THE WAR IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Natives Had Good Cause to Revolt—Victims of the Rapacity of Their Spanish Masters They Had Been Harried by Corrupt Officials and Clergy.

¼ (From the Chicago Tribune.)

The primary cause of the rebellion which have existed in the Philippines since July, 1896, was the corruption and insatiable greed of Spanish officials, leading them to extremes of taxation and persecution in order to enrich themselves. The first cry of the revolutionists was "Down with the taxes," which soon was changed to "Down with the clergy" and finally to "Down with the Spanish." The government and ecclesiastical authorities were joined in an unholy alliance to wring profit from the misery of the natives. The richer class is made up of foreigners, Germans, Chinese, Englishmen, and a few Americans, who, exacting a greater tribute from the native agriculturists, pay a less to the governor and the host of greedy alcaides and minor officials. Briefly, these were the causes which led to insurrection in Cuba as well as the Philippines, and which in the end will rob Spain of the two last gems of her colonial crown. Wherever there was disaffection it was encouraged by republicans and Spanish Carlists, hoping in the end to serve themselves by weakening the kingdom.

In the Philippines there is added to official corruption the shocking crookedness of the European clergy, belonging to all known monastic orders, who encourage abuses of governmental authorities that they may gain immunity from an interference in their nefarious business. Year by year the taxes have been increased and have assumed proportions out of all reasonable relation to the yield of rice fields and sugar plantations. The people protested feebly against new impositions, but as opposition to the government increased the rigor of the rule grew, and hundreds of men and women were deported without trial to the penal colonies of the Caroline and Marianne Islands. Within recent years a means for secret meeting has been given by the introduction of Masonic lodges, which have increased rapidly in number and in membership. The clergy brought to bear all of its immense influence with authorities both at Madrid and Manila for the suppression of these organizations, and so severe was the persecution of the Free Masons and so great became the abuse of the arbitrary power of alcaldes to imprison and deport suspects that the Spanish government issued a decree declaring that every individual whose culpability was not proved after forty-eight hours' imprisonment should be given his liberty.

MAP OF THE CENTRAL PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.
(The population in 1896 was 9,500,000, or twice as large as the Dominion of Canada. The natural resources are far richer than England's possessions to the north of us.)

Places for Nuisances.

It has long been a notorious fact in Spain that generals whose influence among the people is becoming too great for the entire comfort of the regency or who are disaffected through the constant shifting of politics are sent to Cuba or to the Philippines to make or remake their fortunes. If they return to Spain with riches out of all proportion to the emoluments of their office nobody commits the indiscretion of asking the source. Their commissions are recognized as letters of marque giving them the right to seize upon whatever they may. There are many and celebrated instances of this condition of things, including General Weyler, General Blanco, and General Riviera. Still more extraordinary than the apathy of Spain to this legalizing of corruption is the fact that the colonies regard with terror every change of ministry, knowing that it means a change of governor general and another swooping down of birds of prey, whose ravenous appetites must be assuaged. The hatred of colonists for the mother country is made greater because all minor offices in the islands, even to the clerkships, are given to favorites of the new ministers, and natives are never allowed to share in the feast. Moreover, the lands of the religious orders steadily increase. The priests and monks possess enormous plantations from which they derive immense revenues. The people are made to pay dearly for sacraments, and the fees exacted are much greater than in any parish of Europe. The clergy live in luxury, giving themselves up in their isolation not only to every manner of secular indulgence but to the most atrocious excesses, which in other provinces, because of the ancient rivalry of the races, it surely safeguard of Spanish rule. This is a factor in the politics of the islands that the government fully appreciates, to the point, indeed, of encouraging the factional enmities. Before the conquest by Magellan the islands were ruled by warring Sultans, and there still remain vestiges of numerous tribes.

Because of his inactivity and apparent indulgence to the rebels Blanco was denounced in Madrid by religious bodies. What exasperated the priests most was that he refused to kill Rizal, who was by them proclaimed to be the principal factor in the rebellion. As a matter of fact, however, this does not appear to be true, and no just cause was given for such summary action. The clergy sought revenge upon Rizal above everything else for his denunciation of them to the people.

