

PICTURE OF LIFE IN THE PHILIPPINES

It is a Mixture of Taxes, Earthquakes and Rebellions.

VAST RESOURCES OF THE ISLANDS WHICH SPAIN HAS NOT KNOWN HOW TO USE—WEATHER AND CUSTOMS AT MANILA—CHANCES FOR AMERICANS—THE NATIVES AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS.

Los Angeles, Cal., Letter in the Sun.

Manley H. Sherman, of this city, has come home after a residence of several years at Manila. He has been for four years in the employ of a trading company, which has been buying indigo, camphor, sugar, spices and hemp for the Philippine islands for thirty years. As agent for the company he has traveled over all the larger islands, and has had unusual opportunities to learn much about the archipelago. He says: "If the United States should take the Philippine islands as a possession they would have a most valuable piece of property. The possibilities of the Philippines as wealth producers can hardly be overestimated. The exports in 1887 amounted to about \$30,000,000, and that in the face of the blighting oppression of the Spanish on every enterprise except tobacco and sugar. United States Consul Williams at Manila and I have discussed many times the agricultural possibilities of the Philippines under American push and with Yankee invention. I believe the exports from the islands might be increased to \$50,000,000 annually in a few years, and to much higher figures in a decade. For instance, the coffee production has for some recent years of the government at Madrid been kept down by a system of extra licenses that one must obtain to plant coffee beans, and by heavy import duties on the product necessary in preparing it among the famous coffee fincas of Central America, and I make the assertion that there are nowhere in Central America land and water facilities that approach those of the islands of Negros and Samos. The exportation of coffee in 1887 amounted to about \$250,000. It ought to have been ten times that amount.

CHIEF PRODUCTS. Tobacco, sugar, and hemp are the chief products of the Philippines. The government does foster these industries so far as its avarice for taxes will permit. There are 150 cigar and cigarette makers in and about Manila. All the tobacco plantations and cigar factories are run by Spaniards. General Weyler's two brothers have the largest factory in Escalita—a suburb of Manila. They came over to the islands about 1850, when General Weyler's pompous military brother was governor general of the Philippines at a salary of \$40,000 a year, and they obtained concessions then that yielded them immense annual returns. Sugar is largely grown on the islands of Negros and Samos. There are large Malay towns on these islands. The English sugar buyers over there say that there is no cane so rich in saccharine properties as that in the Philippines. Notwithstanding the ridiculously crude methods of cultivating the cane fields and the expensive manner of crushing the stalks and extracting the sugar, the profit in the sugar industry is incredible. The extreme richness of the cane makes this profit. I know of several Japanese sugar cane companies on the island of Samos that have made as high as \$60 for an acre and a quarter every year for a long time. Yankee invention could easily reduce the expenses of a sugar plantation one-fourth. No people but the Japanese in the Philippines have the idea of how to make machinery do the work of man. Think of having sugar cane crushed by several hundred men with clubs, when simple machinery would accomplish the same purpose better, cheaper, and a hundred times quicker. The indigo culture is run in the same way as two centuries ago.

NATURE'S PRODIGALITY. "Wherever one goes into the rural regions of the Philippine islands, one is constantly wondering at the extraordinary prodigality of nature. I cannot tell you the majority of the immense tropical forests of Negros and Samos. Thousands of species there have seldom been visited by a white man. There are literally millions of dollars in costly woods there, to say nothing about the valuable herbs and barks to be had in the backwoods. The traveler in the backwoods in the Philippine sees in the great forests ebony, logwood, iron wood, sapan wood, and cedar; between the forests and the gardens the fruiting trees, the orange, mango, tamarind, guava, and coconut in the cultivated area sugar cane, rice, hemp, tobacco, coffee, cotton, bananas, vanilla, cassia, ginger, pepper, indigo, cocoa, pine apples, wheat and corn. The minerals in those regions include gold, copper, iron, coal, quicksilver, and saltpetre. From the sea there comes mother-of-pearl, coral, tortoise shell, and amber. The animal kingdom keep pace with the vegetable and the mineral. There are goats, sheep, swine, and such little animals. The islands swarm with such a variety of fauna that the naturalist finds there a paradise. Strange to relate, there are few beasts of prey worthy of note. The flora of the country is as rich as the fauna.

