



DEVOTED TO TEMPERANCE, SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND LITERATURE.

VOLUME XIX., No. 9.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, MAY 1, 1884.

SEMI-MONTHLY, 30 CTS. per An., Post-Paid.

CHINESE GORDON.

WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE.

Many centuries ago it was said "a man is not without honor save in his own country," and seldom has the world seen the saying more strikingly verified. Here is a man, a Major General in the British army, a Chinese Mandarin of the highest order, an Egyptian Pasha; Governor General of the Soudan; a man who when little more than a boy distinguished himself in the Crimean War; who quelled the Taiping Rebellion in China, one of the greatest rebellions the world has ever seen, and saved the Empire when the Chinese themselves were powerless in the matter; who did, almost single-handed, what it was thought never could be done, destroyed the terrible slave trade in the Soudan; and yet when, about the beginning of the year, the British Government decided to send him again to the Soudan, as the only man they could find who would be at all likely to quell the troubles which had arisen since he was last there, the majority of people had never heard of him, and all were asking, Who is Gordon and what has he done?

But this is quite in accordance with the character of the man. He shuns popularity, and publicity he loathes. He "regards no feat of war as due to efforts of his own; no peril he surmounts as due to daring; no victory he wins as due to prowess or skill. Whatever his triumphs he holds them none of his, but the triumphs of a higher cause, whose instrument he is and whose flag he bears." God is his captain and his whole life is consecrated to His service. What he knows to be God's will he does, and whenever he succeeds he refuses to take any credit to himself, believing that he alone is nothing, but that it is God who works through him. Once on his return from China, where he won his name, he asked for some of his journals and papers which he had sent home some time before containing the whole account of his campaign there, and was

told that a friend had asked for them to have them printed. Very indignant he at once rushed to his house and demanded their return, but was told that they were already in the hands of the publisher. Away he went to the publisher and insisted upon their being given up to him, ordered what was already in type to be broken up, and brought them all away with him, and it is feared that he destroyed them, for nothing has ever been seen of them since. The fascinating life of him by Mr. Egmont Hake is written not only without his consent but without his knowledge.

General Gordon is a soldier by inheritance as well as by education. For generations back his father's ancestors have been soldiers, and fierce ones at that, being "distinguished for their constitutional inability to know when they were beaten." There is an old Scotch couplet which asserts that

"The gule, the Gordon, and the hoodie crew
Are the three worst things that Scotland ever
saw."

At the celebrated battle of Preston-Pans, in 1745, ancestors of his fought on both sides; and his grandfather fought at the

siege of Louisburg, and with Wolfe on the plains of Abraham, and is buried in Halifax.

His mother's family were equally distinguished as merchants and ship owners. Her father, Samuel Enderby of Blackheath, owned the ships on which was the celebrated tea which was thrown into Boston harbor, which act put the match to the fire of the American Revolution. His whalers in their outward trips to their fishing grounds in the southern ocean carried the first convicts to Botany Bay and the first settlers to Australia and New Zealand, and were the first to fish in the waters of Japan. His ships, too, were the first to sail around Horn and



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soldier, firm and humorous, generous and robust," intolerant of carelessness or neglect, and of strong individuality. His mother's character was equally remarkable. Through no matter what difficulties she was always cheerful, possessed a perfect temper, and was distinguished for her genius for making the best of everything.

Charles Gordon was born at Woolwich, on January 28th 1833. There is little known of his school life except that he had a boyish love for pitched battles, and delighted in tales of travel and wild adventure. From Taunton he went to the military school at Woolwich, and nothing is related of him there except a little burst of temper. He was told, for some reason not stated, that "he would never make an officer" and he tore the epaulets from his shoulders and threw them at his superior's feet.

In 1854 he was appointed an officer in the Royal Engineers and ordered to the Crimea, where the war was then raging; and while here, though a very young man, he became distinguished for his dauntless courage and the speed and accuracy with which he detected the movements of the enemy. Long afterwards Colonel C. C. Chesney wrote of him. "We used to send

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