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**The Gordon College.** The enthusiastic reception given by the British public to Lord Kitchener's scheme for a college at Khartoum was without doubt due in part to the fact that the moment for launching the scheme was so shrewdly chosen. It was an hour of enthusiasm. England was glorying in the complete success of the Soudan expedition and the shattering of the power of the Dervishes on the Upper Nile. It was a moment when Britain was in the mood to give a kindly reception to the proposal to do something generous to perpetuate the memory of General Gordon, the martyr of Khartoum, and at the same time to aid in giving to British influence in the Soudan a beneficent and permanent character. The scheme was one which appealed not only to the national but to the philanthropic spirit of the people, and the reception which it met was immediately so favorable as to insure its success. There is, however, never any danger that an institution of learning in these days will have more money than it can make use of, and the people of the Colonies are also being given an opportunity to take a part in this philanthropic enterprise. And now that the first wave of enthusiasm in respect to the project has spent itself, people are naturally seeking for more definite information as to the aims and character of the proposed Gordon College. The information at hand, so far as we can learn, is not of a very definite character. It seems to be quite well understood, however, that the establishment of the College has no connection with Christian missions. Its aim is secular, rather than religious. It will not seek to promote either Christianity or Mohammedanism, but to place the opportunities of modern education and the results of modern learning within reach of the people of the Soudan, irrespective of their religious beliefs. So far as such intellectual enlightenment is favorable to the inculcation of Christian principles, so far the College will be in the interests of Christianity. There appears to be some question as to how far Mohammedanism will be recognized in the College, but it seems probable that such recognition will go no further than to avoid any custom or requirement which the Mohammedan conscience would reject. The Gordon College, it may reasonably be hoped, will have an influence, according to the resources with which it is endowed, to promote civilization and modern ideas in the Soudan. It may also indirectly give important help to the cause of Christian missions, but if so, such a result will be incidental to its main purpose.

**Lord Charles Beresford in the East.** Lord Charles Beresford, Rear Admiral in the British Navy and member of Parliament, who has been making a tour of the Chinese ports in the interests, it is said, of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Great Britain, is on his way home to England by way of Japan and the United States. Addressing a public meeting at Tokio on January 21st, Lord Beresford is reported to have repeated his wish to see an alliance between Japan, Germany, the United States and Great Britain to protect their trade interests in China and maintain the "open door" policy as against that of spheres of influence in which one nation could operate to the exclusion of the trade of others. A despatch to the London 'Times' from its Hong-Kong correspondent appears to indicate that Lord Beresford's visit to China has had some influence upon the Chinese traders. The despatch states that a crowded meeting of the leading commercial Chinese, held at the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Hong-Kong on January 22nd, unanimously approved the views recently expressed in that city by Lord Beresford as to the necessity of reform, the maintenance of the open door and the reorganization of the army and navy under British officers. How much such a meeting and its reported action would signify in China one cannot say. The 'Times' correspondent considers that, as a spontaneous expression of Chinese sentiment quite unprompted by foreign influence, it is highly significant.

**Charges of Cruelty.** The charges which have been made in various quarters, and notably in an article in the Contemporary Review, that the wounded Dervishes at Omdurman were cruelly treated by the victors, are not pleasant to hear, and it is to be hoped that those upon whom responsibility rests in this matter will be able to show that the charges alluded to have no sufficient foundation. There has been, indeed, a denial of some of the charges from what may be considered an official source. Major-General Rundle, late chief of staff under General Kitchener, has, in Lord Kitchener's absence from the country, written a letter to the London 'Times' in which he denies that there is any real ground for the charges contained in Mr. Bennett's article in the Contemporary Review. "The more the matter is ventilated," General Rundle says, "and the more evidence taken, the more, in my opinion, the British public will be satisfied that there is no truth in Mr. Bennett's allegations beyond what is inevitable in savage warfare where Europeans are fighting an enemy like the Baggaras, which neither accept nor give quarter." That Lord Kitchener ever encouraged or countenanced cruelty toward the savage enemy is emphatically denied. He is described by Major-General Rundle as "one of the least blood-thirsty men I have ever met, and one of the least vindictive." His sympathy with and for the natives is intense, and knowing his expressed sentiments as I have known them over a series of many eventful years, I assert that, to the best of my belief, he never uttered nor even harbored any such detestable idea as Mr. Bennett sets forth." So far as the English officers and the English troops are concerned there is probably no ground for a charge that the war in the Soudan was more barbarous than war must necessarily be. But it is by no means clear that the same could be asserted of their Egyptian and Soudanese allies. The London 'Chronicle' is quoted as saying that "there is abundant testimony that many officers and men were disgusted and ashamed at what they saw and heard of the conduct of the Soudanese and Egyptian soldiers—conduct which, in our opinion, has brought a stain on the annals of the British army." It seems probable that the matter will become a subject for Parliamentary investigation.

