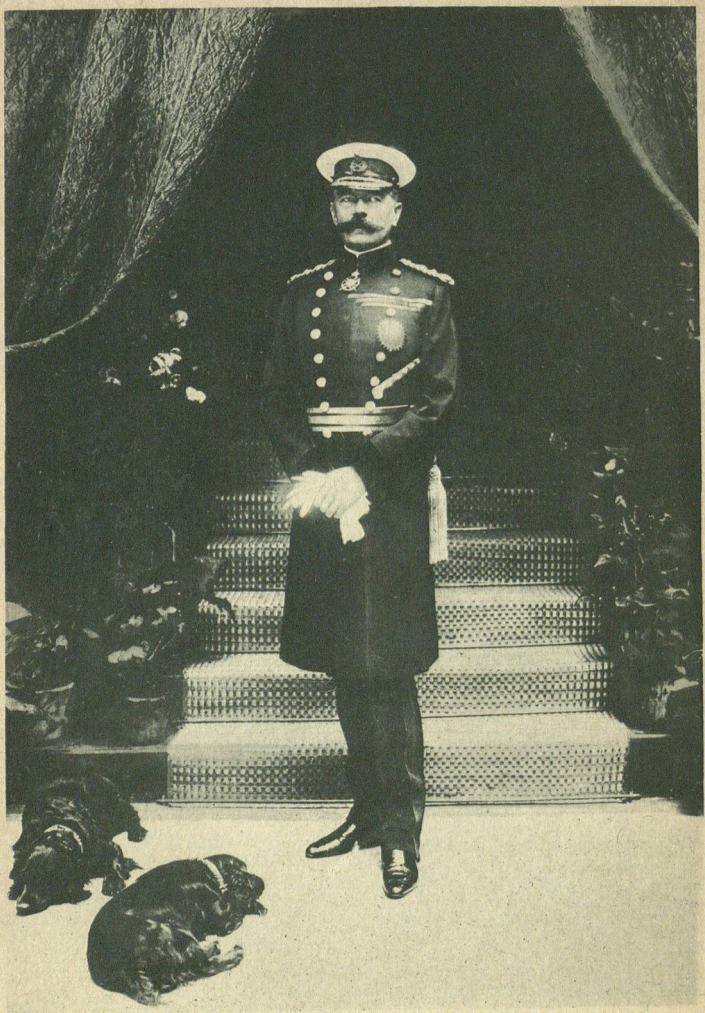

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Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, K.G., G.C.I.E., G.C.S.I.

FIELD-MARSHAL EARL KITCHENER OF KHARTOUM, K.G.

A Tribute to His Memory

BY

NANDKUNVERBA, C.I.,
MAHARANI OF BHAVNAGAR

WITH A FOREWORD BY
THE RIGHT HON. LORD REAY, K.T.

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Foreword

By the Right Honourable Lord Reay, K.T., G.C.S.I, LL.D., etc., etc.

I HAVE great pleasure in inviting all friend s and admirers of the late Field-Marshal Earl Kitchener to read this touching tribute to his memory by Her Highness the Maharani of Bhavnagar.

The fine character of the late Field-Marshal appealed to the King Emperor's Indian as well as to his British subjects.

He wielded a magic wand by which he created a large army in a short space of time. It is an unparalleled feat in the annals of the world.

This expression of sympathy from the Maharani of one of the most important States in Kattiawad will find an echo in the West, as showing that India shares in the joys and sorrows of the British Empire.

REAY.

Laidlawstiel,
Galashiels, N.B.,
November, 1916.

H. H. Nandkuverba, C. I.
Maharani of Bhavnagar.

Preface

HAVING been trained from early childhood in the epic lore of my beloved country, I naturally looked upon the great soldier-statesman of the British Nation and the British Empire as a sort of latter-day Bhishma, the renowned hero of the Mahabharat. We imbibe with our mother's milk a passionate love and admiration for the chivalrous and glorious deeds of heroes and heroines, both of ancient and of modern times. The memory holds these achievements as high ideals, and serves as a fountain from which all our individual strivings after a noble life are nourished and maintained.

I had heard and read a great deal about Lord Kitchener before he paid us the honour of a visit to our Capital. I had imagined him as a stern, impressive and rather forbidding man,

but the reality left me wondering and full of admiration. For I found the hero could bend very gracefully, and had an exceedingly attractive personality.

When the War broke out and he was placed at the head of the War Office, we rejoiced, feeling perfect confidence in the ultimate victory of the British Empire and its Allies, whilst observing the amazing success of his military organization as it developed.

Suddenly the news came of our great loss, and we were plunged in sorrow. The only comfort was that he had already completed the major portion of the work to which he was called by the unanimous voice of the British nation.

Soon afterwards the idea of attempting a short sketch of the life of the great soldier, especially in connection with India, occurred to me. The materials already published were so abundant, that a modest compilation of this character did not present any difficulty. And the result is now before the reader.

Lord Kitchener's incomparable services to his Country, and the thoroughness with

which he discharged the high responsibilities entrusted to him, are the principal traits in his glorious career which I particularly desire to impress upon my countrymen. India will be able to secure a worthy place among the nations of the world only when her sons and daughters are inspired with that spirit and devotion to duty and thoroughness of execution which are the prominent characteristics of the illustrious British General.

NANDKUNVERBA, C.I.,
Maharani of Bhavnagar.

THE PALACE, BHAVNAGAR.
October, 1916.

Earl Kitchener of Khartoum

SO many memoirs and appreciations of Earl Kitchener have been written, both prior and subsequent to his death, that a writer may be expected to assign some reason for adding to their number. The justification I shall claim is that this small tribute is chiefly concerned with the period of his illustrious career which was spent in India, and is written especially for the millions of admirers who will continue to reverence his memory there.

Moreover, Lord Kitchener's administrative work in India falls between two epochs in his life which have more dramatic interests, and make a stronger appeal to the imagination. These epochs are, of course, the Boer War

and the present Armageddon, beside which even his brilliant campaign in the Sudan can make but a subordinate claim. Hence too little justice has been done to the work of organisation and reform in the Indian military system which he carried out with such characteristic thoroughness. These reforms did not escape opposition and criticism at the time they were put into force, and the sharp conflict of opinions between high and responsible authorities on the subject is now a matter of history.

If, however, a defect is to be found in Lord Kitchener's scheme of reconstruction, it would be in the fact that it concentrated too much responsibility on to one pair of shoulders. If those shoulders chanced to belong to a Kitchener, then all would work smoothly, but the burden might well prove too much for the average official capacity. But this is a controversial point which may be left to expert judgment.

The quality of Lord Kitchener's administration which will dominate all others is his unfailing solicitude for every branch of the

Indian Army. He gave personal attention to the smallest details which might improve the condition, pay, and pension of the individual soldier, and in these directions he achieved conspicuous and lasting successes. Even if there be any ground for that grotesque legend that "East is East and West is West, and never the two can meet," it may at least be said of him that he has helped to bring the point of contact closer. To him must be mainly given the credit that so early in the great war India was able and anxious to equip and send her best troops to the Western front and to Egypt and Gallipoli. To his direct initiative also was due the ready permission given for these troops to take their place beside their fellow subjects of Great Britain and the Empire, and to fight against a European foe on Europeon soil—an event historically unique, and one which has made a profound impression on Indian sentiment, embodying as it does the principal of equality within the Empire, and promising in the future a broad development of political and military privileges for the people of India.

To have originated and forged such a link of sympathy and understanding between the peoples of the King-Emperor's dominions—so separated by blood, creed, and tradition—would in itself entitle Lord Kitchener to a place among the great Empire builders.

I should like here to correct a misconception to the effect that the masses of the Indian population are indifferent to the progress of the war. My own personal experience is quite at variance with this impression. From the first outbreak of the war it has been my practice to publish a journal in Guzerati, of which thousands of copies are distributed gratis all over India and amongst Indian troops. This periodical has given a regular chronicle of the chief military operations in the different theatres of the struggle, and continues to be appreciated by its countless readers, which fact, added to the numerous evidences of the keen interest taken by the whole people of India, proves that the charge of indifference alluded to above is not justified.

Early Days

I HAVE already said that this little volume is chiefly devoted to those years which Lord Kitchener spent in India as Commander-in-Chief of the Army. Nevertheless, it is necessary in the interest of continuity and of a proper understanding of a great genius that some brief record should be made of the experiences and events which went to the moulding of his character and to developing those qualities which won for him a permanent place in the Empire's military history. It is impossible to obtain a right perspective of a remarkable personality and a remarkable career by concentrating upon a single episode.

As was fitting, Lord Kitchener came of military stock, and was born on June 24th,

1850. Contrary to the popular belief, he inherited no Irish blood, although his birthplace was near Tralee, in Ireland. His family was East Anglian on both sides. The unique powers of organisation he developed were in a lesser degree shared with his father, Col. Kitchener, who worked miracles with the Irish estates he purchased, thus showing what an agricultural paradise the Distressful Isle might become under systematic and scientific culture.

Of our hero's three brothers two followed the profession of arms, and rose to some distinction. The eldest, Henry Elliott, who succeeds to the title, saw actual service in Burma and with the Manipur Field Force before he was given command at Jamaica of the West Indies Depot; the youngest, General Sir F. W. Kitchener, rendered distinguished service in Egypt, Afghanistan, throughout the Boer War, and in India. He then became Governor of Bermuda, and died in 1912.

The family remained in Ireland until the education of the four boys became a press-

ing consideration. Colonel Kitchener then decided that foreign languages should be amongst the equipments for his sons' careers, and accordingly sent them to school in France. How much this decision contributed to shaping the future of Herbert Kitchener will be seen in the context. These French associations continued when school-days had given place to Woolwich, for after the death of his wife in 1864, Colonel Kitchener married a second time, a lady whose fondness for France led him to settle at Dinan, in Brittany, where the boys regularly spent their holidays.

The manner of Earl Kitchener's first practical experience of warfare was as romantic as it was characteristic of his strong self-reliance. He was still a gentleman cadet when the Franco-German War was in full swing. It was during one of his sojourns at Dinan that he decided entirely on his own responsibility, and without consulting his superiors, to join the French Army. His choice fell upon the Second Army of the Loire, under General Chanzy, a chaotic

force of gallant but undisciplined men, without leadership or organisation.

The young Kitchener saw nothing of the futile fighting or of the disastrous retreat in a blizzard, for he was put into a reserve battalion stationed at Laval, and there he contracted pneumonia, an attack which not only put an end to his military career in France, but nearly to the profession of soldiering altogether, for his escapade meant disobedience to the authorities at Woolwich, who were disposed to regard the offence gravely. However, the culprit was finally forgiven, and thus was saved to the British Empire one of her greatest commanders.

We may, however, believe that this brief and seemingly purposeless experience had an important influence in developing young Kitchener's passion for thoroughness and patient preparation. For Chanzy's army was a pitiable example of make-shift organisation. There was confusion everywhere. The railways were congested with empty trucks, and the supplies for feeding the troops were not forthcoming. In these circumstances all

pretence of discipline went by the board, and it was a disorderly, famished, frozen mob that fell back before the King of Prussia's legions.

The lesson was a grim one for a temperament naturally disposed towards orderliness and efficiency, and this early glimpse of the penalties of incompetence and *laissez-faire* may have accounted for much of that severity with which he regarded slackness on the part of those subordinate to him, and which earned him a reputation for hardness which so many of his other qualities contradicted.

