

The troops formed up before the palace in three sides of a rectangle—Egyptians to our left as we looked from the river, British to the right. The Sirdar,¹ the generals of division and brigade, and the staff stood in the open space facing the palace. Then on the roof—⁵ almost on the very spot where Gordon fell, though the steps by which the butchers mounted have long since vanished—we were aware of two flagstaves. By the right-hand halliards² stood Lieutenant Staveley, R.N.,³ and Captain Watson, K.R.R.⁴; by the left-hand¹⁰ Bimbashi Mitford and his Excellency's Egyptian A.D.C.⁵

The Sirdar raised his hand. A pull on the halliards: up ran, out flew the Union Jack, tugging eagerly at his reins, dazzling gloriously in the sun, rejoicing in his strength and his freedom. "Bang!" went the¹⁵ "Melik's"⁶ 12½-pounder, and the boat quivered to her backbone. "God Save our Gracious Queen" hymned the Guards' band—"bang!"—from the "Melik"—and Sirdar and private stood stiff—"bang!"—to attention, every hand at the helmet peak in—"bang!"²⁰—salute. The Egyptian flag had gone up at the same instant; and now, the same ear-smashing, soul-uplifting bangs marking time, the band of the 11th Sudanese was playing the Khedivial⁷ hymn. "Three cheers for the Queen!" cried the Sirdar: helmets leaped in the²⁵ air, and the melancholy ruins woke to the first wholesome shout of all these years. Then the same for the Khedive. The comrade flags stretched themselves

¹ **Sirdar**—General Kitchener, the Commander-in-Chief, appointed Sirdar in 1890.

² **halliards**—The ropes used for hoisting flags or sails.

³ **R.N.**—Royal Navy.

⁴ **K.R.R.**—King's Royal Rifles.

⁵ **A.D.C.**—Aide-de-camp.

⁶ **Melik**—One of the gun boats.

⁷ **Khedive**—The viceroy of Egypt, a title granted by the Sultan in 1867.