**The United States and the Philippines.** It is uncertain as yet what the United States intends to do with the Philippines which, by the terms of the treaty of Paris, have been ceded by Spain to the American republic. February 6th has been agreed upon as the day upon which the American Senate will vote upon the treaty, and whether or not the result of the vote will be a confirmation of the work of the Paris Convention is still a matter of much doubt. But if the treaty shall be confirmed, which on the whole seems probable, the subsequent course of the United States in reference to the Philippines remains uncertain. One of three courses seems possible,—to annex the islands, to declare a protectorate over them or to acknowledge their independence. It is improbable that either Congress or the public opinion in the United States would endorse annexation. A protectorate is more probable, though there is strong opposition to even such a policy of expansion as that would involve. On the other hand, the Filipinos are probably not in a condition to undertake self-government with any hope of success, and the United States cannot afford to incur the odium that would result from taking these islands from Spain and then relinquishing them to such influences as would make their last state worse than the first. Meanwhile despatches from the East indicate a very excited and disturbed condition of affairs in the Philippines. Apparently there is a strong party among the Filipinos determined upon the establishment of an independent government and ready to

fight the Americans, if, and as soon as, it becomes evident that the United States will not accede to their demands. It seems possible that any day may bring news of an outbreak of hostilities, and with the comparatively small American force now in the East and the time which must be consumed in sending reinforcements, the position of the United States in the Philippines must be recognized as involving contingencies of a serious character.

**The Keely Motor.** The name of the Keely motor is familiar to most persons as one of the mysteries, if we should not rather say one of the humbugs, of recent years. The man who alone was supposed to understand the mysterious motor which was alleged to embody a motive power different from any known to the world has recently died, and whether the world is any wiser than before in reference to the Keely motor is still in dispute. On the one hand it is said that certain newspaper-men and others of an enquiring turn of mind lately visited the old Keely workshop in Philadelphia and there obtained evidence which appeared to throw considerable light upon the subject. There were numerous trap doors, a false ceiling, a hollow sphere suitable for the storing of compressed air and, apparently connected with the latter, and a system of brass tubing so small that it might easily be taken for wire. Such apparatus, it was thought, might go a good way toward accounting for certain manifestations of force, the origin and production of which had been so mysterious. On the other hand, the president of the Keely Motor Company, for there is still such a company it appears, has issued a long and circumstantial statement, it is said, on behalf of his board of directors, reaffirming their faith in the dead inventor and denying that the alleged discoveries in Keely's workshop are of any significance. It would seem to be a pity to make it impossible for people to believe in Keely, for now that the scheme for extracting gold from sea water has been wrecked, what shall the people do who find it impossible to be happy unless they have a first-class humbug to cherish?

**The Immigrants.** A second large installment of the Doukhotor immigrants reached Halifax last Friday by the steamer 'Lake Superior,' after a comparatively quick voyage of 23 or 24 days, from Batoum. As soon as the steamer came to anchor near George's Island she was visited by the health officers, and it was learned that she had small-pox on board. It is stated that fourteen days from Batoum a child was taken ill with what was at first supposed to be measles, but which proved to be small-pox, and four days before the 'Superior's' arrival at Halifax the child died. The case was isolated as soon as it was known to be small-pox, and up to the time of the steamer's arrival no other cases had developed. The immigrants have gone into quarantine at Lawlor's Island, the quarantine station at the entrance of the harbor. The station has accommodation for only 1200 or 1400 persons. The Doukhobers number 1974, and with the crew the number to be accommodated is, therefore, 2,000. It has been necessary, accordingly, to erect new buildings of a temporary character, several hundreds of immigrants remaining in the ship until these were completed. So far as is learned at present writing no new cases of the disease have occurred among the immigrants, but it is evident that under the most favorable circumstances possible, they will be detained in quarantine several weeks. Dr. Montizambert, head of the quarantine system of Canada, and his assistant, Dr. Jones, of Halifax, are ministering to the immigrants. Count Sergius Tolstoy, son of the famous author, is in charge of this party of Doukhobors. Much sympathy will be felt for these people who have reached our shores under so unfavorable circumstances, and many prayers will be offered that a happy issue may be granted them out of their present troubles.