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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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A GENTLEMAN UNAFRAID.

The shortness of the public memory is proverbial; in the stress and hurry of modern life the average man finds no time to look back into the past and muse upon the great dead, even when the careers of lost heroes may well be included in contemporary history. But happily there are times when certain conditions arise which make it incumbent upon us to retrace our steps and examine the records dealing with some prominent figure who has passed into the Unknown, and by whose death the world became the poorer. At the present moment a controversy is afoot between certain eminent publicists in England on the subject of General Gordon. The subject was first raised by the issue of Lord Cromer's standard work on Egyptian administration, in the course of which he refers to General Gordon in terms which the friends of that hero of the Soudan consider deprecatory; and as a consequence much that was hitherto unknown to the general public concerning the personality of "Charlie" Gordon has been laid bare by those who were fortunate to enjoy his intimate friendship. To Lord Esher, in particular, is the British nation indebted for glimpses into the private life of the man who went to his barbaric death as to a feast. Lord Esher's acquaintance with General Gordon, which soon became a fast friendship, began in 1880. Lord Esher, then the Hon. Reginald Brett, was acting as private secretary to Lord Hartington, who was Secretary for War when General Gordon was appointed private secretary to Lord Ripon, a post which he resigned before he reached India. Gordon returned to England in November, 1880. In the following month he was constantly in and out of Lord Esher's house in Tilney Street. Lord Esher says: He would generally come in the morning, a queer figure, with a loose comforter round his throat, and a hat—by no means a good one—tilted back on his head; the eternal cigarette between his lips. He was of small stature—very small, like so many great men—and of spare figure. He would have passed unnoticed anywhere, except for his eyes, which were of that peculiar steel-like blue common to enthusiastic natures, more especially when the enthusiast is a soldier. His talk was as fresh as a spring morning, full of humour, and his language as simple as the book of Genesis. Complexity of thought, confusion of ideas, prolixity of speech, were impossible to him. He saw with wonderful clearness, perhaps sometimes not very far. He detested cant, and although he could be sometimes strangely indignant, and was deeply roused by faithlessness, his charity knew no bounds. Repentance made up, in his eyes, for every crime. Hence his judgment of men was variable, and often appeared inconsistent. Although it occasionally amused him to be deceived, he was rarely taken in. His religion was never obtruded, but it was as much a part of his daily life as smoking cigarettes. He literally walked with God, and if it were not disrespectful, one might almost say arm in arm with Him.

Within the scope of this article it is impossible to deal with the wonderfully refreshing and simple patriotism which shared with religion General Gordon's mission in life, or with the events that led up to that fatal day in bloodstained Khartoum, when the spears of the Mahdi ended a career which should be held up as a model before the eyes of every boy.

Lord Esher says that he did not set out with the intention of describing fully or of attempting to discuss the character of General Gordon, who stands above analysis and beyond discussion. There have been attempts made to belittle him, and to deprive him of some of the lustre which his life and death shed upon his beloved country. "The greatest gift a hero leaves to his race is to have been a hero." It is true that Gordon took small account of the great ones of the earth. It is by no means certain that he possessed what is called a "dress suit." He is said never to have been at an evening party, but he was seen to walk hand in hand with street arabs. He knew the Bible by heart, and the fear of man was not in him. Faithlessness was in his eyes the worst of crimes. He went to his death, as we have said, as to a feast. Many lies have been told of him. Even his moral character has not been spared. It has been said that he failed to do his duty. These accusations are totally disproven by the evidence at hand, and the record of his life and work show irrefutably that Gordon in his everyday life approached nearer to the ideal of saintliness, perhaps, than any of England's great men before or after him. In the very heart of London Gordon's statue stands under the shadow of the great Nelson Column. Both these men claimed that they had tried to do their duty, and not vainly. Nelson had many frailties, Gordon had but few. But, few or many, Gordon is the ideal of every patriotic man and woman of English blood. Especially is he the ideal of the poor and humble children whom he loved, and he would be the ideal of every one of his detractors "if God had given them grace to see it." Kipling's famous lines very nearly represent the circumstances of Gordon's life and death:—

He scarce had need to doff his pride or slough the
dress of earth;
E'en as he trod that day to God so walked he from
his birth,
In simpleness and gentleness and honour and clean
mirth.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

SPEECHES BY MINISTERS.

London, October 7.

The Prime Minister, speaking at Preston Pans on Tuesday, expressed his confidence that peace will be maintained. Mr. Evans, the Solicitor General, in a speech delivered at Doncaster, said the country might remain calm during the present crisis in the East, since it knew its destiny was in good hands.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S HEALTH.

London, October 6.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain authorises the statement that there is no truth in the report in a Sunday paper that his father intends to retire shortly and that he is preparing a message to his constituents. Mr. Chamberlain is better than he has been for a long time past, and yesterday he spent some hours in the grounds at Highbury, while during the week he has taken several long drives. It is also incorrect to say that he contemplates leaving for the Continent shortly. He has made no arrangements for the future.

ENGLISH TOURIST'S ADVENTURE.

Paris, October 6.

A telegram to the *Echo de Paris* from Geneva says:—An English Alpinist named Nathan was surprised by a snowstorm while climbing Mont Blanc, and was half-frozen to death with his guides. Mr. Nathan was taken to Chamounix in an unconscious condition, and was subsequently conveyed to a Geneva hospital, where all his toes had to be amputated.

DEATH OF A FAMOUS NUN.

London, October 6.

The death is announced from Gort Convent, county Galway, of Mother Mary Aloysius Doyle, the survivor of the sixteen nuns of the Order of Mercy, who left Ireland in 1854, to assist Miss Florence Nightingale in nursing the soldiers in the Crimea. She was 94 years of age. Mother Mary Doyle was summoned to Windsor several years ago by the late Queen Victoria to be decorated, but was too old to undertake the journey. Her sister, aged 90, a nun in the same convent, still survives.

RECORD CROSS-CHANNEL ROW.

London, October 6.

Two young Frenchmen, MM. Peron and Levy, arrived at Boulogne on Sunday night after having rowed from that port to Folkestone and back in a skiff. They took a little over seven hours from Boulogne, and reached Folkestone between ten and eleven o'clock on Saturday night. After a rest and a meal at an hotel the Frenchmen announced their intention of rowing back to Boulogne. They accordingly took on board a supply of provisions, and left at one o'clock for home, arriving at Boulogne at 11.30 p.m. on Sunday. This event establishes a record for the double Channel passage. The feat has aroused great interest in rowing circles. The young men did not start from Boulogne with the intention of crossing to England, but when in the Channel were induced to make the attempt by the prevailing favourable conditions.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

ANOTHER POLITICAL BOMB.

New York, October 7.

Judge Parker charges President Roosevelt with having received 100,000 dollars from the Standard Oil Company four years ago, and having employed the money to influence the elections.

THE CAMPAIGN LIFE OF MESSRS. TAFT AND BRYAN.

(From our New York correspondent.)

Candidates for the American Presidency are extremely busy people. During the whole campaign they never know what quiet is, for if their time is not being taken up with journeys and speeches, they have to dispose of so enormous a correspondence, or to attend so many conferences, to receive visitors and shake hands—everyone wants to shake the candidate's hand, and every woman holds up her child for the candidate to kiss—that they hardly know where they are. Mr. William J. Bryan, for example, receives daily between two and three thousand letters. A large number of stenographers

(Continued on page 2.)