

### Current Topics.

"The Union Jack flies over the grave of General Gordon." This is the result of the brilliant victory won by General Kitchener over the Khalifa's forces at Omdurman. The particulars are now familiar to all our readers. The "Charge of the Lancers" will pass into history with the "Charge of Balaklava" as a superb display of military valour. No word was given for the charge, nor did it have any direct bearing on the issue of the day. The Lancers, 320 strong, came suddenly upon a force of 2,000 of the enemy on ground which had not been examined by scouts. They were but 200 yards from the dervishes who were placed ten or fifteen deep. There was no time for the Lancers to turn. They dashed forward and into the thick of the enemy. When they got through, they had lost forty men in killed and wounded. Those who were killed had their heads, necks and limbs slashed to ribbons by their savage foes. There were many stirring incidents and scenes of valour:

With one exception no man who was once actually unhorsed was again seen alive. The single exception was Sergeant-Major Ginches. His horse was brought down to the ground and the officer fell among the furious dervishes. Sergeant-Major Brennan, who was riding ahead, saw the major's peril, and gallantly returned to his assistance. After a tough fight, in the course of which Brennan killed several dervishes, he succeeded in getting the officer on to his own horse and back to the regiment. Sergeant-Major Geo. Veysey got a slash from a dervish sword which severed his nose, and almost simultaneously a spear was thrust into his chest. Blood streamed from his wounds, but he still rode firmly in his saddle and continued to cheer on his troop till the fight was over. Sergeant Freeman received a terrible wound from a sword in his face, but like Veysey he went on fighting, and only sought the aid of a surgeon after he had carried his men through the action. Before the Lancers could get at the dervishes they had to jump the water course, and they did it in splendid style.

### The Lancers' Charge at Omdurman.

Out leaped our lancers from heel-rest,  
"Forward!" The cry in our ears,  
"Charge!" and we swept them before us,  
Onward, like chaff from the ears.

Gordon rode ever beside us,  
Dark with the blood of his tomb,  
Aye, and the devils that slew him  
Here paid the debt for his doom.

Recked we the fire of the foeman?  
Heard we the hail of the lead?  
Nay, all we knew we were at them,  
Paying the debt for our dead.

Into them, over and through them;  
Back for our wounded and dead,  
Hell was around and beside us,  
Crimson and reeking their bed.

Out of them, formed for another  
Charge for the heart of the foe.  
Ah! they won't let us, however,  
Song of our carbines they know.

Singing the song of our victory,  
Fierce and avenging of hate,  
Lo! They are broken and fleeing,  
Fast from the coming of fate.

This is a day to remember!  
Joy, and the heat of the fight!  
Aye, for the God of our Battles,  
Fought with us here for the right.

—*Ethelbert D. Pitt, Niagara Falls Centre, Ontario, in Farm and Fireside.*

Sir Herbert Kitchener, the hero of Omdurman, is only 48 years old. In 1882 he was given command of the Egyptian cavalry, and held the office for two years. After serving in Lord Wolseley's expedition, he was made Governor of Suakim. After holding this office for a couple of years he became Adjutant-General, and in 1890 he was appointed Sirdar. From first to last his energy has been as untiring as his success has been unbroken, and to-day he has the reputation of being a master organizer, capable of doing more with narrow means than any other soldier in the Empire. He exacts from no one as much as from himself. Indefatigable by day and night, with an iron constitution, taciturn, ambitious and proud, he is truly a man of blood and iron. Those who have gained his confidence regard him with unbounded enthusiasm. They believe him to be capable of everything.

Later comes the news that a French force under Gen. Marchand, with an Abyssinian army of 10,000 willing to co-operate with him are in possession of Fashoda, 300 miles from Omdurman, up the White Nile. This French force has been two years working its way thither from the French Congo, and is now within territory claimed by the British. If the French "have come to stay" Gen. Kitchener will find more work cut out for him.

The adjustment of peace between Spain and the United States has been begun by commissioners who are sitting in Paris. The difficulties in the way are not slight. With the departure of the Spanish troops from Cuba, there will be another element to reckon with—the Cubans themselves. These were ready enough to help, or promise help, to the United States, so long as the latter gave them aid, but recent events have proved that they do not like any better the prospect of being governed by the United States than by Spain. In the Philippines the situation is far from assuring. The insurgents are still in arms. The correspondent of the *London Times* writing a month ago says that at that time hundreds from Manila were enlisting daily, and troops were being drilled everywhere. The native troops and the army of occupation are not openly pitted against each other, but their relations are strained. Reinforcement of the American army at Manila has been called for, and two battleships, the Oregon and the Iowa, with other ships, said to constitute the most perfectly equipped naval expedition that ever sailed