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THE SIRDAR, MAJOR-GENERAL SIR H. H. KITCHENER, K.C.M.G., ETC., ETC.

SIRDAR AND KHALIFA

OR THE

RE-CONQUEST OF THE SOUDAN

SIRDAR AND ~~KHARIB~~ <sup>KHARIB</sup> ~~SOUDAN~~ <sup>SOUDAN</sup>

OR THE

RE-CONQUEST OF THE SOUDAN

1898

BY

BENNET BURLEIGH

WITH PORTRAITS, NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS, MAPS,  
AND PLAN OF BATTLE

SECOND EDITION

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## P R E F A C E.

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CAUSES may be constant in their operation, yet unforeseen events will oft arise to set aside judgment and plans, which is perhaps only another way of saying—"Man proposes, God disposes." By order of the British Government of the day, that enormous area in North-Eastern Africa known as the Egyptian Soudan, extending from Wady Halfa to the equator, was yielded by the Khedive to whomsoever cared to seize it. Many seaports along and beyond the Red Sea littoral were abandoned, as well as numberless tribes, Arab and negroid, their future left to be determined by the lottery of conquest. The Mahdist rising was in full swing at that period in the Central Soudan. Fanatical millions eagerly volunteered to extend by fire and sword the dominion of their new creed, as they hoped, to the uttermost ends of the earth.

Within a decade almost, the policy that dictated the evacuation and abandonment of that country had been reversed and the re-conquest of the Soudan begun. It is of the more recent carrying out, under British direction and aid, of the task, that I have now written. Although I might have had something new to say

about the Dongola campaign of 1896, I confine my narrative mainly to the more important incidents that occurred in 1897-8. Indeed, the real forward movement only commenced with the capture of Abu Hamed. The brilliant campaign conducted by the Sirdar during the spring of this year, which closed in the victory of the Atbara, has virtually carried our arms up to Khartoum and before the walls of Omdurman. We have but to wait for high Nile to regain the absolute command of the river. Even the date and nature of the final struggle before the last stronghold of Mahdism may, with fair accuracy, be forecast.

I have been an eye-witness during the course of all the campaigns in the Soudan in which British troops have been employed, acting as war correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph*, London. Naturally, much of which appears in the following pages first saw light in the columns of that journal, but by no means all. Still, the scenes described and their character are of such a nature, that I venture to hope there is ample justification for spreading the record in this more convenient form.

I have to thank Mr Ross, of *Black and White*, and Colonel Frank Rhodes, for the use of photographs; the Proprietors of the *Daily Telegraph*, for the use of maps and copy; and others, for their kind assistance.

BENNET BURLEIGH.

LONDON, July 1898.

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