Rizal's Tragic Career.

Rizal was a pure-blooded Indian, who was brought up by the Dominicans of Manilla. He went to Europe, studied medicine, law, sciences and foreign tongues, and returned to Manila honored with the highest degree of continental universities, a Freemason, and the inexorable foe of the corrupt clergy. He was the author of a novel called "Noli Me Tangere," in which he showed the despotic, rapacious and debauched nature of the priests of the country. This book was placed in the Index Expurgatorius and the author's goods confiscated, his brothers deported, his aged mother banished, and himself relegated to the island of Mindanao, entirely peopled by Mohammedans, mortal enemies of Spain.

Rizal lived in this exile for several years, until he learned that physicians and surgeons were needed with the troops fighting in Cuba. He offered his services to Spain, which accepted them, and he embarked at Manila for Barcelona. When he arrived at the peninsula and was ready to leave for Havana he was arrested, sent back to Manila, summarily tried, and executed. This was the work of Governor Polavieja, who had succeeded Blanco. While Rizal was on his journey to Spain rebellion had broken out, and the anger of the authorities against him was aroused by new charges of perfidy made by the priests, to whom Polavieja was devoted. The execution of Rizal made the rebellion more furious, and the insurgents sought as much to avenge his death as their wrongs. Rizal to them was the martyred hero of their cause. The first victims of the rebels were the priests. Their churches were burned, and the hatred for the monks sought extremes of cruelty in its expression.

Not only the uneducated and superstitious elements of the population took part in the rebellion, but the most prominent native families. Many young men are sent each year to Madrid and other peninsular cities to be educated, and return to their homes with knowledge of the freedom of speech and the unrestricted liberty of the press in Spain and imbued with republican or anarchist ideas, which encourage them to attempt the free expression of their opinions. The result is persecution. Furthermore, a native, no matter how prominent, is never given a salaried official position, all of which are monopolized by the retainers of different ministries. To all of the wrongs described are to be added the notorious corruption of the judiciary and the brutality of the police.

The people yielded submissively to accumulating injustice for many years. Tolerance is one of the chief characteristics of the Indian, natives of the Philippines, who greatly resemble their near neighbors, the Japanese. Their uprising two years ago was almost incomprehensible to witnesses of the respect of established authority, submission, and gentleness of habit through years of misrule.

Blanco was deposed by the enmity of the monks, who thought him too tolerant and without the cruel energy they demanded. Polavieja, his successor, was taken with fever and returned to Madrid. After him came General Primo de Rivera, and now General Basilio Augustin Devillo, is pent up in Manila by Admiral Dewey's fleet.

Dense Population in Bombay.

The greatest density of population in the world is claimed for Bombay, and is only disputed by Agra. The population of Bombay amounts to 760 persons per acre in certain areas, and in these sections the street area only occupies one-fourth of the whole.

Repartee in the Zoo.

The camel (to the polar bear)—Oh, I don't know! You're not so warm. The polar bear—Well, I don't see what you've got your back up about.

CURIOUS FACTS.

The total number of colored troops enlisted during the civil war was 186,017.

A Prince of Wales is of age from his birth, and a chair is placed for him on the right of the throne in the house of lords.

The amount of silk produced by each spider in so small that a scientist computes 663,522 would be required to produce a pound of thread.

More men have died and are buried on the fathmus of Panama, along the line of the proposed canal, than on any equal amount of territory in the world.

The first and sixth days of January, the twenty-ninth of September and the twenty-fifth of March have been celebrated as Christmas day, and it was not until the middle of the fourth century that the church council fixed the date as at present.

It is said that the castor-oil plant is abhorred by nearly all members of the animal world; that moles may be driven from a lawn by planting a few castor-bean in it, and that neither the terrible "army-worm" nor the all-destroying locust will eat it.

