M0003659: Major-General C. George Gordon (1833-1885)

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From the Painting]

GORDON'S LAST WATCH, 1885.

[By L. Dickenson.

Though a man of the purest and noblest character Gordon was undoubtedly not the right man for the work which he was called upon to do in 1884. He was difficult to work with, and would not be tied by government orders. His instructions were to secure the evacuation of the K-artoum garrison, but when once there "he threw his instructions to the winds" and determined to reconquer the Sudan or perish in the attempt. This does not, however, absolve Gladstone from blame-for the tragic delay which caused the renef expedition to arrive two days too late, on January 28th, 1885.