

of the battle by the war correspondent present, in which he writes: "No one of us who was present on that day will ever in his life behold again a scene so grandly impressive or so stirring. It typified in every sense the final desperate struggle of barbarism against civilization, of dogged, fierce, unreasoning fanaticism against the massed triumphs of modern science, the ultimate protest of brute, brave, ignorance, against discipline. The Dervish cohorts advanced, rolling forward over the desert as a tidal wave might roll, or a huge prairie fire sweep over the plain, their countless banners swayed as they moved, their great broad-bladed spears gleamed innumerable—a *sheet of silver in the sun*. Their leaders on small swift horses flashed to and fro across the front of their line; here and there dotted conspicuous before the face of the host, wild figures leaped high in the air in a frenzied war dance; *the moaning of their war horns, the thunderous throbbing of their drums, the hoarse persistent roar of their battle shout, blended with the harsh reiterant crash of their rifles, rent the air like a storm.*"

Is not this vivid description by an eye witness curiously corroborative of the mental impressions of the lady who, although she may not know it, is evidently possessed of that strange sense of intuition which puts her in acute touch with sights, sounds, and things quite imperceptible to the average human being, with senses incontestably as yet very slightly developed. It is presumable that the lady in question possesses a nervous system of extreme vibratility and sensibility, and that the "thunderous throbbing" of the death knell of the Dervish cohorts—human beings, let us remember, such as we are, and therefore instinct with the Breath of Life—was by a yet undreamt of force to be borne in upon her susceptible organization. And what a terrible concentration of force must have fled forth and swept the desert, in the wrenching asunder of those bold warrior spirits, from torn mutilated flesh!

It is possible also that your *clairvoyant* correspondent combines "intense patriotism" with an acute sense of justice, and that perhaps, unknowingly, she was in intimate sympathy with "brave brute ignorance," as against the "massed triumphs of modern science." I myself have a sneaking inclination for a *fair hand to hand fight*, as against Maxims, and grape shot on the one side, and "bare sabres" on the other, and am inclined to think that the charge of the 21st Lancers just redeemed Omdurman from wholesale murder.

As your correspondent writes: "there is, of course, a scientific solution to such phenomena, only at present we do not possess the key to it."

"ANOTHER SCOTCHWOMAN."

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—In relation to the "mental visions" in connection with the Battle of Kerrere, which, under the above heading, interested me intensely in last week's issue, the following may interest "Scotch-woman":

This week's *Spectator* prints the following letter from a correspondent: "May I draw the attention of your readers to a somewhat remarkable prophecy concerning the Soudan War and the Battle of Kerrere or Omdurman? It is contained in the 'Memoirs of a Soudanese Soldier (Ali Effendi Gifoon),' a translation of which was published in the *Cornhill Magazine* for 1896 (pp. 337-38). Incidentally I should like to point

out the close similarity between the prophetic description of Sayid Hassan regarding the end of the fight, and the actual words of the newspaper correspondent who reported the scene: 'The field white with jibbah-clad corpses like a meadow dotted with snowdrifts.' This is one of the clearest and most unmistakable accounts of second-sight or prevision with which I am acquainted."

There is evidently "force" in the Soudan.

Yours very truly, E.S.

"ABOUT TIME SOMETHING WAS DONE."

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—It appears to me that the excellent ladies, who desire trained nurses to discard their uniform, are beginning at the wrong end. Suppose that undesirable persons appeared in the uniform of the Queen's soldiers, or of the Metropolitan Police, should we, therefore, have a regulation issued by the War Office, or by the Chief Commissioner of the Police, that owing to the fact that these uniforms were now adopted by persons who had no right to them, Her Majesty's Army, and the London Police, were henceforth to discard them and appear in plain clothes? The absurdity of such an idea is evident. Then why should trained nurses give up their uniform for a like reason? If the well-meaning persons, who desire them to do so, would employ themselves in endeavouring to obtain legislation restricting the use of the uniform of a trained nurse to those who are entitled to it, it would be much more to the point. Let these ladies study the nursing question; they will, I hope, then help the nursing profession to obtain those reforms which it is demanding, as a matter of justice to nurses, and of protection for the sick public. It is about time something was done. But to try to abolish nursing uniforms is silly. Surely, nurses who are proud of their profession will resent the suggestion that their uniform is a thing to be ashamed of.

Yours faithfully,

ONE WHO WEARS IT.

"THE ELECT OF MR. FARDON."

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to see you are taking up the subject of retaining as members of the Royal British Nurses' Association women who have been convicted of criminal offences. This is a very grave question for the public, and if women who have been imprisoned for theft are to continue to practise under the protection of the Royal British Nurses' Association, surely we nurses, who have been compelled to resign our membership of the Association, owing to the dishonourable conduct of business by the Hon. Officers, are in duty bound to make a public protest. We are naturally classed as a body in the opinion of the public, and it is a shame that respectable and honourable women should be classed with criminals owing to the cowardice, or worse, of men who have "nobbled" our professional Association, and who evidently care neither for the good name of our profession, or the safety of the public. I have forwarded a copy of last week's RECORD to several influential Members of Parliament, and hope other nurses will do the same. We have suffered enough in public esteem from the disgraceful proceedings of the Chartered Corporation.

INDIGNANT.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)