THE CLIMATE. "I am wondering in these days, when Uncle Sam is about sending troops

Ask your doctor how many preparations of cod-liver oil there are.

He will answer, "Hundreds of them." Ask him which is the best. He will reply, "Scott's Emulsion."

Then see that this is the one you obtain. It contains the purest cod-liver oil, free from unpleasant odor and taste. You also get the hypophosphites and glycerine. All three are blended into one grand healing and nourishing remedy.

Scott & Emulsion, New York.

from the Pacific coast to the Philippines, what the American boys will think of the climate over there. With the possible exception of some parts of interior India and Arabia, I doubt if there is any better climate than that of Manila. The islands reach within four degrees of the equator. The temperature is not so very high, but the humidity is. The most extreme care must constantly be exercised to keep one's physical condition properly toned up during the summer. The hottest days in the year are in May and June. Fortunately a breeze usually springs up in the early evening, and that tempers the atmosphere so that one can get some sleep if he is properly fixed for it. In the winter months, the mean temperature at the Philippines is 72 degrees. In November the weather cools and then for weeks at a time along the seacoasts it is about as near perfection as any one can imagine. To call the months of December, January and February there winter is a mockery. For seven months in the year, from April to October, no one but the poorest laborer goes out of doors, unless compelled to do so, because of the morning and afternoon. In Manila the whole population rises at 4 and 5 a. m. and gets the work of the day out of the way before 8 o'clock. The houses are open, servants clean up, merchants to their business and the school children are busy with their teachers. Even the civil and military officers attend to most of their duties between 8 and 8 a. m. Then when old Sol begins to shoot his darts down upon the country more perceptibly, the whole population goes into their houses of stone and of wood with heavy roofs of tile and a sort of asphaltum found in the country, and stay there until sundown. It is a land of siestas. Every one who can sleep the day long, and slumber there is reduced to a science. Hammocks abound and couches of bamboo are in every home, hotel, club store and loafing place. The servants are trained to keep their masters and mistresses comfortable by bringing them iced drinks or a tray of smoking material whenever they awaken after a nap. All buildings are erected with the idea of keeping the heat out as much as possible. Business is suspended at 1 o'clock, and the men at the wharves quit work for six or seven hours when the sun is highest.

SOCIAL PASTIMES. "At sundown Manila wakes up. There is an opening of the heavy window blinds and an exodus of people from their homes. Even the trees and shrubs very shake off their drowsiness. The merchants open their heavy store doors and the sidewalks are thronged to life. The principal meat of the day is served at about 6 o'clock, and with the rich Spanish it is a ceremonious affair. Thereafter the whole population goes out for a walk. Evening calls are made upon friends and the plazas are at their gayest. The cock fights take place in the evening; the old theatre is always crowded at night—especially Sunday nights.

"The Luneta is the fashionable promenade in Manila, and one may there find the best social side of the Philippines. The Luneta is a sort of Fifth avenue along the banks of the Pasig river. The composite character of the population is here in evidence. The throngs of people along the Luneta very picturesque. A long bridge extends along the Pasig, and the promenade is across that. The shops and stores of the city are close at hand, and at night they are gorgeously illuminated. The electric lights shed their effulgence on the moving mass of humanity, and the music by the band enlivens the scene. I never saw such picturesque throngs in America. Every one smokes a cigar or cigarette. There are some of the hundred, Hindoo and Japanese in their native garments. The Beals, or native Indians, come trooping along in bare feet and semi-nudity. There are the latest Parisian styles and the rags of the poor. The people are all here. Here comes a family group with the parents at the head, arrayed in garments of reds, blues, and purples. The father strides along with a huge cigar in his mouth, and his wife with a cigarette. The daughter is smoking a cigarette, and each is smoking a cigar or cigarette. Next follow a group of smiling, chattering padres from the numerous Catholic churches or the great cathedral. They are all pulling at mammoth cigars. Then there are the Japanese by hundreds, Chinese by scores, and native Malays and Negritos by thousands. They all wear light, flowing garments of gay-colored fabrics, and the women are in the company of native girls with raven hair and the blackest of black eyes, set off by fresh olive complexion and the roughest of lips. They wear black lace mantillas on their heads, and some pretty flower-decked hats. They are all dressed in thin red and white fabrics. They go sauntering along behind a parent or chaperon they roll cigarettes and smoke like old professionals. Spanish soldiers and naval officers in gaudy uniforms are everywhere. The parade continues back and forth until after midnight. Fashion and poverty go side by side. It is the only chance that lovers have to see one another, and it is always amusing to Americans to see how the contrary natures of the Orient make their passionate longings known to one another.

