

Epitaph on General Charles Gordon.

(Died Jan. 26, 1885.)

[The following was written by my father at the time of the death of General Gordon. Realizing how aptly it also applies to Lord Kitchener, I now reproduce.—Walter J. S. Laurie.]

Behold a man of soul serene and brave,
The oppressor's foe, the champion of the slave;
Of conscience pure, untouched by taint of self,
Who mocked ambition, spurned applause and
pelf.

Knight-errant of an unromantic age,
Your feats shall gild the great historic page,
Your virtues rare (that you would fain have hid)
Shall shed an afterglow on all you did.

Though "storied urn and animated bust"
Blazon the fame of heroes turned to dust,
Yet **all** shall crumble ere your chosen tomb
Shall be forgot by ages yet unborn—Khartoum.

—J. S. Laurie.