Exploration in the Near East

AFTER leaving Woolwich, Kitchener was given a commission in the Royal Engineers, and made a special study of field telegraphy. He was not long content, however, to pursue the daily monotony of regimental duties, but looked about him for an opportunity of widening his knowledge of men and affairs. His choice fell upon an opening which, on the face of it, did not promise to advance him in his military vocation. It was to join a surveying party under the auspices of the Palestine Exploration Fund, a work which occupied him for four years, during which he obtained a profound insight into the mentality of the Turk and the Arab, and made himself proficient in their languages—acquirements which were to serve him well in the next twenty-five years. At this juncture it is

interesting to quote a description of the young explorer as he impressed one of his colleagues. M. Clermont Ganneau, the well-known French archæologist :—

". . . . Kitchener was 'a good fellow' in the acceptance of the word. Tall, slim, vigorous, dark-haired, he was clearly of the Irish type. [As we have seen, this was an error of M. Ganneau.] One felt him capable of headstrong acts; indeed, he showed visible signs of the 'hammering' that many Irishmen get on coming into the world. . . . A frank and most outspoken character, with recesses of winsome frankness. . . . His high spirits and cheerfulness formed an agreeable contrast to the serious, grave characters of some of his comrades. . . . Kitchener's ardour for his work astonished us. He drew up excellent maps, but he did not confine himself to cartographic labours. Gradually he began to take an interest in archæological discoveries, and acquired in these matters a marked proficiency. The more important of his researches dealt with the synagogues of Galilee."

The work, however, was not always of the placid order associated with the life of the archæologist. It was the time of the Russo-Turkish War, and Moslem fanaticism was stirred to its depths. On several occasions the party were in grave danger from turbulent mobs, and at others were threatened with privations through native opposition. From the same causes their labours were delayed and sometimes spoilt. The records show that Kitchener was always to the fore in surmounting these difficulties.

His next appointment was of a more ambitious nature. As a result of the Berlin Congress, Great Britain was given the occupation of Cyprus, and so favourably had he impressed the authorities by his work in Palestine that he was chosen to make a survey of the whole area of the island. He went to Cyprus in 1878, and in the early stage of his residence there he first came in contact with Lord Wolseley, then Sir Garnet Wolseley and Lord High Commissioner of the Island. Preferment came rapidly to Kitchener. An alternative system of admin-

istration had to be submitted for the old Turkish régime, and to him was entrusted the task of devising a scheme of equitable land courts. This responsible undertaking he carried through with conspicuous success.

From Cyprus Kitchener passed to Anatolia, in the capacity of Vice-Consul to Sir Charles Wilson, who had been appointed British Consul-General. The chief duties there consisted of relieving the destitution of the masses of refugees whom the ravages of the Russo-Turkish War had driven into the province. He again added both to his laurels and to that ever-widening knowledge of the East which explains so much his brilliant achievements in that sphere to which he was about to pass, and with which his name will be indelibly connected—Egypt.

Egypt and the Sudan

AT the time of Kitchener's arrival in Egypt the situation offered boundless opportunities for the ambitious soldier to win distinction. The country was very unsettled, following the deposition of the Khedive in 1879, and the substitution of his son Tewfik on the throne, under the joint suzerainty of England and France. The Egyptians had not become accustomed to the intervention of a foreign power in their internal affairs, and nothing in their previous experience had led them to expect that such a control could be exercised for their good. The accumulated resentment at length broke out in the Arabic rebellion of 1882. As Major of Egyptian Cavalry, Major Kitchener, for that was the rank to which he had attained, was present at Kassassin and at Tel-el-Kebir, which was followed by the

complete suppression of the rising. Then arose the problem of making Egypt self-reliant from a military standpoint. Such native troops as there were, mainly composed of the miserable, down-trodden Fellaheen, could not be trusted to face well-organised forces, nor was expert opinion sanguine of their ever becoming useful in actual warfare. So, on the recommendation of the great Marquis of Dufferin, 12,000 British troops were left in occupation. Still, the attempt to form the nucleus of an Egyptian army had to be made, and Sir Evelyn Wood was chosen for the seemingly thankless task. He entered on his duties, however, with the advantage of confidence in his future success. Like all wise generals, he paid careful attention to the selection of his staff, and amongst the various appointments was that of Kitchener as second in command of the cavalry.

But a higher mission was reserved for our hero than the parade ground and the riding school. The Mahdi, Mahomed Ahmed of Dongola, was already a power and terror in

the Sudan. With the annihilation of Hicks Pasha's army, there remained no force capable of resisting him, and the fear of his savage vengeance spread to the borders of Egypt. Then followed the tragedy of Gordon, and the futile and belated attempts to save him. The details are two well-known to need recapitulation. Whilst some of these events were taking place, Kitchener was back in Palestine pursuing his archæological discoveries, this time in the Sinai Peninsula with Professor Hull's party. But reports of the dramatic happenings in the Sudan reached him, and the call was too strong to be resisted. With only four Arab attendants he started by a new route to Ismailia, in the beginning of 1884. He arrived at his distination about the time that Gordon had reached Khartoum. He was soon master of the complicated situation, and bringing into practical use his mastery of native tongues and knowledge of the Arab character.

This phase of Kitchener's career contains all the elements of an enthralling romance.

For one thing he was acting on his own responsibility, and was dependent upon his own resource. He took his life in his hands, and it is told of him (with what truth cannot be ascertained) that he always carried poison with him in order that if he were taken prisoner he might at least be spared the tortures which preceded death.

Realising all the risks he was incurring, he yet ventured alone and in disguise into the enemy's camps, listening to the conversations of the Mahdi's followers and observing the strength and positions of the different forces. On one occasion a Dervish, wandering into the Egyptian lines came under suspicion of being a spy. Attempts to question and to bribe him failed to elicit a word from him, and it was assumed that he was deaf and dumb. Then a second suspicious interloper was brought in, and in a similar manner refused to speak. Soon after they were placed in safe custody a third Dervish was taken prisoner and placed with the other two. Then from the tent in which they were imprisoned rose a babel of voices in a

language unknown to the guards, and later the last comer emerged. It was Kitchener, but so perfectly made up for the part that no one had penetrated his disguise. In the tent he had discovered that his two companions were spies. They were promptly shot and buried.

Confidence was soon restored among certain of the bordering tribes, and with their assistance Kitchener was able to form extended links of communication. A most important addition to these was the Mudir of Dongola, whom Kitchener had visited by forced marches, accompanied only by a bodyguard of a few Arabs. The Mudir's co-operation was more than neutral, for in the September of that year he inflicted a signal defeat upon the Mahdi.

Kitchener spared no effort to keep in touch with Gordon at Khartoum, but many of his communications failed to reach their destination. This failure may account for the irritability of some of Gordon's references to him and to the Intelligence Service generally; nevertheless, in his journal was found the following testimony: "If Kitchener would

take the place, he would be the best man to put in as Governor-General." And on another page of the journal is pasted the estimate cut from a letter written by Baker Pasha: "The man whom I have always placed my hopes upon, Major Kitchener, R.E., who is one of the few *very superior* British officers with a cool and good head and a hard constitution, combined with untiring energy, has now pushed up to Dongola and has proved that the Mudir is dependable."

If Kitchener had been allowed to develop his plans unbrokenly to their intended conclusion, the drama of Khartoum might have had another ending, but he was summoned to Korti, and was thus prevented from taking part in the victory of Abu Klea. By January Khartoum had been taken, and Gordon and all he had protected were dead. To Kitchener, however, was left the satisfaction of taking vengeance on his murderers. The story of the laborious patience and thoroughness with which he planned and accomplished this errand requires a section to itself.

hygienic precautions on the part of the Dutch inmates.

The struggle was long and protracted, but the issue was never in doubt. The block-house system had destroyed the mobility of the commandos, and this deprived them of their one element of superiority over their adversaries. Peace negotiations, indeed, had been opened shortly after the accession of King Edward VII., and a year later the Boer leaders were on several occasions discussing terms under a flag of truce. Then in May, 1902, De Wet, with five other delegates, went to Pretoria to treat with Lord Milner.

Of the enemy commanders Lord Kitchener was thus able to speak in his final despatch: "I feel that a tribute of respect is due to those of the Boer leaders who, facing privation and danger at the head of their commandos up to the very last moment, have at length been manly enough to bow to the inevitable, and far-seeing enough to accept the terms accorded by His Majesty's Government. The spirit of conciliation which marked the concluding negotiations induce a hope

that the agreement just signed will lead, at an early date, to a final reconciliation between the British and Dutch races in South Africa."

Once again he showed his high capacity as a statesman and a conciliator, on the eve of his departure from Cape Town, to receive the honours awaiting him from his august Sovereign and his countrymen. On that occasion he said:—

"Now that peace is come I urgently urge you to put aside all racial feeling. Boer and Britain alike have had the horrors of war brought home to them. They have had a good fight, and have shaken hands over it, and now they are working as one man to set right the disasters that occurred during the struggle."

Truly a sage prophecy of that United South Africa which, thirteen years later, was to send the best of her blood, British and Boer, to fight for the solidarity of the Empire!

Freeing the Sudan

SO far all the attempts to crush the Mahdi had been made by flying columns, marked by brilliant achievements at times and by no little success. But the results had been ephemeral. As soon as the columns had retired the old conditions were resumed. To Kitchener's methodical brain this practice seemed to be a waste of lives and money. The desert must be conquered before a permanent blow could be struck at the stronghold of Mahdism, and the task meant years of preparation and forbearance. He was not, however, permitted to set his plans in train without an interval. During a visit to England his services were recognised by the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and then he was sent to Zanzibar as Boundary Commissioner.

Meanwhile, the Mahdi had died at Omdurman, and was succeeded by a still more evil tyrant, the Khalifa, who took advantage of the respite to spread death and desolation over the Sudan. It was not until the late summer of 1886 that Kitchener was given his chance. He was appointed Governor of Suakim, and proceeded to strengthen that place as a rallying-point for all the well-affected tribes. The confidence of these he won by scrupulously fair dealings, and the subsidies he received from Egypt helped him to extend his influence. By this means he was enabled to inflict a considerable defeat upon the notorious Osman Digna, although that able leader lived to retrieve his lost prestige. It was in the course of one of his operations against Osman that Kitchener received a severe wound in the jaw and neck, which necessitated first a visit to Cairo and then a return to England on sick leave.

During the absence of his formidable adversary, Osman Digna swept the country to such an extent that an organised campaign had to be instituted against him. Kitchener,

back at his post with the rank of Colonel, was given the command of the 1st Brigade of Sudanese native troops, splendid fighting material and thoroughly disciplined under the enemy's fire. With this force the neighbourhood of Suakim was cleared of the raiders and commerce was restored. Then followed, in the summer of 1889, the heavy defeat of the Dervishes at the battle of Toski, in recognition of which Kitchener was made a Companion of the Bath. The power of Mahdism was broken for the time being.

Kitchener was now free to put in hand his far-reaching plans for delivering the Sudan finally from the scourge which had ravaged that unhappy region for so long. He had calculated the years which must pass before those plans could bear full fruit, the long exile in the desert, and the many disappointments and misunderstandings which must hamper and delay his work. But it was not in his nature to be daunted or discouraged by the dismal warnings of others. He had his scheme clear before him, and did not doubt the ultimate success. So self-reliant and

purposeful was he that he infected all around him with the spirit of conquest.

The first foe to be overcome was the desert. An army attempting to cross that waterless waste had to carry all the necessities of life with it. All supplies had to be forwarded from the base, and a single break-down in the system of communications might mean the collapse of a whole expedition from lack of water. Hence the best that could be done in the past to free the Sudan from a fiendish despotism were those brilliant dashes into the desert which provided only a temporary respite for the subject tribes. Kitchener saw that the only solution was a railway, a permanent artery that could be fed whilst it was being extended. He stood almost alone in the conviction that such a line was a practicable proposition. Apart from the natural difficulties, there were the risks of raids, of sandstorms, and of subsidences. All these mishaps occurred, and the work of months had to be begun over again.