IN MANILA. "Manila is a dilapidated old town. It was founded in the latter part of the sixteenth century. There are old walls and battlements all about the city. There have been less than a dozen fire-proof buildings erected in Manila in the last ten years. Everything in the city is ancient. People live in old, narrow, two-story houses that come flush with the narrow sidewalks. All have a dull, forbidding look with their board blinds and heavy doors, which are seldom open. In the center of almost every house is an open court, known as the patio. All the rooms in the house open on this patio, and there the family hold their social gatherings and eat their meals ten months in the year. Some patios are beautified by palms, beds of flowers, and arbors of vines. The commonest buildings are all old, too. The show windows are little, cheap affairs, and there is none of the modern conveniences in any of the best stores in the whole city. A unique feature of all homes and offices in Manila is the use of tiny squares. The commonest building is instead of glass. A window six feet long and four feet wide will contain 200 of these oyster shell panes. They temper the fierce glare of the sun in the buildings, and in a country where many people go blind from the constant sunshine this is a precaution to be taken. "Spaniards seldom remain longer than five years in the Philippines—indeed, if so long. As fast as they depart for their native land, newcom-

ers arrive to take their places. The islands have been for generations a region in which people of influence at Madrid might come and recover their financial losses, and where young Spaniards might in a few years make a fortune. There are, however, several Spanish families who have made Manila their home for years. They are immensely wealthy and live in beautiful old palaces in Binondo—a pretty rural village in use in France before the revolution of 1789. For each district of 2,000 square miles a tax collector is appointed by the governor of the province. He is called a gobernadorcillo, and he is responsible for the estimated amount which his district should pay in taxes, so that if collections fall short he must make them good from his own pocket. He has under him a number of deputy collectors, known as cabezas, each of whom collects the taxes of from forty to sixty tax payers, and is personally responsible for the amount exacted. If they fail to pay up he distrains their property and sells it. If the proceeds of the sale fail to cover the indebtedness the delinquent debtors are imprisoned. I once saw a dozen ragged, hard-working men on the island of Samos that had lost their houses, cattle, lands, and who still owed sums ranging from \$2 to \$40. They were being sent prisoners to the jail yard at Punta Chavallas, while their families were left to shift for themselves.

INSURRECTIONS. "A large book might be written about the popular revolts that have sprung up in the Philippines because of these tyrannous oppressions. In 1876 the natives lost 5,000 of their best men in rebellion against Spain. In 1878 they lost several thousand more men, and the property of the Spaniards was looted and burned. Suddenly the rebellion broke out again, and now it seems to be the most general revolt yet known in the islands. The intent of this last rebellion seems to be to rid the Philippines of the Spanish by any means—whether by dynamite, poison or assassination. The natives hoped for a year or two that Japan would assume control of the islands and that the hard, cruel hand of Spain would be removed. When they found that their hopes were groundless they rose in armed rebellion. General Schaller, who was sent to the Philippines by the German government last August to look into affairs there, reported that the Japanese are leading the revolt. There are 10,000 Spanish regulars on guard in the islands. The insurgents last fall numbered about 40,000, of whom 5,000 were armed with good guns. The insurgents have a few good cannon cast from melted church bells and bits of metal that they gathered here and there. Manila, like Havana, has naturally been in control of the Spanish troops, and the insurgents have been encamping on a warfare forty and sixty miles from Manila, similar to that of the Cubans about Havana.

