

OTHER OCCUPATIONS IT WOULD BRING EXPENDITURE WITHOUT RETURN AND RISK WITHOUT REWARD.

Farmers and laboring men have, as a rule, small incomes and, under systems which place the tax upon the consumption, pay more than their fair share of the expenses of government. Thus the very people who receive least benefit from imperialism will be injured most by the military burdens which accompany it.

In addition to the evils which he and the farmer share in common, the laboring man will be the first to suffer if Oriental subjects seek work in the United States; the first to suffer if American capital leaves our shores to employ Oriental labor in the Philippines to supply the trade of China and Japan; the first to suffer from the violence which the military spirit arouses, and the first to suffer when the methods of imperialism are applied to our own government.

It is not strange, therefore, that the labor organizations have been quick to note the approach of these dangers and prompt to protest against both militarism and imperialism.

The pecuniary argument, though more effective with certain classes, is not likely to be used so often or presented with so much emphasis as the religious argument. If what has been termed the "gunpowder gospel" were urged against the Filipinos only, it would be a sufficient answer to say that a majority of the Filipinos are now members of one branch of the Christian church, but the principle involved is one of much wider application and challenges serious consideration.

RELIGIOUS ARGUMENT CONSIDERED.

THE RELIGIOUS ARGUMENT VARIES IN POSITIVENESS FROM A PASSIVE BELIEF THAT PROVIDENCE DELIVERED THE FILIPINOS INTO OUR HANDS, FOR THEIR GOOD AND OUR GLORY, TO THE EXULTATION OF THE MINISTER WHO SAID WE OUGHT TO "THRASH THE NATIVES (FILIPINOS) UNTIL THEY UNDERSTAND WHO WE ARE," AND THAT "EVERY BULLET SENT, EVERY CANNON SHOT AND EVERY FLAG WAVED MEANS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

We cannot approve of this doctrine in one place unless we are willing to apply it everywhere. If there is poison in the blood of the hand it will ultimately reach the heart: It is equally true that forcible Christianity, if planted under the American flag in the far-away Orient, will sooner or later be transplanted upon American soil. If true Christianity consists in carrying out in our daily lives the teachings of Christ who will say that we are commanded to civilize with dynamite and proselyte with the sword? He who would declare the Divine will must prove his authority either by Holy Writ or by evidence of a special dispensation.

The command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," has no Gatling gun attachment. When Jesus visited a village of Samaria and the people refused to receive Him, some of the disciples suggested that fire should be called down from heaven to avenge the insult; but the Master rebuked them and said: "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of; for the Son of Man came not to destroy men's lives, but to save them."

Suppose he had said: "We will thrash them until they understand who we are," how different would have been the history of Christianity! Compare if you will, the swaggering, bullying, brutal doctrine of imperialism with the Golden Rule and the commandment, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Love, not force, was the weapon of the Nazarene; sacrifice for others, not the exploitation of them, was His method of reaching the human heart. A missionary recently told me that the Stars and Stripes once saved his life because his assailants recognized our flag as a flag that had no blood upon it.