The prophets of evil took full credit for the fulfilment of their dark predictions, but,

unperturbed, Kitchener went on his way. Nevertheless, the undertaking would have broken any man with less iron nerves than he possessed. Not only had five hundred miles of line to be laid and often relaid, but the very human material for carrying out the work had to be trained from the beginning. Then the army for whom the railway was being built had to be formed out of the most primitive elements. Nearly sixteen years were occupied in collecting, drilling, and equipping a force of eighteen thousand troops who could be trusted to stand firm under fire. All these labours did not go unnoticed. In 1892 Kitchener, who was until then Adjutant-General of the Egyptian Army, was appointed Sirdar, and in the same year received the honour of Knighthood, being created a K.C.M.G.

As the railway proceeded, Sir Herbert, as he may now be styled, was able to settle the country through which it proceeded. Thus the Dongola Expedition, in 1892, was successful in driving the Dervishes out of that province, and of clearing the way for an

advance on Berber. These operations, however, owed as much to the perfect Intelligence Service as to the railway, and the disciplined qualities of the troops, for Kitchener had his system of secret emissaries in constant communication with him all along the route he meant to follow, as far as the Khalifa's last stronghold at Omdurman.

The small army was to go through one more serious ordeal before the crowning blow could be delivered. From Berber stretched an arid waste for a hundred and fifty miles to the Atbara, wherein no timber broke the scene of desolation. Every detail of construction had, therefore, to come by the single line, together with supplies, accoutrements, and gunboats in section for the Nile. Everything was brought under the vigilant survey of the Sirdar. It is said that during the weeks preceding the battle of the Atbara he completed in forty hours an inspection covering 350 miles. His trouble even then was a scarcity of troops, for portions of his army had to be distributed for garrison duty in the areas he had already reduced to

submission, and to cut off every avenue of escape for the enemy from the cordon he was drawing around him. How well he had chosen his staff may be guaged by some of the names—famous in later military annals—who served under him. There was Wingate, Hunter, Maxwell, Gatacre, and Hector Macdonald, to mention only the more conspicuous.

Steevens, perhaps the most brilliant genius who ever wrote war despatches, has left his vivid description of the motley force which was bearing down upon the Khalifa's zariba in the spring of 1898:—

"All England and all Egypt, and the flower of the black lands beyond, Birmingham, and the West Highlands, the half-regenerate children of the earth's earliest civilization, and grinning savages from the uttermost swamps of Equatoria, muscle and machinery, lord and larrikin, Baliol and Board School, the Sirdar's brain and the camel's back—all welded into one, the awful war machine went forward into action."

And it was no wild, untrained horde that

awaited them. All accounts of the battle bear witness to the fine discipline and courage of the Khalifa's troops, even when in retreat. But they met more than their match in the composite force opposed to them. Those sixteen years of preparation had borne good fruit. The Sudanese were expected to bear the test of a set battle very well; the fear was that they could not be kept in hand in sight of the enemy. But the surprise was the steadiness of the Egyptian Brigade, led by Lewis, who behaved like veterans under a heavy fire and rushed the zariba at the point of the bayonet, when the order to charge was given, with an orderly impetuosity which the best European troops could hardly excel.

The result was decisive. All the Emirs were slain, together with some three thousand Dervishes, and the only line of retreat for the rest was a thirty miles stretch of waterless desert, harassed the while by the fire of the gunboats, so completely had the Sirdar prepared for all emergencies. And that man of steel, how did he accept the triumph of

those long weary years of laborious spade work? This is how an eye-witness pictures him in that moment of exaltation: "His blue eyes sparkled, his movements were alert, he laughed, even shouted for joy, he shook hands with all and sundry; and the sudden relief of the great strain revealed the man of iron nerves as a man with a human heart." Who shall say after that Kitchener had no emotions?

But an incident of that corpse-strewn field all but cut short a great career which was even then in its beginning. Unexploded Dervish shells littered the burning ground at a spot where the Sirdar had drawn rein; almost as soon as he had ridden on these took fire and burst. How the chances of life make history!

The Fall of Omdurman

OMDURMAN was the last refuge of the Khalifa. Had he elected to fly from the Metropolis of his hideous dominion he would have been utterly discredited in the eyes of his followers, and would inevitably have been assassinated. Only by a victory could he retain his prestige; defeat meant certain death. Hence the fierce fanatical courage with which the fifty thousand Dervishes, at his command, fought on that second day of September, 1898, and hence the terrible toll of life they paid—the official estimate of their losses being 11,000 killed, 16,000 wounded, and 4,000 prisoners.

The Anglo-Egyptian forces were made up of two infantry divisions, one British cavalry regiment, and ten Egyptian mounted

squadrons. In addition, there were British and Egyptian artillery and two siege guns, together with several companies of camel corps. Six gunboats assisted from the Nile. One of the outstanding features of the battle was the superb charge of the 21st Lancers; nor was the Egyptian cavalry, under Broadwood, less distinguished in their containing movement against a large force of Dervishes who had secretly taken up a position on the Kerreri Heights.

The victory was complete. The Khalifa fled further into the interior, a broken and discredited fugitive. Thus, at the age of forty-eight, Kitchener found himself world-famous and recognised as one of the greatest military organisers of the day. He received a peerage, and an enthusiastic national welcome on his home-coming.

Much remained, however, to be done in order to consolidate the results of the campaign. Swarms of fanatics surged into Omdurman, and stern martial law was necessary to protect the lives of Europeans. It was characteristic of Lord Kitchener that he

ignored personal danger and rode into the seething town quite unconcerned.

Gordon's name was honoured by a memorial service among the ruins of his palace across the river in Khartoum, a ceremony which was as touching to those taking part in it as it was impressive to the vast concourse of spectators.

But Kitchener was not satisfied with this tribute to the hero-martyr of Khartoum. He at once turned his energies to providing a permament monument to his memory, and, moreover, one which should be identified for all time with the qualities of peace, progress, and enlightenment which Gordon tried so ardently and so unselfishly to foster in that dark region. At the time the population of the Sudan was computed to be between three and four millions, and to be in a state of barbarous ignorance. As long as it remained in this condition, the Sudan could never be made a useful and prosperous adjunct to Egypt, but would remain a source of weakness and of peril. Here was the opportunity of Gordon's avenger.

The Gordon Memorial College

THE scheme which developed in Lord Kitchener's mind was to make Khartoum, the scene of Gordon's martyrdom, a centre from which should radiate the light of education and a higher standard of civilisation. The scheme was to take the form of a Gordon Memorial College, at which the sons of chiefs and heads of districts and villages should receive the foundations of learning and culture. The system was to be one of steady growth and expansion, beginning with the elementary acquirements of knowledge and instruction in the English language. As the organisation advanced students would be trained in those technical arts suitable to the opening up of new trades and industries in a tropical region. The professors and teachers were to be, in the earlier stages at least, of

British birth, and the institution was to be under the immediate authority of the Governor-General of the Sudan. There was to be absolute religious toleration.

Kitchener foresaw that the one obstacle to the realisation of his plan might be the financial problem. He estimated that the initial outlay would require £100,000, and he doubted if the British public, to whom he was hesitating to apply, could be induced to raise so large an amount. He little realised the magic of the name of the conqueror of the Sudan. At last, however, he was persuaded by influential friends to make the attempt, and he issued a lengthy appeal setting forth the merits of his proposal both in their practical and sentimental aspects. One quotation will suffice to indicate the Imperial importance he attached to the conquered area:—

"That region [the Sudan] now lies in the pathway of our Empire, and a numerous population has become practically dependent upon the men of our race. Henceforth a responsible task is laid upon us, and those

who have conquered are called upon to civilise. In fact, the work interrupted since the death of Gordon must be resumed. It is with this conviction that I venture to lay before you a proposal which, if it meet with the approval and support of the British public and of the English-speaking race, would prove of inestimable benefit to the Sudan and to Africa."

The response to his appeal exceeded the expectations of the most sanguine supporters of the scheme. In all, £120,000 was subscribed, and the donations came from all classes of the British public. It had also a sympathetic reception from India, where many states, I am happy to say, including my own, gave contributions. Kitchener laid the foundation stone in the opening month of 1899, and was able to return from South Africa to Khartoum in time to open the Memorial College towards the end of 1902.

Following the battle of Omdurman, there is only one other episode of Lord Kitchener's work in Equatorial Africa upon which I shall dwell. This was the famous encounter with

LORD KITCHENER GREETING INDIAN OFFICERS, HAMPTON COURT, AT TIME OF CORONATION (JUNE, 1911).

Captain Marchand at Fashoda. Marchand had come from the French Congo to occupy this post on the White Nile as far back as 1907. He had ostensibly been engaged upon a tour of exploration, but, according to his own statement, he had been ordered to remain at this strategic point, and to keep the French flag flying over the fort.

The situation was a delicate one. If the French were allowed to retain possession of Fashoda the whole framework of British influence in Africa would have to be altered and modified; if the Captain was forcibly ejected, the incident might mean a rupture between the two great Western Powers. Those were the days before the Entente Cordiale, and held no promise of the close ties of friendship cemented by the blood of the best of the two nations in a united cause.

Kitchener, however, was not the man to be daunted by grave contingencies. He put a force of two thousand men on board of ten steamers and arrived at Fashoda. The two commanders met on the deck of the Sirdar's boat and greeted each other with cordiality.

Then they proceeded to discuss the business in hand. Marchand refused to retire or to be conveyed back by the British steamers, insisting that he must await the orders of his Government. The Sirdar, on his part, was courteous, but adamant. The conversation has been preserved by Marchand himself, and terminated in the following quaint climax:—

"We are the stronger," Kitchener remarked, after his leisurely survey.

"Only a fight can settle that," was Marchand's reply.

"Right you are," was the Englishman's reply. "Come along, let's have a whiskey and soda."

News of a change of Government in Paris happily gave Marchand a reason for retiring gracefully and without injury to his *amour propre*. His bravery, indeed, could not have been impugned in any circumstances, for his feat of having penetrated so far through hostile provinces with a tiny force, and suffering every form of privation during a journey of two years, deserves to stand among the great

achievements of exploration. But for the fall of the Khalifa he and his party must surely have been massacred, and, as it fell out, he could hardly have retired without British aid.

It will be appropriate to give here Captain, now General, Marchand's post-mortem appreciation of Lord Kitchener :—

" What a death, what a magnificent death ! It was the apotheosis of his life, of all his splendid work. He created those grand armies of yours, all that great mass of material and supplies, and the whole of your heavy artillery. And, most wonderful feat of all, he raised the staff to manage and control them. That was a marvellous achievement. I have always admired him, and I am proud to think that I was once in a sense the adversary of such a man."

South Africa

I SHALL commence my narrative of the protracted struggle with the Dutch Republics in South Africa at the point at which Lord Kitchener was appointed Chief of Staff to Field-Marshal Lord Roberts. The previous course of the war, with its reverses, its miscalculations, and its disillusionments, are too well-known to need recapitulation, and they have only an indirect relation to my theme.

One curious fact about the appointment was that, despite our hero's brilliant achievements in the Sudan, there were some who shook their heads and predicted that his past experience would be quite opposed to the tactics required under the climatic and topographical conditions of South Africa. The same critics raised similar objections when he

was made Secretary of State for War in 1914. Then they alleged that inasmuch as he had never conducted a campaign in Europe he was quite unfitted for the post—a defect, albeit, which applied equally to every military leader the Empire possessed! So little was Kitchener appreciated at the beginning of the South African trouble that he was sent to Egypt again. But to the open discontent amongst his subordinates his only remark was: "Have patience. We shall all be wanted there before long."

