

## The Man of the Hour.



SIR REDVERS BULLER.

THE full title of the Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in South Africa is the Right Honorable Lieutenant-General Sir Redvers Henry Buller, G. C. B., K. C. G., K. C. B., V. C. Of all these, he is the proudest of the last dignity. V. C. means Victoria Cross. Sir Redvers won it in the

Zulu war, when he coolly pulled his men out of the greatest peril.



General Buller is exactly sixty years old. He is a Devonshire man by birth. Forty-one years ago he entered the Sixtieth Rifles, and gradually rose in rank until, in 1891, he became Lieutenant-General. The intervening time saw his gallant service in the Chinese campaign of 1860, in the Red River expedition ten years later, in the Ashanti war of 1874, in the Kaffir war of 1878, and in the succeeding Zulu, Boer and Egyptian campaigns. Sir Redvers is thus no stranger to Africa.



After Majuba Hill, Sir Redvers refused to sign the preliminary terms of peace with the Boers. As he persisted in the refusing, the British Government finally prevailed upon Sir Evelyn Wood to sign the document. Sir Evelyn has been thought by some a likely candidate for the chief commandship in the present campaign, but his near-sightedness in the field undoubtedly operated against his usefulness. Reference has been made to

Sir Redvers Buller's part in the Egyptian war of 1885-86. The experience gained in that war was supposed to be sufficient to entitle him to the supreme command when the British forces became ready to take Omdurman a year ago. General Kitchener was to lead the campaign against the Kalifa only in its early stages. He was to build a railway from Wadi-Halfa; he was to take Dongola, and he was to draw up the plans for further advance. Then the real march upon Omdurman was, so it is said, to have been undertaken by General Buller, Lord Kitchener's senior in rank as in years.



In this, however, the British War Office underrated the genius of the commander already in the field. So perfect was the union of British and Egyptian troops, and so skillful the advance made by Lord Kitchener, that even the prejudiced authorities were won over, and permitted the young officer who had done so much to reap the proper fruit of his precise military movements.

In 1885-86 Sir Redvers Buller was Deputy Adjutant-General, in 1887 Under Secretary of Ireland, and in 1890 Adjutant-General. He thus combines much administrative training with his long experience as leader of expeditionary forces.



Sir Redvers has now the chief command of the greatest force which Great Britain has sent out since Crimean days, a command not only his just due from a military standpoint, but one also, it is believed, which will atone for hopes once held out to him in North Africa. In South Africa he also has one melancholy distinction—that of commanding the first force sent by Great Britain against a white foe since Sebastopol.

Personally, Sir Redvers Buller is blunt and brusque, but very businesslike. The British South African campaign needs, all of the clear-headed leadership that is attributed to him.—Outlook.