

many years of civil war between the mother country and her rebellious colony were held in France and Germany, and that these nations would surely intervene to protect their interests in Cuba. The intervention of foreign powers was not forthcoming, owing to the action of Great Britain; but a very interesting question will have to be settled at the Paris Peace Conference in connection with the Cuban debt. The Cuban bonds have been guaranteed by Spain, at least to the amount of \$300,000,000, and as nothing can be found in International Law making the United States liable for the debt of the island they apparently purpose taking possession of, the bondholders will have to depend upon Spain for interest on their capital. What the position of affairs will be when the question arises of paying the principal and interest of the Cuban debt to these unfortunate bondholders is hard to determine.

Perhaps it would have been better for them had Mr. Hooley's dream of an enormous syndicate for the purpose of buying Cuba from Spain in the ante-bellum days been fulfilled. Since the downfall of Ernest Terah Hooley, many surprising stories of schemes in the air have been told, and among them is this Cuba Company, Limited, business. The capital was to have been only two hundred millions, and it is said that this amount had been virtually subscribed, and negotiations, extending to bribery, had been opened with the government officials of poor Spain. However, Cuban bondholders will derive little consolation from dwelling upon what might have been, if Hooley had been successful, or if the bad noblemen he enlisted for his army of titled directors had been less expensive to maintain.

Drying Hose.

The cause of the hearty English laughter now ringing throughout the good county of Lincolnshire is not the business of a hosier, and has nothing to do with

.....hose, well-saved, a world too wide

For his shrunk shanks.

It is a simple story of the flexible pipe made of leather, or various other materials, and used for conveying fluids, especially water, to extinguish fires. We do not know if, in the parish of Long Sutton, Lincolnshire, the fire engine hose, the subject of our story, is a novelty. But we do know, because the papers have duly reported the consequent disturbance, that the Long Sutton Urban District Council proposed to suspend the fire-engine hose from the steeple of the church to be dried in the sun, and the vicar had reluctantly consented to the project, reserving to himself the right of supervising the drying. We are not enlightened with any details of what the vicar of Long Sutton contemplated in the way of supervision of this somewhat simple duty of the firemen, and we may now abandon hope of ever being permitted to know what was in the mind of this kindly but vacillating

clergyman. It appears that some of the good people of Long Sutton indulged in such severe and open criticism of the action of their vicar in sanctioning the use of the church steeple for hose drying purposes, that he withdrew his consent. We do not regret that it is as it is. We are glad to think that the steeple of this Lincolnshire church is not to be periodically festooned with emblems of fire extinguishing, that there is no chance of the vicar of Long Sutton being called upon to supervise the work of men engaged in hanging hose out to dry on the church steeple. At the same time we must confess to some curiosity, and it would have been interesting to know how the ecclesiastical concerns of this English parish were considered to be jeopardized by the action of the vicar in giving a reluctant consent to the proposal of the Long Sutton Urban District Council.

Moreover, we are not informed if there was no other place to hang the hose in all the parish of Long Sutton.

Kitchener and Khartoum. General Sir Herbert Kitchener's despatch from Omdurman to the British

War Office records with simple, soldier-like brevity the defeat of the Dervishes and the virtual completion of another stage in the onward march across Africa of modern civilization.

In his report of Sunday morning last, the *Sirdar* says:—

"This morning the British Egyptian flags were hoisted with due ceremony upon the walls of the Saria (the palace) in Khartoum.

"All the British wounded have left for Abadia in barges towed by steamers. I saw them before leaving. They were all doing well and comfortable. The cavalry sent in pursuit of the Khalifa were compelled to abandon the attempt owing to the exhaustion of the horses, but I have ordered camel squads to continue the pursuit."

Although there was much rejoicing in London when the news of the victory was received, the delight and satisfaction evinced was evidently due to recollections of the tragic death of "Chinese Gordon," a veritable hero of romance and the idol of all England, in January, 1885.

Numerous as the Khalifa's force appears to have been, and although, as we are told in the despatches, "the bravery of the Dervishes can hardly be overstated," a complete victory for the perfectly equipped Anglo-Egyptian army was fully expected. The prettiest bit of praise for the feat of Sir Herbert Kitchener is to be found in the following eulogistic comment of a French paper, the *Temps*, which says: "A march so scientifically planned may be likened to the solution of a mathematical equation."

An incident of the expedition adding to its romantic interest is the reported release of Dr. Neufeld, who, always bold to encounter danger, started with a caravan from Assouan in 1887, ostensibly on trading