

Undoubtedly, the advice was sound, and might, had it been somewhat differently carried out, have given them a chance of victory. Had the mass of Arabs lain *perdu* behind their sand banks, maintaining their fire of rifle, Krupp cannon, and Gatlings until the last moment, and then, when the English line was within a few paces, leaped to their feet with a terrible yell, and darted, ten thousand strong, upon us, the result might have been different. At least, such a plan would have given them a possibility of success, for their sudden charge might well have shaken the steadiest troops in the world. As it was carried out, the new tactics were fatal to them. Their main body was shouldered away from their camp by our march round their left, and took no part in the fight, save in resisting the charges of our cavalry. But fifteen hundred men remained in the lines round the wells, and these attempted no simultaneous rush such as proved fatal to the two forces they had before encountered and overpowered on the same ground. They fought in little groups and parties, and attacks by such bodies as these on the solid phalanx of British troops were as spray against the bows of a great steamer. The enemy met them piecemeal, and with each success the self-confidence of the troops rose. Even the halt while the artillery silenced the enemy's guns had a good effect, for it tired the men's patience, and made them burn with a desire to get at their foes. The hand-to-hand contest, which they had before hoped to avert by their rifle fire, was now longed for, and when they rose and advanced, cheering wildly, the battle was virtually won, and even had the enemy charged in a mass, the English might have been trusted to repel them with empty rifles. The heavy list of casualties among the officers in comparison to the total loss may be accounted for by the fact that in an attack the officers lead on their men, and would therefore be the first to come in contact with