"In the summer of 1896 the order of



EVERY CHILD In Scranton and Vicinity WILL BE WELCOME

To this store on Saturday—doubly welcome—for it is the day set apart for their entertainment here. We want them to know this big store better—to learn as they grow older that it's their headquarters for pleasure and for profit. So that's why we've made this coming

Saturday—Dolls' Day.

To every little girl bringing a doll into the store on this day, we will give FREE a pair of genuine "Vici Kid" slippers for her play child's feet. No matter how big the doll may be, or how small, we can fit it. If not, we'll make the slippers to measure.

If any little girls or little boys have not been in to have their shoes dressed, let them come today; it is not too late. Bring shoes that need brightening—we'll make the old seem like new. We're doing the same thing every day for mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers—all to show the goodness of "Vici" Kid and "Vici" Leather Dressing, of which none other is so good.

Special Prices on Children's Goods.

To make the day interesting to old as well as young, we've arranged for special sales on Children's Goods, and other Goods, for this one day. The prices are phenomenally low, and should serve to crowd the store with buyers. But whether to buy or to look and enjoy—you'll be welcome just the same.

Shoes AT LITTLE PRICES. Infants' Soft Sole Vici Kid Button Shoes; worth 50c. Special at 35c. Children's Tan and Black Vici Lace and Button Shoes; worth \$1.25. At 98c. Misses' Finest Vici Lace and Button Shoes; worth \$2.00. Special at \$1.59. Ladies' \$2.50 and \$3.00 Vici Kid Button and Lace Shoes, all sizes and widths; light and heavy soles. Special at \$1.96. Ladies' \$2.50 and \$3.00 Tan Vesting Top Lace and Button Vici Kid Shoes. Special at \$1.96. Men's \$4.00 Vici Kid Lace and Congress Shoes. Special at \$3.00. Men's \$3.00 Vici Kid Lace Shoes, with patent tips. Special at \$2.16. REAR OF ELEVATORS.

Story and Picture Books. There are just 1,000 39c of them, good sizes and clear printings; all kinds of stories. Their regular prices are from 25 cents to 50 cents. Your choice Saturday for 15c. BOOK DEPT.

Trimmed Hats \$1.84. There are Sailors and Turbans in this Saturday assortment that have sold at \$2.50, \$3.00 and \$1.50. They are beautifully trimmed—and will go quickly at the price. See them in the window.

Boys' Wash Suits. Will buy your choice of six patterns, all-made sailor blouse style—sizes 3 to 8 years, and worth 75c. 48c. Will buy your choice of ten patterns in small Checks and Stripes, collars to match. 3 to 8 years, and worth \$1.00. 98c. Will buy your choice of eight patterns in Linen, Crash or Galatese, fast color and non-shrinking. Positively worth \$1.50.

For School Dresses. About fifteen pieces of Fancy Tweed Suitings, 28 inches wide, in all the desirable medium shades. Just the thing for school and summer dresses. Regular price here, 12 1/2 cents per yard. Your choice Saturday 7c yd. WYOMING AVENUE.

Children's Pique Dresses. In a very pretty array of colors, made with full collars and very nicely trimmed. Six months to three year sizes; worth 65c. Special at 45c. Children's White Cambric Dresses, with beautifully tucked and fancy yokes, worth 50c, at 25c. Children's All-Over Embroidered Caps in large assortment. Special at 12c and 19c. Children's Fancy Vests. In light weight and fancy ribbed with colored crocheted neck bands. Vests come in cream, light blue and pink. Special at 5c.

Jonas Long's Sons.

tion thus imposed. The revenue goes to Spain to pay the soldiers and navy. "There is no escape from these taxes. I have seen women whipped in the street because they had perhaps failed to get a license before they sold their annual crop of coconuts, or had secreted a cow or a goat so that the tax collector did not see it in his official rounds. For the collection of taxes the Spanish have revived the rural levies in use in France before the revolution of 1789. For each district of 2,000 square miles a tax collector is appointed by the governor of the province. He is called a gobernadorcillo, and he is responsible for the estimated amount which his district should pay in taxes, so that if collections fall short he must make them good from his own pocket. He has under him a number of deputy collectors, known as cabezas, each of whom collects the taxes of from forty to sixty tax payers, and is personally responsible for the amount exacted. If they fail to pay up he distrains their property and sells it. If the proceeds of the sale fail to cover the indebtedness the delinquent debtors are imprisoned. I once saw a dozen ragged, hard-working men on the island of Samos that had lost their houses, cattle, lands, and who still owed sums ranging from \$2 to \$40. They were being sent prisoners to the jail yard at Punta Chavallas, while their families were left to shift for themselves.