Swiss funeral customs are peculiar. At the death of a person the family inserts a formal, black-edged announcement in the paper asking for sympathy, and stating that a "mourning urn" will be exhibited during certain hours on a special day. In front of the house where the person died there is placed a little black table, covered with a black cloth, on which stands a black jar. Into this the friends and acquaintances of the family drop little, black-margined visiting cards, sometimes with a few words of sympathy on them. The urn is put on the table on the day of the funers

Storming of the Forts at San Juan

Accurate Description of the Naval Victory at Porto Rico's Capital.

Early in the morning of May 12 Rear Admiral Sampson's ships approached San Juan, the American consul at Cape Haytien having informed the admiral that he had heard a report that thirteen Spanish warships had been seen heading for Puerto Rico.

Sampson's Plan of Action.

The attack on the forts was planned so that our warships could be in a position to meet any Spanish vessels should they emerge from the harbor. The following is the official plan of action issued to the American fleet:

"The squadron will pass near Salinas Point, and then steer about east to pass just outside the reefs off Cabras island. The column is to be formed as follows:

"The Iowa, flagship; Indiana, New York, Amphitrite, and Terror. The Detroit is to go ahead of the Iowa, distant one thousand yards. The Wampatuck to keep in the Iowa's starboard bow, distant five hundred yards. The Detroit and Wampatuck to sound constantly, after land is closer, and to immediately signal if ten fathoms or less is obtained, showing at night a red light over the stern and in daytime a red flag aft. The Montgomery to remain in the rear of the column, stopping outside of the fire from Morro and on the lookout for torpedo boat destroyers. If Fort Canuelo fires she is to be silenced. The Porter will take station under cover of the Iowa on the port side. The Niagara to remain westward, off Salinas Point. While approaching a sharp lookout is to be kept on the coast between Salinas Point and Cabras island for torpedo boat destroyers. When near Cabras island, one-half to one mile, the Detroit will rapidly cross the mouth of the harbor and be close under Morro to the westward, screened from the fire of Morro's westward battery. If the old guns on the north side of Morro fire it is to silence them. These two cruisers are to keep on the lookout especially for Spanish torpedo boat destroyers coming out of the harbor. The Porter, when the action begins, will cross the harbor mouth behind the Iowa and close under the cliff to the eastward of the Detroit and torpedo any Spanish cruiser boats trying to get out of the harbor, but it is not to attack destroyers. The Wampatuck will tow one of its boats with its mast shipped, flying a red flag, and having a boat's anchor on board the tug so arranged that it can stop the boat and anchor at the same time. It is to anchor the boat in about ten fathoms with Fort Canello and the western end of Cabras island in range. There will be two objects for attack, the batteries on the Morro and the men-of-war. If it is clear that Spanish vessels are lying in port fire is to be opened on them as soon as they are discernible over Cabras island, the motions of the flagship being followed in this regard. If it should become evident, however, that neutral men-of-war are in the line of fire a flag of truce will probably be sent in before the vessels are opened. The Porter is to hold itself in readiness for this service.

Orders to Spare Hospitals.

"Care must be taken to avoid striking the hospitals on Cabras island. If it becomes necessary to silence the Morro batteries a portion of the fire will be directed with this object. But the principal object is to destroy the ships. After passing the harbor mouth the Iowa will turn a little to starboard toward the town, and will then turn with a starboard helm and again pass to port, and after passing Cabras island to the westward, it will turn again with a starboard helm and pass as at first. Should this plan be changed and it be decided to hold the ships in front of the entrance the signal 'Stop!' will be made at the proper time. The Indiana, New York, and monitors will follow the motions of the flagship and remain in column. The course after Fort Canuelo is brought into range with the west end of Cabras island will be east by south. Should nightfall come with the port in the enemy's hands and the ships inside, the cruisers will take up positions just outside the harbor, the Montgomery to the eastward and the Detroit to the westward, with their batteries ready and the men at the guns. They will show no lights. The other ships in succession will sweep the entrance of the harbor and the channel leading into the anchorage with searchlights to keep the torpedo boat destroyers from coming out. In case the enemy should attempt to escape from the port fire is to be concentrated on the leading ship. Should the attempt be made at night the searchlights in use are to be turned on its bridge and conning tower and are to be held there."

