

man, he is nearly worn out with hard work, but he is very cheerful." One more sentence is worth quoting as showing how attached Power had already become to Gordon: "We will be out of this in about four months, when the General will go for three weeks to Brussels to finish arrangements for the Congo, so I can be two weeks at home before I start with him across Africa (if I am spared as far, D. V.)" It was not the will of God. Thenceforth the only news from Kartoum was by Power's telegrams to the *Times*. "They told of the indomitable courage, the wondrous resources and generalship, the noble self-sacrifice, the reluctance to believe that he was abandoned, and the success in winning and keeping the loyalty of the people of Kartoum, which have marked Gordon as a great general, a true Christian, and a wondrous leader of men."*

The last telegram to the *Times* was received on September 29th, which carried the diary of the siege to 31st July. Very vivid and deeply interesting are the details. We cannot give them in full, but we can quote a few sentences of the comment by the *Times*. It said:

They tell a story of unflinching courage, of unwavering fortitude, of inexhaustible energy and resource, of hope in circumstances of despair, and of splendid devotion to duty when hope had fled. In the long roll of Englishmen who have spent themselves in the service of England there is no brighter name than that won for himself by General Gordon, nor in the glorious catalogue of their exploits is there any that can outshine his defence of Kartoum.

That telegram was the last word from the fated city, and we know nothing further of the progress of events until the story is taken up by the Journals before us, written, we are satisfied, with a strong foreboding of what the end would be, and a desire to leave on record the writer's views and feelings on the whole question, in the hope that it would at last reach the people of England.

We have not left ourselves much space to speak of the Journal or Journals (the manuscript is in six volumes), to which we would willingly have given the entire article, but thought it best to give a sketch of the whole affair.

Volume I. includes from September 10th to 22nd, and covers sixty-eight pages of letterpress, a marvel in itself when we remember that he was the only Englishman left in the city, and had to see after everything himself, down to the smallest details, if he would not have them neglected. Perhaps the best way would be to summarize the volumes, following the sketch by the editor, though necessarily much more briefly. The first volume is, to a certain extent, introductory. It was the seventh month of the siege,

the attacks upon the place were incessant, yet Gordon did not rest with acting on the defensive, but by means of his steamers dropped upon the Arabs when and where they least expected, and gave them a terrible lesson. Escaped prisoners kept coming in with all manner of contradictory stories respecting the Mahdi, his troops, intentions, etc., and as all these men must see Gordon, he had plenty to do in that line; yet he writes about the schools, in the success of which he was greatly interested; about individual cases of suffering; a plan for patrolling the Nile between the Cataracts, and securing access at all times to the South; about apostasy, being especially severe on those who to save their lives had renounced Christianity. His religious earnestness pervades the whole, frequently quoting and commenting on texts of Scripture, especially such as he thought appropriate to his own circumstances.

Volume II. has numerous military suggestions as to the advance of the English troops; but as he supposed that they had started some two months earlier than they actually did, and the position had considerably changed, the suggestions could hardly be utilized. He makes three suggestions as to the future of the country—that it should be given to the Turks; that his old enemy, Zubair Pasha, should be made Governor-General of Kartoum, and the Equator given to himself to govern, or that he should be replaced at once by Abdel Kader; the appointment of Zubair was, however, his favourite idea, Gordon guaranteeing that he would keep the old slave-hunting-ground safe from Zubair.

Volume III. continues the discussion as to the best methods for the future government of the Soudan; it contains also very interesting details of the progress of the siege. It is on the whole a cheerful volume, the thought that the relieving expedition would be too late had not yet settled into conviction.

Volume IV. contains many personal statements of great interest. They all go to show how overwhelming were his duties. Everything was referred to him; personal or political; his counsellors said: "Do what you think right, you will do better than we." At the same time treachery was at work, as he well knew, but could not positively say where, while those who were faithful were so indolent, lying and dishonest that they were useless to him.

Volume V. commences on October 21st, the New Year's Day of the Arabs, and with it, as Gordon says: "A New Year's gift this morning in arrival of Mahdi at Omdurman" (on the opposite bank of the Nile). He says also: "I think the Mahdi speculated on a rising in the town, but that the arrests have put him out in his calculations." (Gordon had arrested the leaders, Cadi, Sheik of Islam, etc., supposing that they were in correspondence with the Mahdi.) Much of this volume refers, often in bitter, sarcastic or denunciatory tones, to the reported treaty with King

*Arnold Power, brother of Frank, and editor of his letters