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the Katipunan was secretly formed among the Malays and Chinese. The purpose was to remove by blood the Spanish yoke from the islands. The members of the order were sworn by a oath across the left upper arm. With the blood which issued from the wound the initiate crossed himself and daubed his mouth and solemnly swore that he would spill the blood of at least one Spaniard every six months. The Spanish got hold of the plot. By trials that lasted an hour or two in some cases and thirty or forty minutes each in most cases, 4,700 of the persons suspected as being in the plot were condemned to death. In the month of November, 1896, there were 800 executions on the outskirts of Manila. In one day some 75 men were stood up before a wall and shot.

EARTHQUAKES. "The earthquakes in the Philippines, especially on Luzon and Negros islands, deserve a special story by themselves. The whole group of islands is of volcanic origin. There are seventy volcanoes in constant eruption on the islands. Several of them are the most violent in the world and are always being studied by scientists from Europe and America. The famous volcano Mayara is within sight of Manila. An earthquake occurs on an average of once every ten days. I have known small quakes to come at the rate of a dozen a day for a week at a time. About a dozen times a year there are shocks so severe that people will run about in fright and damage will be done to the buildings. The big bridge over the Pasig river at Manila has been so swayed by earthquakes twice in my residence in the city that it has been made unsafe for travel. In 1884 an earthquake nearly ruined the great stone cathedral in Manila, raised many buildings to the ground, rocked hundreds more, and 2,000 people on Luzon island were killed by falling timbers and walls. In 1869 the great earthquake occurred on Negros island. It has never been known how many people were killed then, but the number is estimated at 7,000. Almost every structure on the island was shaken down, and great gaps, yards wide and miles long, were cracked across the island. The quake opened seams in the earth from the southeast and made passages from the interior lakes to the ocean. I suppose if such a quake should occur in New York city there wouldn't be one building left on all Manhattan island.

SPORTS. "The people at Manila have the fondness of the Spanish countries for exciting sports. The great theater, which seats about 1,500 people, is nearly always filled. It pays the Spanish government a revenue of about \$5,000 a year. Sometimes an opera or theatrical company will come there from Paris or Madrid and play seven nights in the week for months at a time. Operas with a lot of buffoonery and a lot of desperate villains are immensely popular at Madrid, and dramas in which there is a vein of immorality will draw for weeks. While the play proceeds, boys go about the theater vending cigars and sweetmeats. Often a cloud of tobacco obscures the stage at the close of the evening. When

the play pleases, a whole scene will be repeated. I once attended an opening night of a new Spanish drama, and the audience cheered so lustily that the whole first scene was repeated twice before the second came on. There are some marvelous incongruities in the drama there, but the audience enters so enthusiastically into the plot that there is no chance for such trifling criticism. I saw a play last year in which a Roman soldier shot the villain to death in a room where there were curtains and glass window panes. "Gambling is universal in the Philippines. I don't know any one except one half-civilized man on the little islands in the Philippine archipelago who does not do some gambling. There are lotteries galore. The government gets \$1,000,000 revenue a year from the lotteries, and no matter how hard the times, how sad the islands may be over some frightful calamity, there are always lotteries in full blast under the protection of the Spanish. Sellers of lottery tickets have booths along the streets, at the plazas and wherever the people congregate for an evening's pleasure. Thousands of people will scribble and pinch a whole month to get money to buy chances in some lottery scheme. The business men lay aside a certain share of their receipts to buy tickets. The Manila newspapers get a large part of their business from advertisements for lotteries.

