

American artist. A greater picture is, of course, Mr. Sargent's "Venetian Water-Carrier," painted twenty years ago; in its motive and tonalities are matched in magistral manner. Examples of the "unmatched" are found in contributions from Mr. Tanner and Mr. Ballin. Mr. Tanner is the well-known painter of scenes from Bible history. His work in the exhibition is marked by characteristic dignity and tenderness of sentiment, but it continues the disappointment for those who look for quality of tone. On the other hand, Mr. Ballin, maintaining his commendable color-standard, disappoints those who look for depth of sentiment. There are some who gloat over unpleasant and offensive realism; they will find it in Mr. MacCameron's "The Daughter's Return," a canvas showing much nervous force. One turns from it with relief to Mr. Brush's work. As the painter of "modern Madonnas" he maintains his well-known individuality. But in his latest Madonna the disposition of the draperies indicates the influence upon him of the Italian "primitive" painters who preceded Raphael. In mural decoration the principal contribution is Mr. Low's interesting cartoon for the new Cleveland custom-house.



THE LORDS PROPOSE TO REFORM THEMSELVES

The reform of the House of Lords has become the crucial question in the present political situation in England. Mr. Asquith has been compelled, by the necessity of retaining the support of the Irish party, to defer the consideration of the Budget until the Government's measures for dealing with the House of Lords have been acted upon by the Commons. These measures are to be introduced after Easter, and meanwhile the financial provisions for carrying on the government must be made by temporary makeshifts. While the House of Commons is concerning itself with these provisions, a move has been made in the upper house looking toward a reform of the hereditary chamber by the Lords themselves. Last week Lord Rosebery moved the adoption of three resolutions:

1. That a strong and efficient second chamber is not merely an integral part of the British Constitution, but is necessary to the

well-being of the State and the balance of Parliament.

2. That a second chamber can best be obtained by reforming and reconstituting the House of Lords.

3. That a necessary preliminary to such reform and reconstitution is the acceptance of the principle that possession of a peerage shall no longer in itself give the right to sit and vote in the House of Lords.

In a speech of two hours Lord Rosebery elaborated these three declarations. He called upon his fellow Peers to reconstitute the body to which they belonged, in order that it might be more defensible against attacks from without. He declared that the Government must soon go before the country with its proposals, and urged the Lords to meet them with proposals of their own. Just what form Mr. Asquith's resolutions will take is not yet known, but it is almost unquestioned that their main contention will in principle be directly opposed to the suggestions of Lord Rosebery. What is needed, says Lord Rosebery, is to strengthen the upper chamber by decreasing its membership in number while increasing its ability and representative quality. What is needed, says Mr. Asquith, is to weaken the upper chamber by taking away its veto power. The trouble with the House of Lords, says the one side, is that it is too big and contains too much dead wood. The trouble with the House of Lords, says the other side, is that it is always and overwhelmingly Conservative; that it expedites Conservative measures while it vetoes or emasculates Liberal measures. The two points of view are widely separated. Which will prevail remains to be determined in the arena of party strife. But some modification of the House of Lords, either in composition or in powers or in both, seems inevitable.



MR. ROOSEVELT AT KHARTUM

The full reports in the American press of Mr. Roosevelt's arrival at Khartum, of his reception there, of his energetic inspection of everything there to be viewed, and of his utterances on what he saw and experienced—all show that the newspapers recognize the universal and keen interest felt by their readers in Mr. Roosevelt's personality and actions. One correspondent facetiously cabled that

navigation on the Nile was in danger of being impeded by the specially chartered boats of the correspondents! The week was evidently a busy and eventful one to the Roosevelt party. On Monday afternoon the Dal (the Sirdar's boat on which Mr. Roosevelt had traveled from Gondokoro, thirteen hundred miles) reached the Khartum landing-stage near the palace of the Sirdar, Sir Francis Wingate, and the leading British officials welcomed their guest at the palace with cordiality and honor, while a little later in the day took place the meeting with Mrs. Roosevelt and Miss Ethel Roosevelt, who arrived from Cairo by train. One of the first statements made by Mr. Roosevelt to the correspondents was a positive re-declaration that his intention not to discuss political questions, as stated by him in a signed editorial in *The Outlook* at the time of his departure from America, would continue in force. His words to the newspaper correspondents were: "I have nothing to say and will have nothing to say on American or foreign political questions or any phase or incident thereof. I will give no interviews, and anything purporting to be in the nature of an interview with me can be accepted as false as soon as it appears. This applies to our entire stay in Europe." This decision is obviously the right and sensible one, and is precisely what should have been expected. The information cabled from Khartum about the expedition indicates a thoroughgoing success from the scientific standpoint; thirteen thousand specimens, many rare, were collected—the greater number, of course, were of the small varieties of animal life—but the number, quality, and rareness of the large animals are remarkable; no wanton or purposeless shooting whatever was done by any member of the expedition; Mr. Roosevelt and his son Kermit arrived in the finest possible condition as to health, and were free from illness throughout, although others of the white men were ill at times and there was also illness among the blacks, one of whom died.

FOUR BUSY DAYS

Khartum is full of personal and historical associations to a student of the advance of civilization. One of Mr. Roosevelt's new

friends there made, for instance, was Slatin Pasha, whose story of captivity and escape in the Mahdi's time makes one of the most thrilling narratives ever put into a book. At Gordon College, a memorial to the heroism and death of General Charles Gordon, Mr. Roosevelt exclaimed, "Think of it! sons of the Khalifa, El Mahdi, are studying at a college which perpetuates the name of the man originally responsible for the destruction of their father's power." Over and over again he commented on the evidences of the civilizing power of the British influence; and at Omdurman, to visit which place the party took their first camel ride, and at the other battlefields, they saw where British soldiers drove back the hordes of the followers of the dervishes, and where the tide of Western influence broke over the fiercest resistance of semi-savage ferocity. On Wednesday a dinner with a thousand guests was given in Mr. Roosevelt's honor by Slatin Pasha, and in his speech Mr. Roosevelt referred with some irony to the predictions of failure, death, and disaster for the expedition which had been made by some American pessimists. In this speech also he dwelt upon the marvelous changes that had taken place in the Sudan in the course of the last twelve years, and said that any attempt to overturn the beneficent régime now established would be a crime against the country and humanity generally. Great Britain, he added, by undertaking to civilize a country once devastated by bloodthirsty tyranny, had proved herself true to the highest imperial traditions. It was only when a nation undertook the work of mankind, regardless of its own profit, that it could be called great. Addresses to the boys of the Government school and to delegations of merchants, visits to the bazaars, a review of the Sudanese soldiery, inspection of ancient weapons and relics of the Mahdi's war, attendance at social functions, the laying of a cathedral corner-stone, and leave-takings of ceremony and of friendship, filled the intervals of a four days' period which even for a man of Mr. Roosevelt's activity must have been extraordinary and have furnished intense enjoyment. Thursday evening the party left Khartum on their way to Wady Halfa, Assouan, and Cairo.