The general situation was not encouraging when Lord Kitchener landed at Cape Town. The long trial of strength had left the British Army jaded and dispirited. The whole military machine was out of gear, and the new Chief of Staff had to overhaul it from top to bottom. He set about his herculean task with such vigour and thoroughness that not only was there a constant service of supplies and ammunition to enable the Commander-in-Chief to execute his dash upon Pretoria, but fresh vitality was infused into the fighting forces. Someone on the

spot truly designated him as the personification of distilled vigour.

The scene began to change in a little more than two months after his arrival. Kimberley was relieved by Roberts, and Cronje made an unconditional surrender at Paardeberg. Then followed in quick succession the relief of Ladysmith and Mafeking, and the taking of Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, and Pretoria. The Dutch Republics were annexed, and Kruger was an outlaw. The arm-chair critics pronounced that the war was over. And, indeed, even the authorities were so much impressed by this opinion that Lord Roberts was permitted to retire, and Kitchener was given the supreme command.

It was one thing to drive the Boers from their principal towns, but quite another to entrap their elusive commandos on the open veldt. A new style of warfare was unfolded to British troops, and the text-books had nothing to teach their officers of how to cope with a foe who was invisible until the moment of his own choosing for driving in a flank blow. In consequence plans had to be altered

to suit the ever-changing conditions; orders were being constantly cancelled, and columns marched and counter-marched without apparent result. The guerrilla bands vanished into space, only to come on again when the conditions were favourable for attack. It was disheartening work, and there seemed to be no end in sight.

Then the whole population—old men, women, and children—seemed to be in league with the commandos. Every farm-house was a trap for the unwary, and the Boer leaders were kept informed of every movement of the British troops. The problem of feeding the women and children, moreover, was left to Kitchener to solve. Hence were established the much-abused concentration camps, which, whatever may have been their defects, were a merciful alternative to leaving helpless civilians to starve. And it is only fair to say that independent witnesses, Boer inspectors, and committees of medical women, reported favourably upon the provisions made for these camps. The mortality in them was mainly due to measles, and to the lack of

hygienic precautions on the part of the Dutch inmates.

The struggle was long and protracted, but the issue was never in doubt. The block-house system had destroyed the mobility of the commandos, and this deprived them of their one element of superiority over their adversaries. Peace negotiations, indeed, had been opened shortly after the accession of King Edward VII., and a year later the Boer leaders were on several occasions discussing terms under a flag of truce. Then in May, 1902, De Wet, with five other delegates, went to Pretoria to treat with Lord Milner.

Of the enemy commanders Lord Kitchener was thus able to speak in his final despatch: "I feel that a tribute of respect is due to those of the Boer leaders who, facing privation and danger at the head of their commandos up to the very last moment, have at length been manly enough to bow to the inevitable, and far-seeing enough to accept the terms accorded by His Majesty's Government. The spirit of conciliation which marked the concluding negotiations induce a hope

that the agreement just signed will lead, at an early date, to a final reconciliation between the British and Dutch races in South Africa."

Once again he showed his high capacity as a statesman and a conciliator, on the eve of his departure from Cape Town, to receive the honours awaiting him from his august Sovereign and his countrymen. On that occasion he said:—

"Now that peace is come I urgently urge you to put aside all racial feeling. Boer and Britain alike have had the horrors of war brought home to them. They have had a good fight, and have shaken hands over it, and now they are working as one man to set right the disasters that occurred during the struggle."

Truly a sage prophecy of that United South Africa which, thirteen years later, was to send the best of her blood, British and Boer, to fight for the solidarity of the Empire!

The Home Coming

KITCHENER arrived in London on July 12th, 1902, and was given a public reception which might have turned the head of any ordinary hero. King Edward was only just convalescent from the illness which had delayed the Coronation, so the national idol was met at Paddington by the Prince of Wales (now our revered King-Emperor, George V.), the Duke of Connaught, and Lord Roberts, who had just completed his fifty years of military service. He was received later at Buckingham Palace by his Royal master, and invested with the new Order of Merit. Subsequently he was promoted to the full rank of General; was created Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum, of the Vaal in the Colony of the Transvaal, and of Aspall in the county of Suffolk. Parliament passed a special vote of thanks to him, and made a grant of £50,000.

India and Army Reform

IN a life so closely associated with the chief events which have made Imperial history for the last thirty years, it is unavoidable that some phases should suffer by comparison with the more dramatic qualities of others. This has been the fate of that period of seven years which Lord Kitchener spent in India. Had that period stood alone, had it represented the chief work of his public career, what he accomplished in army reform would have been sufficient to give him a permanent place among the line of illustrious statesmen and soldiers who have shaped the destiny of the Indian Army. Many a great reputation has been founded on less.

It was, however, purely work of reconstruction, of bringing an obsolete system up to date, of breaking down old prejudices, and of fighting against tenacious jealousies. These are solid achievements which make no appeal

to popular applause, nor can they be comprehended by the multitude. The benefits they confer are not directly apparent, and by the time they manifest themselves they have become accepted as the established order of things, and the régime they have supplanted has been forgotten.

For these and other reasons Kitchener's sojourn in India does not lend itself to picturesque treatment like the conquest of the Sudan or the chase of De Wet. A battle with red-tape may be a greater test of character and endurance than the winning of a military campaign; it may call for greater powers of strategy and self-command. But the credit and renown must necessarily be limited. The conquest of bureaucracy is a thankless victory. It makes enemies of the very class which can best appreciate the technical merits of the success. Such was the record of those years from 1902 to 1909.

Having been convinced that the existing conditions needed to be refashioned, Kitchener set about his task with a characteristic disregard for the obstacles he would have to

surmount. And he was supported in his policy in turn by a Conservative and a Liberal Secretary of State for War, Lord Midleton, then Mr. Brodrick, and Lord Haldane.

Before proceeding with our narrative, I shall briefly sketch the system of divided control which Kitchener sought to replace by a system which gives the Commander-in-Chief the final executive authority. The bone of contention was the existence of of a Military Member of the Viceroy's Council which was a survival of the days when the military administration of India was distributed between the three great Presidencies of Bengal, Bombay, and Madras. The connecting link between these separate armies and separate commands was the Military Member who was usually a soldier himself, but was not invariably required to hold any martial rank. When the three armies were merged into one under the authority of the Commander-in-Chief the post of Military Member was retained, and it was within the power of this official to veto an order of the head of

the army by means of the final judgment of the Governor-General.

This divided control had been found irksome by many of Kitchener's predecessors. To him it was unbearable, and he was determined to break down a condition of things which weaker men had found it expedient to suffer under protest. Nor was he unconscious of the stubborn resistance he would have to face in fighting an officialdom which had been too strong for even such a veteran warrior as Napier. He saw plainly the struggle that was before him, but preferred, rather than follow the line of least resistance, to vindicate the illustrious traditions and dignity of the office he had elected to take up. That he was not actuated by trivial considerations of personal pride, but felt the subservience of the Commander-in-Chief to the opinion or caprice of an inferior official to be not only humiliating but to be prejudicial to the best interests of the service, is shown in his own account of the position as recorded by the author of "*Deeds that won the Empire.*" He said:—

"I gave one set of instructions to a General upon a certain subject, and the Military Member of the Council gave him another set of instructions on the same subject, and perhaps the unhappy officer did nothing!

"I am responsible for the efficiency of the army in India, but without opportunity of explaining my own plans to the supreme authority; they have to be filtered through the lips of another military officer. There is no question as to the right of the Government of India to decide finally on questions of policy; the civil power is, of course, supreme. All I contend for is that it must be adequately informed as to the plans which I, as the responsible expert it employs, think necessary for the efficiency of the army.

"There has been much talk of a design on my part to set up a military autocracy; nothing can be more untrue. But I must work under conditions which enable me to discharge the trust put into my hands by the Civil Government, and one of these conditions is that I must be allowed to put adequately

and personally my own plans before the Government to which I am responsible."

The keynote of Kitchener's new system was personal responsibility. Hitherto duties had been so split up that it was an easy matter to pass on liabilities for errors to some one else. Henceforth the administration and dispositions of the service were to be such as to render them always in a state of preparedness for war. A redistribution of the forces was the first measure undertaken.

Individual efficiency was insisted upon in all commissioned grades from the Chief of Staff to the youngest subaltern. The heads of the divisions were under as sharp a supervision as their subordinates. How much importance Kitchener attached to perfect co-ordination, sympathy, and understanding between the rank and file and their leaders is seen in the following extract from one of his Army Orders :—

"Troops must be accustomed to regard their generals not necassarily as hostile critics, always on the look-out for something to find fault with, but as their trusted leaders

LORD KITCHENER ENTERING THE KHEDIVE'S STAGE COACH, ALEXANDRIA.

in war, their instructors in peace, and at all times their ready helpers, able and willing to promote their welfare and to spare no effort to increase their preparedness for the stress of active service. To be regarded as leaders, generals must be competent to lead ; to be accepted as instructors, their professional knowledge must be undoubted; and this entails upon them the obligation of increasing study and of constant practical application. In this way alone can they properly prepare their troops for war, and at the same time so train themselves as to be able adequately to discharge the great responsibilities which will devolve upon them when called upon to command in the field."

The Staff College at Quetta was the outcome of this insistence upon personal efficiency. But it was not only with the commissioned ranks that Kitchener was concerned. He was especially solicitous for the status and well-being of the humblest trooper. I may take, as an instance, the case of the Sepoys. Their pay was uniformly raised, as was also their kit money. Boot money was

given, and the clothing regulations were improved, and the scale of pensions was increased, thus attracting a better type of recruit to the service.

All this meticulous care not only made for higher efficiency, but for a better spirit throughout all sections of the army.

In carrying out his great work of reform, Lord Kitchener always acknowledged the assistance and loyal co-operation he received from the feudatory princes of India. With their aid he was enabled to extend the scope within which he could draw upon the warlike races of India for recruits, such as the Rajputs, the Gurkha, the Sikhs, the Jats, the Mahrattas, &c. Then a better supply system of arms, ammunition, and personal equipment was ensured by the establishment of factories at accessible centres.

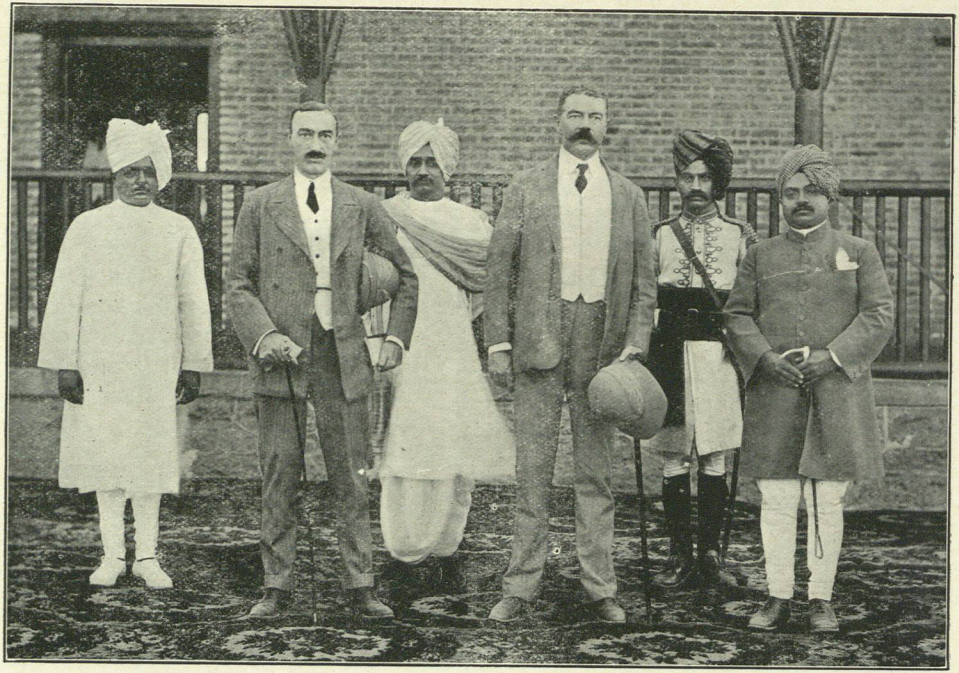
I have said enough of Lord Kitchener's administrative work to indicate how fundamental and far-reaching it was, and shall now pass on to a few of the more personal incidents which marked his career in India. One of these involved great personal risk, and might

well have had fatal consequences. On a certain November evening in 1903, he had been visiting a country house some miles from Simla, and was riding back unaccompanied. He had to pass a point at which the road passed through a short tunnel, and it was here that his horse, taking fright at a passing labourer, broke away and dashed his rider's leg against the side of the tunnel. Both bones were broken, and Lord Kitchener was thrown from the saddle, the horse bolting.