CHARACTER OF NATIVES. "Naturally the average native of the Philippines is a humble and peaceful sort of a fellow. He has very little education and has no knowledge of the world outside of the island. I know men in Manila who hold government positions and are accounted great success there, who had never heard of the United States, and asked me if our country was anywhere near China. I guess they have brushed up their geography along that line since I left the islands. The natives are simple people; they love to dance, sing and loaf. Poverty is more general than anywhere on the continent. Under a good government there would never be a suggestion of a rebellion, and these people could be made prosperous."

NOTES ON NEW PUBLICATIONS. The Century company will bring out immediately in book form a review of Mr. Gladstone's life by James Bryce, M. P. Mr. Bryce was one of Gladstone's closest associates in parliamentary life and a member of his last two cabinets. With tomorrow's Philadelphia Ledger will be issued a handsome picture of Admiral Dewey and his fleet. It is 11 inches in size and suitable for framing. It will make a choice souvenir of the Manila victory.

Laird & Lee, of Chicago, have just issued an entirely new and improved edition of their famous household and office companion, "Conklin's Manual," in the German language. Conklin's Business Hand Book, 4th edition, with 25 colored maps, the Dingley tariff in full, and a well classified mass of highly interesting information about the present war, the armies and navies of the belligerents, Cuba, the Antilles and the Philippine islands, with explanatory reading matter. The Rand-McNally War atlas comprises 15 large maps of maps covering every possible phase of the present conflict or any likely to grow out of it. These maps are carefully revised and offer the most available information in cartography.

Sixty-nine pictures appear in the current number of Collier's Weekly; eight of them are portraits of Gladstone at different periods of his life, and four have other subjects, but more than fifty are of objects, scenes and individuals made especially prominent and interesting by the war with Spain. More than a month ago Mr. Haro, of the Weekly's photographic staff, went, with two other journalists, to the camp of the insurgent general Gomez with the first news of American intervention in Cuba. Mr. Haro wrote a description of the trip and took scores of photographs; the result is an installment of his narrative, with about twenty of his pictures, appears in the current number; a double-page picture of Gomez, in his hammock, chatting with his American visitors, is from a painting by Gilbert Gaul, after one of Mr. Haro's photographs.

The Philippine prizes itself on being the sole remaining torpedo boat of the literary squadron. In its June issue it prints a series of frame pictures which Mr. Hubbard's "The Philippine" explains, also other illustrations which more or less satisfactorily explain themselves. The June Century has several features of particular timeliness. Captain Mahan contributes a paper describing the reasons for the failure of the Spanish Armada. This is introductory to a general article on the Armada, illustrated by Van Luan, and written by William Frederic Tilden. Emory W. Fenn, who served as a major in the Cuban army, and whose experience under General Garcia in an article entitled "Ten Months with the Cuban Insurgents." Mr. E. O. Crowley, formerly electrician of the Torpedo Division in the Confederate navy, describes "The Confederate Torpedo Service," which he was largely instrumental in organizing. Crowley laid the mine which blew up the first submarine ever destroyed by this means. Mr. Stephen Bonsal, formerly of the Cuban army, writes of "Toledo, the Imperial City of Spain," the illustration being by Joseph Pennell.

The June St. Nicholas performs again the feat of finding novelty in the well-explored field of fiction for the young. There is a good ballad-story, a story for stamp-collectors, a history of the opera-buff kingdom of Yvetot, an account of the humble humble-bee, one of Miss Woodward's delightful ballads, of Durley, a sketch of the wonderer a boy can accomplish with a jack-knife, a queer "darky" fairy-story, and a newspaper reporter's adventure. Besides a shorter feature, there are four serials and the well-conducted departments. The illustrations are as good as can be made in a magazine of any class.

The June Scribner, though made up on the eve of war, contains evidence of the impending calamity in several clear and pertinent ways. The magazine has inserted after the rest of the magazine had gone to press. Well-known writers and artists will depict actual phases of the war in succeeding issues. The magazine has been made to cover the operations by land and sea. A convenient Spanish-American war chart has been issued by Laird & Lee. It comprises between stiff boards good maps of the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard, Cuba, the Antilles and the Philippine islands, with explanatory reading matter. The Rand-McNally War atlas comprises 15 large maps of maps covering every possible phase of the present conflict or any likely to grow out of it. These maps are carefully revised and offer the most available information in cartography.