

and slowly but perceptibly, with the aid of a friendly puff, passed over the critical point. Making for the shore again near the opposite bank he entered slack water, and tore on after the dahabieh. Still the boat under native command fails to ascend, and the other three also lie huddled together in mid-stream, their sails flapping between the gusts against the masts. But all, apparently, are put on their mettle by the success of the boat that has gone before them. The men put out their oars. The *voyageur* who has a native reis to assist him has lit his pipe, and tells, I suppose, that reis to hold his tongue, for the latter sits down quiescent on athwart, and interferes no more. And then they breast the stream with sails and oars together, taking advantage, as did the first boat, of all the eddies, as far as possible, before attempting to enter the main current. In twenty minutes after the leading boat, the other four had passed; and the first obstacle on the voyage to Dal was overcome.

Khartoum, which is the objective point of the Expedition, is at the junction of two rivers, which used to be called the White Nile and the Blue Nile, from the colour of their waters. We now know that the White Nile is *the* Nile, the wondrous stream that rises in the great lakes of Central Africa, flows northward three thousand three hundred and seventy miles, and empties into the Mediterranean Sea; while the Blue Nile is but a tributary, which rises in Abyssinia, flows nine hundred and sixty miles, and pours into the Nile at Khartoum.

Khartoum is the terminus of one great region and the beginning of a greater. It is the depôt of what civilization produces, and the starting-place of the caravans which convey its products to the negro tribes that can give ivory, gold, oil and cotton in exchange for them. Above all, it is the centre, the stronghold and the chief mart, of the slave trade, which, profitable as it is, is death to all other trade, and is opposed both to the interests and to the feelings of the English people.

With an English garrison and an English governor at Khartoum, the slave-trade in Africa ceases, and the Dark Continent is practically added to the domain of civilization. If the reader will study a recent map of Africa in the light of the explorations of Baker, Speke, Stanley and others, he will perceive that nature has done her part towards the creation of populous and wealthy States in the interior of that great Continent. It looks now as though man were about to do the rest.