

**THE WORLD'S
WORKERS.
GENERAL GORDON**

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The World's Workers. General Gordon by S. A. Swaine

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S. A. SWAINE

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WORKERS.
GENERAL GORDON**



C. Gordon.

THE WORLD'S WORKERS.

Line 2, 000 -
General Gordon.

BY THE
REV. S. A. SWAINE.

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1885.

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GENERAL GORDON.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY LIFE.

THE story of the "Hero of Khartoum" has been told again and again. The people of England, and not only of England but, one may say, of the world, have been intensely interested in it. It is the story of a great and brave soldier and God-fearing man. But though so often told it has not yet been specially told—except in a fragmentary way—for the benefit of the young. And yet what story are they likely to be more interested in than such a moving one as Gordon's? The heroic always appeals powerfully to youth, and the heroic is seen in Gordon's life almost from the beginning. Adventures "by flood and field" are sure to attract their attention, and absorb their interest; and here we have no lack of them, stranger many of them than such as are portrayed in the wildest dreams of fiction, and having the advantage of being true. The boys and girls of England we want to grow up brave, and good, and true. Where then shall we find an

example more likely to captivate their imaginations and influence them in such a direction than that of the Christian soldier who—though not faultless, for no man is—manfully sought to serve Christ, and was lost and dead to everything except to God and duty?

This book, then, is for you, young friends. The story I have to tell I wish to tell after the manner of a story-teller. Throughout I shall speak directly to you, and if you like we will imagine ourselves sitting cosily round the fire on a succession of winter evenings, when lessons and out-door amusements are over for the day.

Well, to begin at the beginning, we must speak of Woolwich, which, as you know, is famous for the large arsenal and dockyard which the Government has there. It is possible that many of you have visited the place, and seen some of the immense guns which are made there, the wonderful Nasmyth hammer, of enormous weight and worked by steam, which is so necessary in their manufacture, and also the curious assemblage of war-weapons and models of fortifications and dockyards to be found in the Rotunda. If you have never visited Woolwich you have, let us hope, that treat in store for you.

It was at Woolwich, on January 28th, 1833, that General Gordon was born, so that, perishing as he did at the hands of fanatical and savage men on Jan. 26th, 1885, he was only fifty-two when he died. Only fifty-two, and yet how much he had gone through,