

II—KITCHENER AS A CIVILIZER

BY THEODORE ROOSEVELT¹

SIX years ago I passed through the Sudan and was more deeply impressed than I can well express by the extraordinary benefits secured to the natives of the country by Lord Kitchener's conquest and the administration of himself and of his lieutenant and successor, General Wingate. *He rescued it from a condition of chronic

¹ A statement made by Mr. Roosevelt at Oyster Bay on the day Lord Kitchener's death was announced.

schools were established everywhere. The Sudan entered upon a career of peace, prosperity, and justice which it had never before known in its history—a period which may justly be compared to the corresponding period in the history of the Philippine Islands, which, thanks to our taking possession of them, have for eighteen years enjoyed a degree of prosperity, progress, mental and physical freedom, and general well-being such as they had never even approached in all their previous history, and such as they could not in the smallest degree have attained save by our aid and supervision.

Kitchener and Wingate did in the Sudan exactly what Admiral Dewey, Governors-General Taft, Wright, Smith, Forbes, and

slaughter and rapine under which the population had diminished by considerably more than half, and of the younger children more than nine-tenths died of disease or starvation.

The result of the conquest was to establish absolute peace and justice under the orderly reign of law. Industry flourished amazingly; slavery and the oppression of weaker tribes were completely abolished;

their associates, and Generals Wood, Bell, Funston, Barry, and others like them, did for the Philippines. In each case the gain was immeasurable for the natives themselves, and was also large from the standpoint of humanity as a whole.

Taken as a whole, nothing has meant more for humanity than this work of spreading civilization over the world's waste spaces, and as a whole it has reflected the highest credit on the various nations engaged in the task. The death of Lord Kitchener, who has been so prominent in this work, illustrates in striking fashion what a lamentable and evil thing it is that these great civilized nations should now be tearing out one another's lives.