

OBITUARY.

EARL KITCHENER.

With kindred institutions we deplore the national, indeed we may say international, loss by the untimely end of Earl Kitchener.

It has been said, and rightly so, that the present war is an engineer's war, of which the two outstanding features are organisation and highly technical abilities.

We especially allude to Lord Kitchener more as an organiser and engineer than as a soldier, because as engineers we are more enabled to appreciate his value.

In this respect we refer to his conquest of the Sudan, which was also an engineer's war, and that of the railway engineer in particular. Without the railway the Sudan would not have been conquered, and we quote from "With Kitchener to Khartoum," in which that well-known war correspondent G. W. Steevens writes:—"For in Halfa was being forged the deadliest weapon that Britain has ever used against Mahdism—the Sudan Military Railway. In the existence of the railway lay all the difference between Wolseley's campaign and the machine-like precision of Kitchener's. When civilisation fights barbarism it must fight with civilised weapons, for with his own arts on his own ground the barbarian is almost certain to be the better man.

“ The Battle of the Atbara was won in the workshops of Wady Halfa. Everybody knew that a railway across the desert was an impossibility until the Sirdar turned it into a fact.

“ It was characteristic of the Sirdar's daring—but to the uninformed it was mad recklessness—that he actually launched his rails and sleepers into the waterless desert while the other end was still held by the enemy.”
