

Gordon.¹ After nearly fourteen years the Christian soldier was to have Christian burial.

On the steamers there was a detachment of every corps, white or black or yellow, that had taken part in the vengeance. Every white officer that could be spared⁵ from duty was there, fifty men picked from each British battalion, one or two from each unit of the Egyptian army. That we were going up to Khartum at all was evidence of our triumph; yet, if you looked about you, triumph was not the note. The most¹⁰ reckless subaltern, the most barbarous black, was touched with gravity. We were going to perform a necessary duty, which had been put off far, far too long.

Fourteen years next January—yet even through¹⁵ that humiliating thought there ran a whisper of triumph. We may be slow; but in that very slowness we show that we do not forget. Soon or late, we give our own their due. Here were men that fought for Gordon's life while he lived,—Kitchener, who went²⁰ disguised and alone among furious enemies to get news of him: Wauchope,² who poured out his blood like water at Tamai and Kirbekan; Stuart-Wortley,² who missed by but two days the chance of dying at Gordon's side. And here, too, were boys who could hardly²⁵

¹ **Gordon**—Chinese Gordon, or Gordon Pasha (1833-1885) had served for many years in China and in various parts of Africa. He was besieged in Khartum by the Mahdi, March 12th, 1884, and was killed in the storming of the city, Jan. 26th, 1885.

² **Wauchope. . . Kirbekan**—Wauchope belonged to the Black Watch, a famous Highland regiment. The Black Watch took part in the engagement at Tamai, near Suakim, March, 1884, and in the fight at Kirbekan, February, 1885, which occurred in the course of Lord Wolseley's relief expedition up the Nile. Wauchope was killed in the battle of Magersfontein, in the South African War.

³ **Stuart-Wortley**—He was a member of the detachment which was sent to the relief of Gordon, January 1885, but which reached Khartum two days after the city had fallen.