THE HARBOR OF SAN JUAN, SHOWING EXTENSIVE FORTIFICATION REDUCED BY SAMPSON'S FLEET.

The fleet assembled off San Juan about 3 o'clock and prepared for battle, stripping the decks and getting the guns, ammunition and appliances for handling the wounded ready.

Sampson Moves to the Iowa.

Rear Admiral Sampson had transferred his flag to the Iowa, and the attack on the forts began at 5:15, and lasted three hours.

The plans of the admiral were thoroughly carried out. The fleet steamed majestically into the harbor, and in due course of time opened a tremendous fire upon the fortifications.

Three times the warships made the circuit outlined in the official plan. The forts withstood the first round, but the Montgomery from its station near Canuelo Fort wrought complete destruction. With glasses the officers of the Montgomery could see the occupants of the fort jumping over the walls and running away. The Detroit which went nearest to Morro, had to train its guns at a high angle. Its shots, directed at the north side of the Morro, cut deep furrows in the face of the fortifications. The Iowa, leading the fleet, delivered its deadly missiles with great accuracy upon Morro's northern walls. The rest of the fleet fired in order, first on Morro and then on San Carlos, according to position. On the second round the Spanish gunners were thoroughly awakened, and stood by their guns bravely, keeping up a furious, but aimless fire. From their firm foundation and high elevation they had a splendid opportunity to cripple our fleet, but the Spanish gunners seemed to fire regardless of aim and as if only desirous of emptying their magazines.

Terror Plays a Lone Hand.

At the end of the third round the monitor Terror failed to understand the order to withdraw and engaged Morro castle alone for half an hour. The Terror moved in as if intending to ram the forts and the Spanish gunners evidently became much excited at its behavior, for they fired rapidly and evidently without taking any aim, for the Terror was not touched. Every shot fired by the Spaniards could be seen. The flash and smoke of the batteries were followed by great splashing hundreds of feet from the Terror. The shells of the Spaniards on exploding would fling columns of water sixty feet high.

The heavy swell somewhat affected the aim of the gunners of the Terror, for some of its shells struck the sea in front of the forts. Finally the Terror seemingly grew tired and slowly withdrew, firing as it steamed away. Then the Spaniards became almost frantic with excitement and blazed away at the monitor until it was long out of range.

Counting the Casualties.

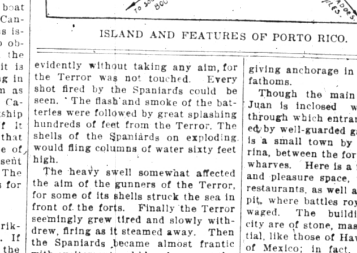
After the battle the dispatch boat went among the fleet to inspect the damage done. The sailors were calmly cleaning the decks and polishing the guns. On board the Iowa a boat was struck and caught fire, an exhaust pipe was dented, the bridge railing was shattered, and three men were slightly wounded. All this was done by the solitary shell which struck the Iowa.

One shell which exploded on the New York killed a man, wounded four others, shattered two searchlights, splintered a cutter, tore three holes in a ventilator, and broke a small davit arm. The New York was hit only once. In addition to the man killed on board the New York, a gunner's mate on board the monitor Amphitrite died from the effects of the heat. Of the New York's four wounded men only two were seriously enough injured to call for their transfer to the hospital ship Solace, which subsequently joined the fleet. The New York fired 259 shots, it is said, during the attack.

The only war vessel of a foreign power at San Juan during the attack was the small French cruiser Rigault de Genouilly. It had its rigging cut by pieces of shell. After the bombardment the Frenchman left for the island of St. Thomas, where its commander told Captain Converse of the Montgomery that the American operations were entirely justifiable. It is understood, however, that the French officers, in conversation with other people, criticised the wisdom of the attack.

The Island of Porto Rico.

