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Gordon's Mission: England's Difficulties & Destiny.

A DISCOURSE BY "GEORGE THOMPSON," THROUGH MRS. C. L. V. RICHMOND,
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"Woe to the Land, shadowing with wings!"

Sometimes in the midst of great prophecy, the word of truth strikes centuries deep into the heart of nations, and today the spectacle of the Orient offers no exception to that rule. There is a three-fold Octopus in Europe stretching its arms eastward, slowly and surely absorbing the vitality of what were once the principal nations of civilization, and just as surely the Western Hemisphere, that new and wonderful land, is sapping the vitality of Western Europe, and as might makes right, or seems to do so in the eastern nations, what America and Australia are absorbing from the mother countries of Europe, they in turn are trying to replace from the more ancient sources of human government.

Across the west and north of Asia, Russia is spreading her dominion and power, close and almost upon the footsteps of the ancient Empire of the Sun. Midway between Russia and England, the scorpions, Austria and Germany, held in check by the great words, "balance of power," are seeking outlets to their wonderful ambition, while England, with ever-gloating power, with eyes that seem to extend in all directions, strives ever to find some new source of augmenting that power, which first and last, primarily and latest, may be summed up in the one word *India*. To protect the approaches to India, every outpost has been fashioned that is possible. Down through the wonderful mysteries, mysticisms and labyrinths of that long and complicated history, the wars in Burmah, in South Africa, ending in the Zulu war, in the Crimea, in Afghanistan, finally terminates in this war in Egypt. Now Egypt is one of the outposts to India, and it must be borne in mind that civilization in the European sense and term, and I fear also in the American sense, means commerce, and that civilization, meaning commerce, whatever bears upon the commercial relations of the great nations of the earth with one another, affects the peace of the whole habitable globe, and that with no other excuse than protecting her commerce, England has stationed her outposts, at the most convenient places; and has found it expedient, has found it practicable thus far to give answer to other questioning nations: "It is necessary for the preservation of the commerce of the world," so that from all the wonderful

lands that hedge in this wonderful commerce, or that in any way border upon the East, the cry sooner or later goes up: "War, war." At first, the advance is made, a treaty is formed, then by continued aggression, or continued crowding, a revolt is stimulated, and "England's honour must be preserved," and the war must come.

Soudan is no exception to the rule, but rather more aggravated, since not simply the English and English authority has been precipitated upon the Soudanese, but the Islam hordes, who rise in revolt, and who, stimulating this insurrection, are as much to be feared and dreaded, perhaps, as the very conqueror which has made Soudan captive. None can know this so well as those who have studied the history of the Orient, and find that Egypt has been overrun with the hordes of Mussulmans who divided among themselves are ready to unite oftentimes upon the pretext of invasion, aggression and revolt, with any power that will bring them the price of ransom or the promise of prowess and leadership. Fearless, desperate, stimulated to fanaticism by their religious leaders, war and religion are one with them, and the whole history of Mohammedan conflict, is a history of the sword in one hand and the Koran in the other, acceptance or death. These Arabs are trained not to fear death, and the piles of their bodies found now at the seat of war in Egypt, prove how true it is, that an enemy has been met, not afraid of death, and that there may be thousands yet who will sacrifice their lives, sooner than give up, what perhaps is a mere dream, perhaps the thought that they are fighting for Allah, through the new prophet. God knows they are stimulated to rush to conflict and to death in defence of what they think to be their rights and their country. Meanwhile the more peaceable Soudanese, those who really need the protection of the English Government, those who have been peaceable for long years, who must have been desolated and ravaged by the two armies, these are they whom General Gordon, more than all men, wishes to protect. Now, it is not possible that a man can serve God and the English Government at the same time, it is not possible that a man zealous of doing right to a persecuted, oppressed and war-riddled people and country, can do so in the face of the English Government