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IN THE SOUDAN.

The news of the recent capture of Khartoum by the rebels under El Mehdi and the death of General Gordon has caused the most poignant feelings of regret over all the

British Empire. In England the long smouldering fires of dissatisfaction with the Eastern policy of the Gladstone government have at last burst forth, and English people, of all ranks and shades of politics, are loud in their denunciation. Nevertheless the "grand old man" has been sustained. By a narrow majority it is true, only 14 in a house of 590, yet still a majority. Whether the Liberals will decide to carry on against so large a hostile vote is not certain at this time of writing, but the probabilities are that they will. Certain it is that an appeal to the people in their present temper would result disastrously for the present government. It is proverbial that in times of danger the great majority of the English people turn instinctively towards the Conservatives as their natural leaders, and the recent reverses to British arms in the Soudan under a Liberal régime will not tend to lessen this feeling. Englishmen had come to regard Gordon as a hero, and his defence of Khartoum as but another example of that British pluck and daring which is characteristic of Britons the world over. The heart of the British nation was with him in his heroic struggles against fearful odds, even as it was with Havelock and Williams in former days. In lordly mansion and in laborer's cottage alike the name of "Chinese Gordon" had become a household word, and when the news so suddenly came that the post was lost and its defender slain a gloom was cast over all the country. Not for his death alone, however much it was deplored, but for the manner of it. England has many a time and oft had occasion to bury her face amid the folds of her mourning for heroes dead and gone, but seldom has it been her lot to cover it there in shame as she thought of them. Had he died sword in hand with the might of England at his back, his countrymen would have exulted in his glory even while they wept for his fall; but that he should be left to die alone, defenceless amid brutal foes whom he trusted as friends, deserted, or, at least, but half