The island of Porto Rico is one of the richest of Spain's colonies. Its name means in English, "Rich port." It is a trifle smaller than Jamaica, being the fourth in size of the Antilles, but the fertility of its soil and the salubrity of its climate have led to its being given the name of "the gem of the Antilles." It lies to the east of Hayti. A range of mountains runs through the islands from east to west. In the interior are healthful and extensive uplands, and along the coasts are tracts of fertile land. Nearby the whole of the north coast is lined with navigable lagoons, some of them ten miles long. There are also numerous bays, creeks and rivers, which are navigable; but the north shore is subject to tremendous ground seas which beat against the cliffs with great violence. Only three harbors are safe—Guanica and Hovas on the south shore and San Juan on the north. There are no serpents or reptiles on the island. It is wholly an agricultural island, producing sugar, rum, molasses, coffee, cotton, tobacco, live stock, timber, rice, etc. Only two railroads are built, one from San Juan de Porto Rico, the principal city and seaport of the island of Porto Rico, capital of the colony, and of the Province of Bayamon, situated on a narrow peninsula off the north coast, is connected with Cayuas, an inland town twenty-three miles distant, by a good macadamized road. Its population is about 18,150. It is fortified and walled, regularly laid out, well drained, and one of the best and healthiest towns in the West Indies. The principal edifices are the bishop's palace and seminary, the Royal military hospital, old Government House, a large cathedral, custom house, town house, with a fine hall, a handsome theater, and a solid jail. The town is the seat of government and superior courts of the island, and of many schools.



ISLAND AND FEATURES OF PORTO RICO.

Harbor of San Juan.

The peninsula upon which the Morro and the lighthouse stand is thrust out into the sea, on one side breasting the thundering surges of the Caribbean, and on the other guarding the placid waters of a beautiful and almost land locked harbor. This harbor is one of the finest in the West Indies, large, sheltered, and capable of accommodating any number of the largest ships, giving anchorage in from three to six fathoms.

Though the main portion of San Juan is inclosed within the walls, through which entrance is only obtained by well-guarded gateways, yet there is a small town by itself in the Marina, between the fortifications and the wharves. Here is a fine public garden and pleasure space, with booths and restaurants, as well as the public cockpit, where battles royal are frequently waged. The buildings of the inner city are of stone, massive and substantial, like those of Havana and the City of Mexico; in fact, of the old-world type, and in case of bombardment there would be little danger of a conflagration.

The Cardinal's Career.

In the late Mrs. W. Pitt Byrne's recent book, "Social Hours with Celebrities," some of the best Irish stories are told by Cardinal Manning. None better, however, than the following, which the cardinal, doubtless, would have been glad of the chance to tell: When Cardinal Manning was lying in state, an unsympathetic passer-by ventured the remark. "I don't know why they are making all this fuss about him. What did he ever do to deserve it?" "An' is it what did he ever do, ye mane?" said a pugnacious Hibernian near him. "You just come outside an' take off yer coat, an' I'll show you what he did!"

Boyle Roche Outdone.

"He is an enemy to both kingdoms," said Sir Boyle Roche, "who wishes to diminish the brotherly affection of the two sister countries!" Equally noteworthy with this was the highly creditable sentiment uttered by the governor of one of the United States at the opening of an industrial exhibition recently. "Let us hope," said he, "that the occasion will be an entering wedge which will bring about a more perfect unity between north and south!"

Manila's Modern Streets.

The streets of Manila are so modern as to be quite out of keeping with the general appearance of the town. They are perfectly straight, macadamized, and provided with ample granite walks. Of these the Escolta and the Rosario are the best. In both there are excellent shops kept principally by Chinese merchants, most of whom come from Amoy. Tin-roofed houses line each side of both thoroughfares.

Blue Tint in Glass.

The blue tint in glass has its cause in chemical deposits formed in the coal gas furnace, and which under the action of the air produces a blue coat on the glass. To remove this blue tint the glass, it comes out of the annealing furnace, is made to pass through a water bath weakly acidized by muriatic acid.

Just Trying.

"Little boy!" exclaimed the man who had just turned the corner, "don't you know it's wrong for you to match pennies?" "I ain't matchin' pennies," he answered, as he surrendered a coin to his antagonist. "I'm just tryin' to."

The Age of Whales.

The age of whales is ascertained by the size and number of laminae of the whalebone, which increases yearly. Ages of 500 and 600 years have been assigned to whales from these indications.