The labourer, terrified by what had happened, also took to flight, and the illustrious sufferer was left there helpless. Later, however, the fugitive related the alarming experience he had gone through to some other labourers, and their curiosity led them to inspect the scene of it themselves; but when they found that no other than the Commander-in-Chief himself lay there they, too, fled lest they might be implicated in the accident. Finally, Kitchener was able to attract the attention of some other men, who, fortunately, were carrying an empty rickshaw, and in this he was borne back to Simla.

Basing its estimates of Lord Kitchener's temperaments upon the conventional portrayals of him as a harsh martinet, absorbed in his professional duties, Indian Society did not expect much from him as a social figure. Contrary, however, to all expectations, he entered fully into the festivities to which he was invited, and himself entertained on a liberal scale. On several occasions he was the honoured guest at the courts of feudatory princes, and invariably showed a sympathetic interest in the States and people they ruled. As a characteristic example of his courtesy and kindliness on these occasions, I may quote an account of his visit to my husband's territory in the year 1908, which is officially recorded as follows :—

" Bhavnagar had the privilege of a visit from His Excellency General Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum, G.C.B., G.M., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., R.E., Commander-in-Chief in India. His Excellency, who was accompanied by Mr. Hill, the Agent to the Governor, Kathiawad, Colonel Birdwood, his Military Secretary, and Captains Wylly and



LORD KITCHENER AT BHAVNAGAR WITH H.H. THE MAHRAJA BHVSINHJEE.

Basset, his Aides-de-Camp, arrived by special train on the morning of 15th November, and was received at the station by His Highness with all the honours befitting his exalted rank. During the day formal visits were exchanged between His Excellency and His Highness under the usual ceremonies. In the evening the distinguished guest was taken for a drive round the town, and witnessed several places of interest such as the Majiraj Chhatri, the old Darbargadh, Sir Takhtsinhji Hospital, and the Takhteshwar Mahadev Temple. His Excellency very much admired the wood-carving of the Darbargadh.

"At 8.30 p.m. the illustrious guest was entertained at a banquet which was held in a spacious Shamiana specially erected for the occasion in the Albert Victor Square.

"After dinner was over, His Highness in proposing the Royal toast said: 'It is a source of pride and gratification to the Princes and Chiefs of India to know that His Majesty cherishes the same deep and sympathetic interest in their welfare as animated his august and revered mother, of

beloved memory, throughout her long and benign reign. The Royal Message which His Majesty has recently addressed to India, graciously reiterating and confirming the historic proclamation of 1858—the Magna Carta of the Princes and peoples of this country—has penetrated to the innermost recesses of their hearts, and has redoubled their traditional feelings of loyalty and devotion to His Majesty's throne and person. I trust and believe that His Majesty will, during his reign, which we pray will be long and eventful, have the satisfaction of winning the rapid advance of this country in civilisation and contentment, and of enjoying the devoted affection of the vast Empire over which he has been called by Providence to rule.'

"The next toast given was that of Her Majesty the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal family, which His Highness did in these words:—'The catholic sympathies and benevolence of Her Imperial Majesty the Queen have made her name a household word in the

British Empire, in every part of which she is beloved and honoured. During their recent visit to this country Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales won the affection of prince and peasant alike, and we rejoice to know that the interest they then conceived for India remains unabated in their crowded life in England.'

"His Highness then proposed the health of the honoured guest of the evening as follows:—

"'I am sure you will all join heartily with me in drinking to the health and prosperity of my illustrious and honoured guest, Lord Kitchener, whom I am proud to welcome to Bhavnagar. His Excellency's fame, both as a soldier and as an administrator, is so wide that I will not tire him with a long speech in his presence. But it is impossible to withstand the temptation of making passing reference to His Excellency's achievements upon the arduous field of South Africa—achievements which gave one more proof, if proof were needed, of the unconquerable stubbornness of British arms and of the invincible determination and courage of the

British Army, and which won for His Excellency a high place in that brilliant galaxy of soldier-statesmen who have earned the proud distinction of makers of the British Empire.

"'Indeed, the memory of those achievements is particularly dear to me because they were part of a campaign which afforded me an opportunity of testifying, in a tangible manner, my loyal attachment to the British Empire. Humble as my contribution to that great army was, it sprang from a feeling of deep loyalty and devotion to the British Raj —sentiments which I treasure as priceless heirlooms of the State of Bhavnagar. They came to me in unbroken succession from my ancestors, whose friendly intercourse with the Paramount Power—and this the Rulers of Bhavnagar always remember with a sense of pardonable pride—dates back to a period long anterior to the time when the British Government first set foot on the soil of this part of the country. They were warmed by the alliance as early as the eighteenth century, when the forces of Bhavnagar

marched side by side with those of the British Government to extirpate the pirates who then infested the coast of Kathiawad. It is my passionate desire to bequeath them to my successors not only intact, but strengthened since they were inherited by me.

"'There is yet another reason why Your Excellency's South African successes appeal especially to me because they remind me how a Kote-Daffedar of my regiment of Lancers succeeded in winning your good opinion so far as to be singled out for service as your orderly, and in that capacity to accompany you to England. This I esteem an honour not only to that officer, but also to my State. It will no doubt interest Your Excellency to learn that Hanubhai received from my State special recognition of his services, including a grant of Inam land, and that he has since risen to the rank of Risaldar in the regiment. May I express a hope that another opportunity arising, the three hundred Rajputs of my contingent, whom Your Excellency will inspect to-morrow, may have the privilege of fighting for His Majesty's

Government, side by side with the mighty army under Your Excellency's command.

"'Let me turn from matters military to a question which is deeply engaging the attention of all right-thinking people at this moment; I refer, of course, to the tendency towards acts of anarchy and violence which have of late become noticeable in some parts of the country. I need hardly say that I view these acts with detestation and abhorrence; I regard them as the emanations of a few misguided and perhaps unhinged brains. No man in full possession of his senses can believe that violence and crime can do the least good to this or any other country. On the contrary, we know that, if unchecked, they are bound to do inestimable mischief. For, although the traditional liberalty of the British Government will not permit them to be vindictive, the suppression of disorder involves the diversion of energy from the work of stimulating the progress of the country, and the passions unleashed by the organisation of political crime sap the foundations of intellectual, moral, and political

growth. We, in the native States, are fortunate in that this hateful disease has failed to penetrate our territories, where the people are given to more peaceful and profitable pursuits, and where "King is God on Earth" is their sacred motto. Nevertheless, we shall rejoice at the eradication of an evil un-Indian in its origin, baleful in its fruits.

"'Let me not, however, dwell unduly upon what is only a phase in Indian life. Let me rather express my profound satisfaction at the renewal in His Majesty's gracious message of those pledges which are the splendid foundations of British rule in India, and the declaration of a liberal policy which holds out remarkable possibilities of progress to this country. Peace is the cornerstone of progress. We owe internal peace to the British Raj; we owe freedom from foreign aggression to the glorious army of which Your Excellency is the distinguished head. Your Excellency, may I express my intense pleasure at being afforded this opportunity of making your personal acquaintance, and you,

Mr. Hill, and gentlemen, I will ask to join me in pledging my honoured guest, Lord Kitchener.' (Applause.)

"After the toast had been enthusiastically responded to, His Excellency replied to the following effect :—

"'Your Highness, I am much obliged to you for the kind words in which you have proposed my health, and you, gentlemen, for the cordial manner in which you have accepted it. It has given me great pleasure to visit your interesting State, and I have to thank you for the hospitality and hospitable treatment which you have given me and my Staff. The Chiefs of Bhavnagar have always been known for their sincere loyalty to the British Raj, and I am glad your Highness is imbued with the same high sentiments as your ancestors. I am also glad that that detestable spirit of violence has not penetrated in your State, and that any symptoms of crime meet with prompt suppression at Your Highness' hands. I remember the horses and men you sent to help the British Army in South Africa. They were very

useful to me, and I am glad Dafedar Hanubhai is still doing good service.

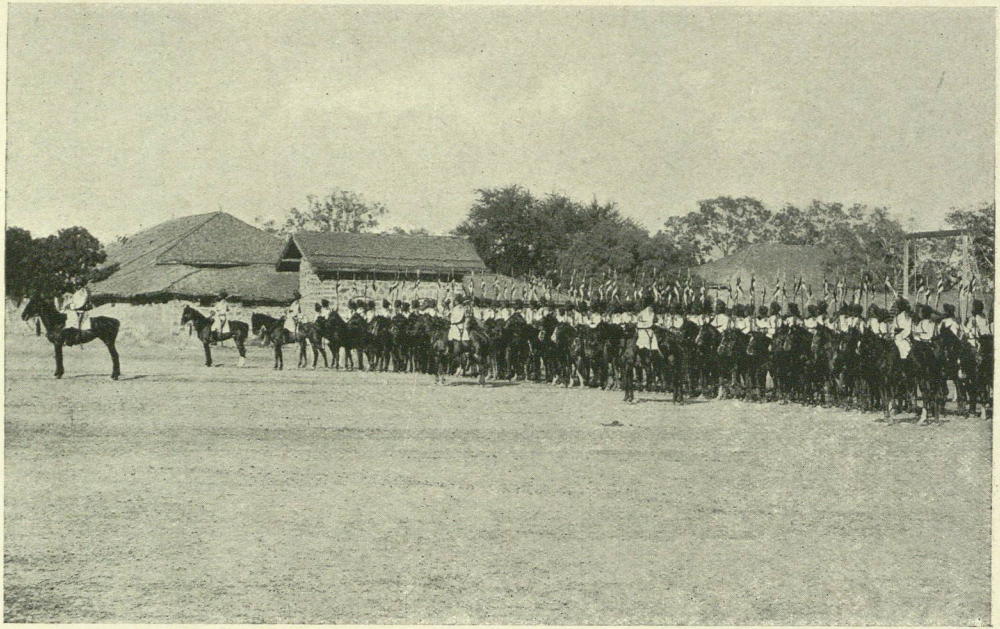
"'I have noted with pleasure the interest Your Highness has always taken in the welfare of your regiment, and of its officers. I shall inspect the two squadrons of cavalry you maintain to-morrow morning, but, from what I have seen of the troops detailed for escort duty, and from reports that I have received, I am glad to say that they are an efficient body of men, well-horsed, well-equipped, and fit for active service. I regret that we could not accept your kind offer of the services of this regiment on the occasion of the recent trouble on the North-Western Frontier, but if another occasion occurs we shall consider ourselves fortunate to have them with our army, in fighting against the enemy, when I am sure they will maintain the high prestige of your State. Gentlemen, I give you the health of His Highness the Thakor Saheb of Bhavnagar.'

