

## The Mare's Nest About the Cuban Bond Bribery in Washington.

The sensation story spread abroad that the Cubans were bribing Congressmen and others by liberal gifts of their bonds to obtain the recognition of our government has ended in smoke. Mr. Fitch and other members of the House have ventilated and exposed this *canard*. It was, as Mr. Fitch intimated, no doubt manufactured by or through Spanish agents for the purpose of creating a prejudice against the Cuban cause just at this particular time. "We approach, in a few days," he said, "the consideration of the question whether the House will help Spain to crush Cuba or not. It is, perhaps, conjectured by members of the Spanish embassy that if charges of corruption on behalf of Cuba can be circulated with impunity and permitted to pass unchallenged here concerning members, gentlemen on this floor may be afraid to express the kindly sentiments which they may entertain for the persecuted Cubans, and at the cost of a dinner or a five dollar bill some scavenger who disgraces the reportorial fraternity is induced to sound the preliminary note of slander." This is rather sharp, but no doubt hits the nail on the head. Mr. Fitch, however, like many other members, we suppose, will not "swerve from the utterance of words of encouragement and cheer to a people who are struggling for freedom," though such slanderous attacks may be made. There are plenty of lobby schemers in Washington ready to take money, bonds or anything else from any side, and they buttonhole every one who goes to that city on business connected with the government. They live in that way, and mostly upon false pretences. They endeavor to make it appear always that they are on intimate terms with members of Congress and high officials of the government. Sometimes they take pay or promises to pay from both sides. Nothing comes amiss to these cormorants. They often take and cheat at the same time. There is no subject in which there is a prospect of money that they do not nibble at as keenly as a hungry fish at a bait. The Alaska purchase, the St. Domingo treaty, Cuba, or anything else, is tested and squeezed in every possible way. These fellows have been trying to humbug the Cubans, probably, and taking money from Spain at the same time. But they appear to have been foiled, as far as the Cubans are concerned. At least it appears evident there has been no attempt to bribe members of Congress. And why all this fuss about the Cubans using what means they have within their power to promote the cause they have at heart—the independence of their country? Apart from reported attempts to bribe members of Congress or of the government, which have no foundation, what harm is there in the Cubans using their means for such a sacred object? Do not all governments—both established and revolutionary governments—employ agencies and whatever means they can command to accomplish their objects? And if these be not immoral where is the evil? There is a great deal of humbug and buncombe about this cry of using Cuban bonds to create a favorable influence. These exploded slanderous reports against the Cubans will tend to benefit the Cuban cause and to react upon the Spanish agents, who probably manufactured them.