ODD SIGHTS IN CHINA.

TERRIBLE METHOD OF INFLICTING DEATH.

Lasting Rock Inscriptions—Beggars, Robbers, and Religious Humbugs Who Live in Tombs—Arches for Virtuous Widows—Lazy Fishermen.

(Special Letter.)

T IS with Mr. John Thomson that we have to deal with in this letter. Some years ago Mr. Thomson undertook a journey of some thousands of miles into the interior of China. He had considered the very slightest idea of bringing back with him a record in actual photographs of curious sights and manners and customs which he had seen in very remote parts of the celestial empire. In many of the places where Mr. Thomson went the natives had never set eyes on a pale-face stranger, or foreign devil, as he was termed.

The sights in the village were characteristic of a quaint civilization. Mr. Thomson speaks of the houses as framed in small squares and fixed in the windows of the houses. As Mr. Thomson's boat glided up the Yangtze river he beheld on the banks huts made of pine branches, and on the river itself blue rafts of enormous size, carrying a small village and all their decks. Some queer fishermen were also seen. They fished vicariously, so it were, that is to say, by means of otters. These animals were attached to the boats by long cords, and they gently pushed by their proprietors.

"China," Mr. Thomson says, "swarms with beggars. There are many grades of course, but the worst class are the outlaws who recognize no chief, and who live in holes or hovels about burial-grounds. I came across some of the fellows in a Chinese city of the dead, deposited temporarily in sanitary-houses or tombs until a suitable place of interment has been found. These fellows had established a kind of begging firm or company, under the control of a lusty chief, who had just concluded a hearty meal, and who was standing outside enjoying a pipe. They had now laid aside their daily counterfeits of disease and deformity, and were laughing merrily and having a good time generally. The principal jester of the party was a man who, in the daytime, made a good living out of by posing as a man driving an ax into his head. Which, needless to say, was the utterest humbug."

On the great rock one can distinctly see certain inscriptions—Chinese characters graved in the small long columns. It seems that in and around the harbor of Amoy there are many rocks of bold and striking appearance. Strange to say, on the surface of the most prominent of these, inscriptions of all kinds are to be seen. These inscriptions usually relate to incidents of local interest or tradition.

The Manchus, like the Chinese, make provision for their own decease when they are advanced in years. In due time they decide what kind of coffin shall carry their remains to the grave, and, if they can afford it, they will have one made of Szechuan wood, costing as much as $1,500 of our money. Banners and other paraphernalia used at a Manchu funeral, however, are quite different from the Chinese. The hired banner-men who take part in the funeral procession are usually beggars dressed up by the undertaker for the purpose. In the event of the undertaker refusing to have anything to do with them they will actually rush on ahead of the corpse, and pitch themselves into the grave, declaring their readiness to be buried alive rather than be done out of a job!

Strangely enough, any man in China

THE CANGUE PUNISHMENT.

who has funds at his command may erect an arch for himself during his lifetime. He may have been a distinguished person and have done something great, or, on the other hand, he may have been the merest nonentity. A widow, also, who has led an exemplary life up to the age of, say 50, and has abstained from marrying a second time may erect an arch to commemorate her virtues, and in this most laudable undertaking she will probably be aided by a small grant from the imperial treasury.

The tombs of the Ming emperors of China stand about thirty miles north of Pekin. The tomb of Yung-Lo is approached through an avenue of animals, sculptured out of white limestone, and then through a double row of colossal stone warriors. There are two pairs of each kind. First we meet two pairs of lions, then two pairs of unicorns, and next two pairs of camels. After the camels come pairs of elephants, which in turn are followed by various fabulous animals. Thirteen of the Ming sovereigns are buried here.

It is an extremely interesting method by which some of the Chinese fish in their rivers. As in the case of the otters mentioned elsewhere, the Chinese are fond of fishing vicariously. The initial picture shows how they fish with cormorants. The cormorants simply dive into the river and bring up fish to their masters, until a sufficient quantity has been caught. The bird is then suitably rewarded with a more or less liberal share.

If riches didn't have wings they would be unable to roost so high.