"This toast was drunk with great enthusiasm, and His Highness made a brief reply of thanks. He said:—

"'I thank you sincerely for the kind manner in which you have proposed my health, and you, gentlemen, for the cordial manner in which you have greeted it. For such measure of welcome as the Bhavnagar State has been able to extend, I can only repeat that Your Excellency's visit has afforded me the greatest pleasure, and my only regret is that it has been so brief.'

"On the 16th of November His Excellency inspected the parade of the Bhavnagar Imperial Service Lancers, and expressed himself highly pleased at the efficiency and martial bearing of the troops."

It was my privilege to have personal knowledge of the unfailing consideration and attention to small social details which were conspicuous in the real Kitchener. So far from being above the little acts and amenities of daily usage, he was most punctilious in observing them, and never ignored an obligation or forgot to acknowledge a favour, however trivial it might have appeared to one so occupied with State affairs of Imperial importance. The following letters received



BHAVNAGAR IMPERIAL SERVICE LANCERS.

from him in the late strenuous years, when he must have been overwhelmingly pre-occupied, may serve to bring out this charming trait in his character—a trait which endeared him to all who were permitted to see beneath the reserve of the great commander of men :—

WAR OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, S.W.

YOUR HIGHNESS,

Lord Kitchener fears that the letter he sent to Your Highness on the 22nd February was lost with the mails that went down with the ss. "Maloja" on the 26th February. He has, therefore, signed another letter in similar terms, which I enclose herewith, and which he hopes will reach you safely.

I have the honour to be
Your Royal Highness' obedient servant,

H. J. CREEDY,
Private Secretary.

HER HIGHNESS
THE MAHARANI OF BHAVNAGAR, C.S.

[*Telegram.*]

WAR OFFICE,
LONDON, 10TH JANUARY, 1916.

H.H. THE MAHARANI OF BHAVNAGAR,
BHAVNAGAR.

I have received Your Highness' letter, and the interesting volume which accompanies it, with great pleasure. Please accept my warm thanks.

KITCHENER.

WAR OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, S.W.,
22ND FEBRUARY, 1916.

YOUR HIGHNESS,

I much appreciate your courtesy in sending to me the two interesting copies of Hari Kathas of the New Mahabharat, and I hope that every success may attend your efforts in this direction.

I am,
Your Highness' Sincere Friend,
KITCHENER.

HER HIGHNESS,
THE MAHARANI OF BHAVNAGAR.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S CAMP,
INDIA.
19TH NOVEMBER, 1908.

MY DEAR THAKUR SAHEB,

I must write to thank you so much for all your kindness to us at Bhavnagar, and to assure you how very much Lord Kitchener and all of us enjoyed our stay in your State. Indeed, Your Highness did everything possible for our comfort and happiness, and we much appreciated your kindly thoughtfulness for us in every detail. The illuminations at the Bunder were quite beautiful, and . . . looked lovely when we were out in the stream in the . . . very comfortable launch which was provided for us, and for which Lord Kitchener asks me to specially thank you for.

Personally it was a great pleasure to me to have had the opportunity of meeting you, as our fathers were such good friends, and I must hope we may meet again before very long.

Believe me to be,
Your Highness's sincere friend,
(Signed) W. R. BIRDWOOD.

SIMLA,

AUGUST, 1909.

MY VALUED AND ESTEEMED FRIEND,

Now that the time for me to leave India is approaching I am writing to bid Your Highness good-bye, and to wish you most heartily all happiness and prosperity in years to come. It is only natural that after the many years during which I have been associated with India that I should leave it with many regrets, but I shall always look back with the greatest pleasure to the years I have spent in your country. I can never forget the kindness and hospitality which I have received from Your Highness while I have been here.

I feel sure Your Highness's Imperial Service Troops will continue to maintain their high standard of efficiency, which I noticed when I had the privilege of inspecting them when I visited your State.

I shall be grateful if you will kindly convey my greetings to them, and with the best of good wishes to Your Highness and your

State, and hoping that we may meet again in time to come.

I am,
Your Highness's sincere friend,
(Signed) KITCHENER.

I may be pardoned for giving these homely examples of his urbanity, since they have a reference to myself, but their very simplicity is so forcibly illustrative of his nobility of mind and condescension, that I am tempted to quote them.

Let it be remembered that these acknowledgments, and the concern that one of them might not have reached its destination, were written in the overwhelming stress of raising and improvising vast armies in the most critical stages of the most stupendous war in history. Little did I realise that within a few months of receiving them, that noble soul and courtly gentleman would have passed from his mighty labours and have gone to his eternal rest. The whole of India mourned his death, and in every part of the Empire was the sentiment as genuinely expressed as

in Bhavnagar, where the people of all castes, creeds, and communities, under the auspices of His Highness the Maharaja, assembled on the Wednesday following the tragic event to express their sorrow. A message of condolence was sent to His Majesty the King Emperor, to which the following gracious reply was received:—

"Sincerely thank Your Highness for your kind sympathy in great loss sustained by nation in Lord Kitchener's death."—GEORGE R.I.

Australia and Universal Service

AT the conclusion of hostilities in South Africa, Lord Kitchener undertook an extensive tour in the southern hemisphere, after a visit to Japan, where he received almost royal honours. He then proceeded to Australia, where the question of the defensive resources of the Island Continent was a burning topic. Lord Kitchener at once undertook an investigation of the problem, and reported to the several Governments a scheme for the better protection of this isolated section of the British Empire.

This scheme was the first open pronouncement in favour of universal service which may be said to have had official approbation. Australia is peculiarly vulnerable to invasion, and its only defence was practically the mobility of the British Navy. Plans, how-

ever, had been put on foot for providing local defence by means of an Australian navy and forts. Our hero, however, went further, and advocated a national army which should embrace the services of every able-bodied man. His scheme was briefly as follows :—

Australia has a population of about 4¼ millions, and his estimate was that there was one million and a quarter of males of a fighting age. From this total he reckoned that an army could be raised of sufficient strength to enable one-half to be available as a mobile striking force, and the remainder to undertake garrison duty in the various important cities and sea-ports, assisted, no doubt, by the reserve.

Military training was to be compulsory on all male subjects between twelve and fourteen years of age in the junior cadets, and from fourteen to eighteen years in the senior cadets. The latter then entered the Citizen Forces, with a choice of infantry, cavalry, artillery, or engineers. Sixteen days a year for seven years was to be devoted to training in the field. By this arrangement a man on reach-

ing his twenty-fifth year would be an efficient soldier. This scheme has been largely adopted, but is still finding partisan opposition in the Antipodes, in spite of the grave lessons of the war.

Back in Egypt

ON returning home from his tour, Lord Kitchener was appointed to succeed the Duke of Connaught as High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean. This post was considered to be so inferior to the great abilities and experience of Lord Kitchener that it excited considerable adverse comment—the more so as his Royal predecessor had resigned it as not justifying the expense it imposed upon the nation. Lord Kitchener endorsed this view by declining to accept the sinecure.

In the following October he was awarded a seat on the Committee of Imperial Defence. In this position he might have been of incalculable value in assisting the much-needed reform of the Imperial Defensive system, but the death of Sir Eldon Gorst

offered a new opening for his services which the Government considered of more immediate importance, and so he was appointed British Agent in Egypt, where a strong man with the gift of statecraft was sadly needed.

It was at the juncture of a declaration of war between Italy and Turkey, and as Egypt was nominally under the sway of the Sultan, there was a strong popular movement in favour of going to the assistance of the Moslems against their adversary, especially in the direction of preventing an occupation of Tripoli.

In September, 1911, Lord Kitchener took up his new duties. It was in these words that Sir Edward, now Viscount, Grey referred to the new Agent :—

"The appointment in Egypt is an exceedingly difficult one to fill, as everybody knows. It requires special knowledge, special experience, and special qualities. I do not know of anyone who possesses that special knowledge and experience and those qualities in so high a degree as Lord Kitchener."

At that time Great Britain was in friendly relations with both Turkey and Italy; moreover, Great Britain was trustee of a country which was nominally Turkish territory. The first task that Kitchener had to accomplish was, therefore, the tranquilizing of popular unrest. With what tact and unfailing *bonhomie* he achieved his end, is evidenced by the fact that the wave of fanatical feeling which swept over the Near East, left Egypt more solidly attached to British rule than ever before.

By the year 1913, so thoroughly had he impressed his great personality upon the imagination of the Egyptian nation, that when the possibility arose of his being given the Viceroyalty of India, there was a protest of dismay. He was, indeed, a *persona grata* with all classes of the populace, and the humblest felt that he could come into the presence of the Agent and lay his grievances before him.

Of course, Kitchener's familiarity with the vernacular was a decided asset in winning the confidence of the native mind. What would

have been the position of Egypt in the great war to-day but for those years of patient cultivation of native good-will, can only be conjectured, but those best versed in the affairs of the Near East hold that under a tactless and weak administration the situation might have been a grave danger to the Empire. The sympathies of the Egyptians were, by reason of race, traditions, and religion, naturally on the side of the Turks, and the fact that Kitchener shared their predelection was no small element in reconciling them to neutrality.

The Great War

IT was by one of the most happy chances for the Empire that Lord Kitchener was in England when Germany's declaration of war convulsed the Chancellaries of Europe, and changed the face of the world. The anxious days following the murder of the Archduke Francis and his morganatic wife, will never be forgotten by those who were able to appreciate how far-reaching might be the consequences of that tragedy in the Bosnian capital. The resources of diplomatic intervention having failed, British statesmen were faced with the most stupendous decision that ever a great country was called upon to make.

It was true that the British Empire possessed the most powerful fleet of modern times, but the Army was negligible in

comparison with the continental scale. It was, indeed, in numbers what the Kaiser so arrogantly styled it, "A contemptible little army." Thrown into the balance with France and Russia against the trained and well-equipped millions of Germany and Austria-Hungary, it could have had little bearing upon the ultimate result of the struggle. That it achieved, together with the gallant little forces of Belgium, a priceless and immortal purpose in stemming the first onrush of the seemingly all-conquering legions of the Kaiser was true. But the Imperial Government were well aware that a far greater effort would have to be forthcoming if the menace of Prussian hegemony was to be broken for all time. A nation trained for generations to the arts of peace had to be improvised into a military people. There was clearly only one man who could undertake and bring to a successful issue so herculean a task. That man was Kitchener.

He had already booked his passage back to Egypt, when an urgent message called him

back to Whitehall. At the time Mr. Asquith was Secretary of State for War, and his reasons for handing over the portfolio to the victor of Omdurman and of Paardeberg was given in the following statement:—

"In consequence of the pressure of other duties the Prime Minister has been compelled to give up the office of Secretary of State for War.

"The King has approved the appointment of Lord Kitchener as his successor.

"Lord Kitchener undertakes the duties of the office for the time being, in view of the emergencies created by the war, and his post in Egypt will be kept open."

To attempt to follow the course of the war, and Kitchener's connection therewith, would occupy several volumes. I can, therefore, only touch upon a few of the outstanding incidents in the story of how that "contemptible little army" grew from an Expeditionary Force of 200,000 men to between four and five millions. When the first million were asked for public opinion was agape. It seemed colossal for a struggle

which the wiseacres predicted would be over soon after the German's retreat from the Marne, but Kitchener was as right on this occasion as he had been in his estimate of the duration of the South African War. He gave the convulsion of Europe three years to settle down, and the situation seems likely to prove that he was correct.

As a firm believer in obligatory service, it redounds the more to Kitchener's credit that he did not hesitate to undertake to raise the first and second million men by an appeal to the loyalty and patriotism of his countrymen. It is safe to assert that no other living personality (for let it be remembered that our other military idol, Lord Roberts, had passed away) could have succeeded in arousing the martial enthusiasm of the country with so little warning and so little preparation.

His appeals to the nation were made with that simple honest brevity which characterized all his public declarations. Here is the letter which has since became an historical document, and is being bought by those who honour his memory in millions of copies:—

"I have said that I would let the country know when more men were wanted for the war. The time has come, and I now call for 300,000 recruits to form new armies.

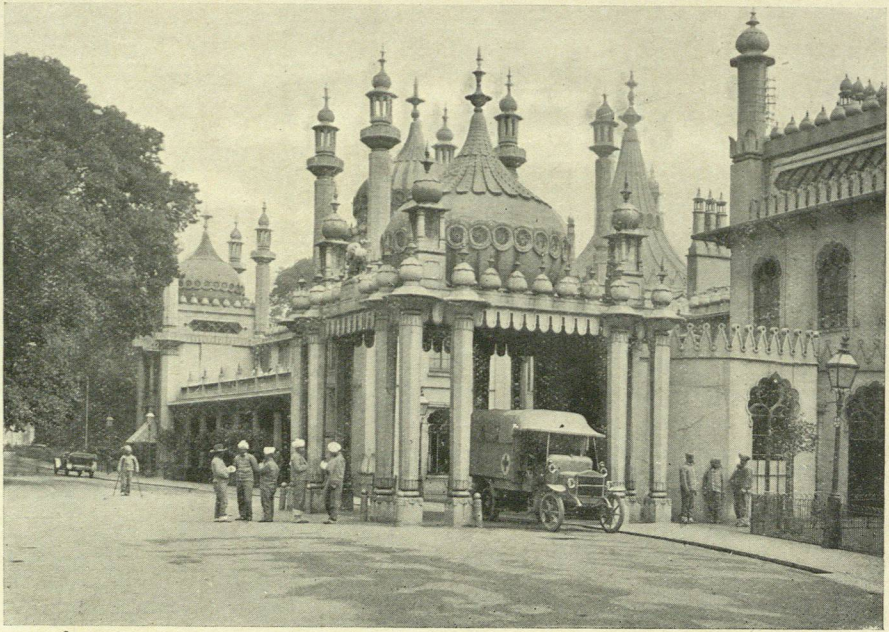
"Those who are engaged in the production of war material of any kind should not leave their work. It is to men who are not performing this duty that I appeal.

"KITCHENER.

"May 16th, 1915."

Still, Kitchener fully realised that the time must come when the voluntary response would fail to provide a sufficient stream of recruits to make good the appalling wastage of active warfare on so gigantic a scale, but, bowing to the popular tradition of many generations of Britons, he gave the voluntary system its fullest trial, and not until the situation had become desperate did he tell the people straightforwardly that without compulsory service the Empire could not be saved.

There was some strong opposition to the introduction of compulsory service, but it was



THE PAVILION, BRIGHTON, WEST FRONT.

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from an insignificant political minority. The heart of the country was true, and even the sacrifice of a cherished tradition was not too much to make in the cause of King and Empire. Great Britain had now a trained and equipped army which could compare favourably with the finest continental model, and this is the achievement which will ensure our hero a deathless fame in the annals of military history. Mr. Asquith has paid a tribute to his triumph of personality and organization in the following eulogy:—

"I think the Army, the country, and the Empire are under a debt which cannot be measured in words to the services Lord Kitchener has rendered since the beginning of the war. . . . . He told me, in the frankest possible terms, of his indisposition, except at the call of duty, to undertake the task which I proposed, with the consent of his Sovereign, to lay on him; but, like a good soldier, he put duty first. Everything else was subordinated to it, and from that moment to this there has not been one single day on which Lord Kitchener has not laboured with

assiduity and a zeal and a patriotic self-devotion which, as I can say from personal observation and daily contact with him, is beyond all praise.

"There is no other man in the country or in this Empire who could have summoned into existence in so short a time, with so little friction, with such satisfactory and surprising and even bewildering results, the enormous army which now at home and abroad is maintaining the honour of our Empire.

"History, I am certain, will regard it as one of the most remarkable achievements of the kind ever accomplished, and I am bound to say, and I say it with all sincerity, that for that achievement Lord Kitchener is personally entitled to the credit."

The Passing of Kitchener

NO event in the great war of sensations came as a more tragic surprise than the death of Kitchener. He was so much a part of the war; he represented so completely the stupendous effort that the British nation was putting forward, he had so come to be regarded as the symbol of a people in arms, that he was accepted as the permanent expression of the new order of things. And, then, with no warning, no premonition, no suggestion even that danger was near him, he had joined the mighty group of dead heroes, and, like some martial god of pagan times, had been translated to Olympus with no trace left of his earthly shell to be laid to rest by reverent hands.

The staggering blow was delivered on June 6th, 1916. The newspapers gave the bald

announcement that Lord Kitchener had been drowned at sea off the north coast of Scotland. Then by degrees the few details which, perhaps, will ever be known, were made public. The armoured cruiser H.M.S. *Hampshire* had been sunk by an explosion, the cause of which could only be conjectured, and amongst those who had perished were the Secretary of State for War and all his Staff, who were accompanying him on a mission to Russia.

All that was seen of the disaster was that four boats had been launched from the doomed vessel in a heavy sea, and that they had foundered, leaving no trace of those on board. There was something characteristic of Kitchener in the very brevity and simplicity which marked the sad event. It was an end which he might have chosen for himself, and, indeed, it is curious that he had a presentiment that he would die at sea.

The nation's sorrow was faithfully reflected in the heart-felt message in which the King-Emperor expressed his personal grief and sense of loss :—

"The King has learnt with profound regret of the disaster by which the Secretary of State for War has lost his life whilst proceeding on a special mission to the Emperor of Russia.

"It is largely due to his administrative genius and unwearying energy that the country has been able to create the armies which are upholding the traditional glories of the Empire.

"He will be mourned by the Army as a great soldier who rendered supreme and devoted service to the Army and to the State."

His Majesty spoke truly when he referred to the service as something already accomplished, for Lord Kitchener's great work was done. The organisation of the millions forming his mighty army had been completed, and those who came after him had only to proceed on the lines he had laid down. If, therefore, the sinking of the *Hampshire* was the work of an enemy submarine, the blow was struck too late to affect the settled progress of the war. He had called those legions

into being, and his reward was the love and esteem which the officers, no more than the rank and file, felt for him. The regard in which people of all classes held him has been thus felicitously described :—

" Loved and trusted by them, because they believed him to be manly and straight, free from intrigue or desire for personal aggrandisement, he secured their confidence and became their leader in the great task of improvising the vast armies required to meet the country's need. His death leaves an empty place not only at the Council table, but in the hearts of the people."

Mourning was ordered to be worn by all officers of the army for one week, and, in place of a State funeral, St. Paul's Cathedral, the pantheon of England's illustrious warriors, was the scene of an impressive Memorial Service. So closed the last chapter of Kitchener's wonderful career on earth.

Kitchener the Man

WHAT manner of man was the real Lord Kitchener? The accepted tradition of him is as a stern, aloof abstraction, immersed in his work, and relentless in exacting unquestioning obedience from those under him. He was generally assumed to be a woman-hater. None of these estimates are the truth. He could be stern and relentless to those who thwarted his plans by neglect or frivolity—just as he gave his best, he expected all who served him to throw their whole strength and purpose into the task assigned to them. He abhorred the shirker when there was anything to be done. But to those who enjoyed his intimacy he could be a loyal and genial friend, somewhat diffident in his judgment of every-day affairs and ready to seek advice on all subjects outside the vocation of his life.

As to his attitude towards women, that has been grossly exaggerated. He, no doubt, discouraged feminine intrusion when there was man's work to be done, and those who know what this intrusion meant in the dark, early days of the South African War will hold him abundantly justified. But we have his sister's assurance that "we women trusted him, and feel his loss terribly."

Queen Victoria also left it on record that his alleged dislike of the sex did not harmonise with her knowledge of him. On one occasion Her Majesty asked him if it was true that he did not care for any woman, to which he replied, "Quite true, with one exception." "And who is that?" he was asked. "Your Majesty," was the quick response. A man's temperament, however, is best judged by the testimony of his friends, and it is to the appreciations of Kitchener written by those who knew him best that we should turn. The tributes paid to his worth and sterling qualities by statesmen and governments are of an official nature, and may therefore be held to be perfunctory. Hence I propose to

quote the opinions of three distinguished friends, who knew him intimately enough to have got at the core of his character.

Speaking of Kitchener as a friend, Lord Desborough declares that "he was not in private life the stern, unbending sphinx of popular imagination. Indeed, no one to his friends was a more encouraging and stimulating companion; when alone with you he was very talkative, and his curious humour and his quaint summing up of individuals and situations was an unfailing source of interest and surprise. He was absolutely unaffected and had an ingrained distaste of popular demonstrations, speechifying, and banquets.

"Children accepted him as a natural friend. I remember my little girl once meeting us, as we came in for tea from a walk, outside the tea room (she was, I may say, his god-daughter), and she immediately said to the great Lord Kitchener, 'Don't go in there, they are making such a *chatter;* come up and have tea with me,'—and up he went right to the top of the house, with his lame leg, and

sat down with Imogen and her nurse and had a long talk. I hope you do not think these matters trivial: I think in making a true estimate of Lord Kitchener as a man, and not as an institution, they are not unimportant.

"There is one short story about him and the army which I think I may tell, as it helps you to understand him: A high staff officer, who has now a command, came to see him from the front, and he put searching questions to him about munitions, and then he said, 'I hope the army does not think I have let them down,' and two large tears rolled down from his stern eyes. The munitions difficulty was part of our unpreparedness for war; the contractors undertook to carry out contracts, but, owing in a great measure to their best men leaving for the front, they found themselves unable to do so, and Lord Kitchener had terrible disappointments."

In his capacity of military leader, Kitchener is thus referred to by Field-Marshal Lord French:—

"For nearly three years in the South African War I was closely associated with

him, and enjoyed his intimate friendship and confidence.

"As Commander of the Cavalry Division during the first part of that war I shall never forget the help I derived from his invaluable counsel and support when he was Chief of the Staff to Lord Roberts, but it was after he came to assume the Chief Command, and I occupied a post of considerable responsibility under him, that I learnt his value as a Commander in the Field and a leader of men.

"He inspired us all with the utmost confidence; we relied implicity upon him to lead us to victory; we knew we were assured of his utmost help and support in trouble and difficulty, and that he would give us the fullest measure of credit in success. I am very fortunate in the possession of many of his private letters, and I could quote numerous examples of the truth of what I say.

"At that time and during subsequent years I became so impressed by his great qualities, and my estimate of him was so high, that when at the outbreak of the present war

I had reason to believe that I had been selected for the Chief Command in the Field, I went to Lord Kitchener very early one morning and urged him to see the Prime Minister and endeavour to arrange that he himself should take the place, and that I should accompany him as his Chief of the Staff. Although at that moment he had no idea of taking over the position of Secretary of State for War, I could not prevail upon him to do this.

"The nation has indeed suffered a grievous loss, and the finest monument they can erect to this great man's memory is to clothe themselves in the spirit of determination and concentration of effort which characterised his long and valuable public career."

And this is the Earl of Derby's estimate:—

"I speak only of Kitchener—'K.' as we called him—of Kitchener, the best friend I ever had. I had known him for many years. Our acquaintance ripened in South Africa, and during the past few months I do not think anybody had been in closer touch with him than I was. I saw him in the light that

very few people did see him in—a light which the public as a whole hardly realised existed. He was supposed to be hard, taciturn, stern by the general public. I never knew a worse estimate of a man's character than that. Lord Kitchener was shy, more shy than people imagined, and diffident always about himself."

To me, Lord Kitchener always appeared to be the model of a perfect Rajput Warrior, and it is as a military genius of commanding personality that his memory will be treasured. How widely he had impressed himself upon the imagination of the contemporary world is evidenced by the fact vouched for by Sir George Arthur, his official biographer, that in Russia his death is spoken of as the "Assumption." His spirit, freed from the cares and burdens of the flesh, is regarded as continuing its earthly work of preparing the way for a victorious peace.

"Kitchener" stories are legion, and the best of them bring out those qualities and idiosyncrasies with which he was popularly endowed, and also those subtler attributes

known only to his intimates. In the course of a conversation with a lady whose husband had greatly distinguished himself in the South African War, Lord Kitchener observed that in his opinion all soldiers should be celibates in view of the dangers and uncertainties of their calling, to which the lady enquired: "That means that my husband ought not to have married me?" "Thanks to you," he answered, "I change my opinion in one case."

Among the many military stories in currency, the following are a small selection:—

Kitchener had applied to the War Office for supplementary guns at a time of shortage. He was supplied with some of a very obsolete pattern. On examining them, he curtly remarked: "I can throw stones at the enemy myself."

On another occasion, he was lunching at Helovan, distanced some sixteen miles across the desert from Cairo, and stated his intention of returning by motor car. This remark caused some amusement, and it was explained to him that there was only a camel

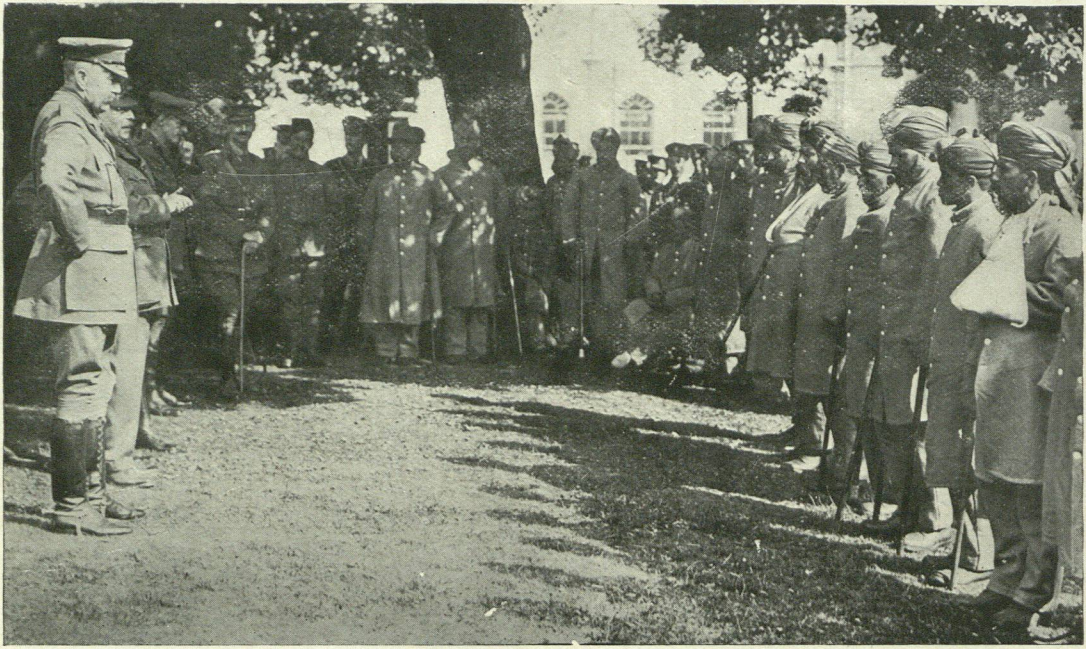
track across the desert. "No road!" said Kitchener; "one must be made. How many convicts are there in Turah prison?" He was told that convicts would not work. "Won't they?" was all he observed. He promptly issued orders for three thousand of them to be turned upon the work, and in three months' time "Kitchener's Road," as it is known, was completed.

In the course of giving his aides-de-camp some hints as to how they should communicate with a certain general officer notorious for the violence of his language, he made the reservation, "But not over the wires, they might fuse."

He was once annoyed, when deeply engaged with his Chief of Staff, by a mounted trooper who was creating much noise and dust in front of his quarters, and he issued the following peremptory order to one of his attendants: "Go out and see who that fellow is, and if he is not a duke, an Imperial Yeoman, or a C.I.V., tell him to go to blazes, will you?"

Of an officer who was by way of being a dandy, he once inquired: "And what is your

taste in hairpins?" He received a telegram to the following effect: "Sorry to report loss of five men through explosion of dynamite," to which he replied: "Do you want any more dynamite?" He had received a good report of a certain officer, but had reason to believe that the latter had no real justification for using an eyeglass. "Is it necessary for you to wear that?" he asked. "Absolutely necessary, sir," was the reply. "What a pity," remarked Kitchener; "I intended to offer you a place on my Staff, but short-sighted men are necessarily barred." His gift for subtle sarcasm comes out in the incident wherein a sprig of nobility, who was summoned to headquarters to carry despatches, enquired: "Did you send for me, Kitchener?" He was withered by the reply: "Oh, don't call me Kitchener; it's so beastly familiar. Call me Herbert."



LORD KITCHENER AND INDIAN WOUNDED AT BRIGHTON.

The Indian Wounded at Brighton

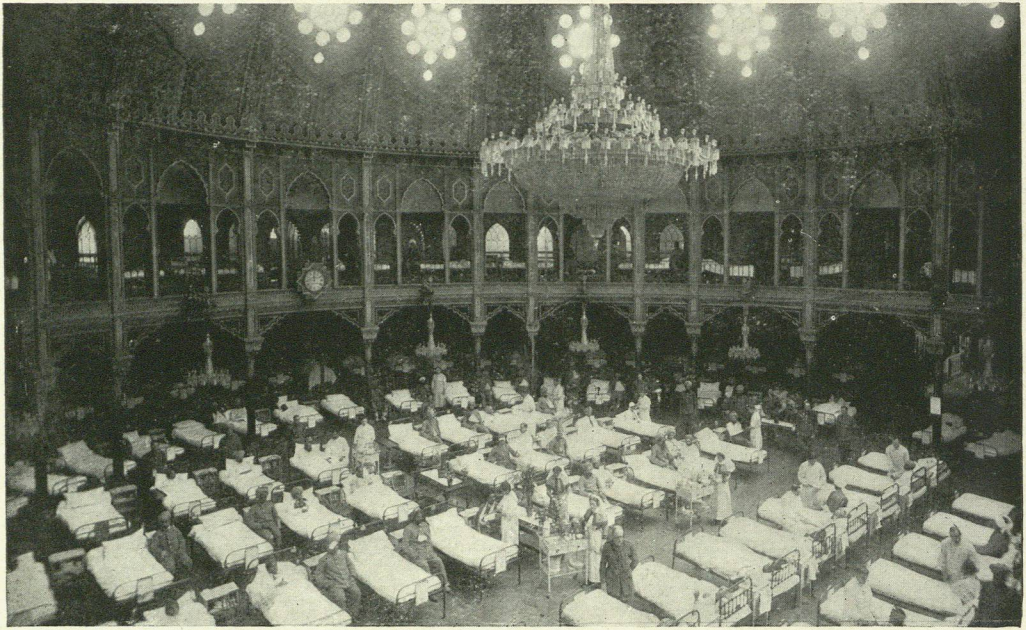
I HAVE already spoken of Lord Kitchener's solicitude for the welfare of the rank and file of the Indian Army. As an instance of his minute and constant consideration for them, we may recall the steps he took, even when he was immersed in his overwhelming task of organising and equipping millions of recruits, for the care of the sick and wounded. The following details are given in the words of Mr. Henry D. Roberts, Director of the Brighton Corporation Library and Museum, who has written and compiled a beautiful illustrated record of the Indian Military Hospital at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton :—

"When it was suddenly found necessary to relinquish the plans which had been formed for removing the wounded Indian soldiers from the front to Marseilles and Egypt, the

authorities were confronted with a very difficult problem. Accommodation had to be found in this country for the wounded Indian soldiers at very short notice. In this emergency Lord Kitchener appointed Sir Walter Lawrence, Bart., G.C.I.E., to be Commissioner of Indian Hospitals, with the duty of organizing arrangements for the reception of the Indian wounded in France and in this country.

"The Mayor of Brighton (Alderman Otter) and the Corporation, with great generosity and sympathy, placed the splendid buildings of the Royal Pavilion and Dome at the disposal of Lord Kitchener, and they also made over the fine school buildings in York Place, now known as the York Place Hospital. Brighton has thus come nobly to the help of the Indian Army, and the prompt and generous action of the Brighton authorities will never be forgotten by India.

"It was a bold step to attempt to convert buildings in the middle of an English town into an up-to-date hospital for Indians, in which all the different classes among them



THE INTERIOR OF THE DOME, BRIGHTON PAVILION.

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could live in accordance with their individual customs and as enjoined by their different religions. The possibility of having to do so, far less how to do it, had never been contemplated by anyone. Even Indian experience fell somewhat short as a guide. In India, the hospitals mostly deal with only the one or more classes of Indians belonging to the particular district in which the hospital is situated. But in the hospital to be made it was necessary so to arrange that men from every one of the fighting classes from all parts of India could be taken in, possibly large numbers of different castes at the same time; yet each must find within the hospital the possibility of living according to his own religion.

"Places for operating theatres, convenient for all wards and with ample light, had to be found. An electric department with X-rays, and all the other electric apparatus for surgical and medical treatment, had to be installed. Separate kitchens, suitable for Indian methods of cooking, had to be devised for each of the different castes, and places

found for them. Owing to the castes and the scattered buildings and their size, no less than nine kitchens were needed. Special arrangements for the killing and storing of meat for separate castes were also called for. A dairy inside the buildings had to be arranged for, as the quantity of milk used by Indians is very great. Separate accommodation for infectious diseases was necessary, and the means of disinfection by heat on a large scale had to be provided. Space had to be found for the many stores and offices required in a large hospital; while room for the recreation of the patients had also to be thought out. Lastly, mortuaries had to be provided suitable for the carrying out of the religious ceremonies peculiar to the different castes at the time of a death. Arrangements had also to be made for the cremation of the dead as is the custom among Hindus."

The Royal Pavilion can claim to be the first building in England in which this problem was solved. Those who would like to know more about the very elaborate details of this institution will do well to peruse Mr.

LORD KITCHENER GREETING INDIAN OFFICER AT BRIGHTON.

Roberts' interesting work; but the few quotations given above from it will show how from its conception to the completion of its minute arrangements Lord Kitchener had at heart the keenest concern for the well-being of the Indian soldier.

L'Envoi

BEFORE laying down my pen, I would emphasise once more the distinguishing feature of Lord Kitchener's mission in India, a feature which must leave a permanent impression upon the relations between the widely-divided nations of the British Empire, upon their future intercourse, and upon their sentiments towards each other. This was his recognition of the Indian people as worthy to stand on an equality with their western brethren in the service of their King-Emperor, to share their perils, their deeds of heroism, and their rewards.

He did not regard the fighting races of India as inferior to the disciplined troops of Europe, as so much war material to be utilised in inferior positions and in remote outposts, but as fit to take their place in the

foremost trenches of the chief theatre of war, to stand shoulder to shoulder with those superb veterans of the first Expeditionary Force, with "French's contemptible little army," which held back the German hordes in those early weeks of priceless delay.

And his confidence was not mistaken. The soldiers of India fulfilled all that their great chief had expected of them, and it is in that precious fact that the horizon before the peoples of India shines the brighter. Through their warriors they have deserved well of their fellow subjects in the Dominions and the Motherland; they have broken down prejudices, dissipated misconceptions, and won the esteem which makes a return to the old attitude of ignorant hostility inconceivable. If, as a result, India should be given equality of treatment and of responsibility, let us never forget that these privileges were largely the gift of Kitchener.

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