

# MANILA AND THE PHILIPPINES.

Interesting Information About This Great Archipelago Over Which Our Flag Now Floats.



On the west and the Pacific Ocean on the east. The eastern shore of the principal island is about 600 miles east of Hong Kong; it is the largest and most northern great island of the group—a group which, extending from five de-



These are business men of Manila, who volunteered to defend the capital against the insurgents.

grees to twenty degrees north latitude, and over a longitude of ten degrees to 117 degrees east of Greenwich, covers a north and south line of 1050 miles, and an east and west line of about 700 miles.

It is estimated that this group comprises 1400 islands, of which by far the larger part are mere islets. They are of coral and volcanic formation, the latter often having tremendous eruptions. The largest of them are Luzon, on the north, of nearly 41,000



A SCENE IN ARSENAL STREET, MANILA.

square miles area, and Mindanao, on the southeast, having an area of 37,456 square miles. The total area is computed at 114,000 square miles.

The chief seaport of the group is Manila, overlooking a capacious bay on the southwest shore of Luzon. The other chief ports are Iloilo and Cebu, on the islands of the same name, in the central part of the archipelago.

There are half a dozen other islands in the central and western part of the group, the areas of which range from that of Rhode Island to that of Connecticut. They are inhabited, in round numbers, by about 8,000,000 people, of whom a dwarfed race of Negritos, now driven into the mountains and interior lands, seem to be the descendants of the aborigines. The bulk of the population is Malayan, of whom there are numerous tribes; the dirtiest and most pagan is known as the Igorotes, and yet they display exemplary qualities. They are one of the most important mountain tribes of Luzon and are among the population who virtually escape onerous Spanish taxation. They are good farmers, laying out terraced fields on the mountains, constructing irrigation canals and having a considerable reputation as metallurgists. Their domestic morality is favorably in contrast with that of their neighbors.

Another element of the population are the Chinese and their Mestizos, or descendants of mixed Sinitic and native blood. There is scarcely a community on these islands where the Chinese are not found. Petty trade and banking are almost entirely in their hands. Europeans and their descendants are not numerous here, although there is a considerable breed of half-castes, derived from European fathers.

It was not until the close of the sixteenth century that the archipelago passed under Spanish domination, during the reign of Philip II. About the middle of the century an expedition sailed from Mexico in five ships, but accomplished little. In 1566 Don Miguel Lopez de Legazpi reached the islands and founded a Spanish settlement at the town of Cebu, and it is in his correspondence that the name of Philippine Islands is first recorded. It was given in honor of his sovereign.

Under this monarch an ecclesiastical organization, principally of monastic orders, was established.

The history of these islands during the nineteenth century has been one of the greatest archipelagos of the world. They lie in the north tropic zone and separate the South China Sea from the eastern shore of the principal island is about 600 miles east of Hong Kong; it is the largest and most northern great island of the group—a group which, extending from five de-

In the inaccessible mountainous parts of the islands there are still unsubdued savages. In the last census returns the number of natives not subjected to the civil government and paying no tribute is given as 602,853, while the number of natives paying tribute is returned as 5,501,356.

The public revenue of the island is about \$5,000,000, of which the larger part is raised from direct taxes, poll taxes, customs, monopolies and lotteries.

The chief articles of produce are sugar, hemp, tobacco, coffee and copra. The foreign trade is confined to the ports of Manila, Iloilo, Cebu and Jambaonga.

The climate of the Philippines varies little from that of other mountainous tropical countries. The range

of the thermometer during the year is from a little over sixty degrees to about ninety. The year may be divided into three seasons; the first, cold and dry, commences in November; the second, warm but still dry, commences in March, the greatest heat being experienced from April to the end of May, and the third, which is excessively wet, continues from June to the middle of November.

Generally speaking, the natives are mild and amiable, predisposed to religious observances, extremely superstitious and very hospitable. Those of Batangas, Cagayan and Southern Ilocos are better and more industrious laborers than those of the other provinces. During their youth they work with energy and a certain mental vigor, but on reaching more advanced age lapse into indolence, which is one of their greatest defects.

The women are averse to idleness, have a spirit of enterprise and often



PHILIPPINE NATIVES.

engage in various trades with success. They are economical and sacrifice themselves cheerfully for those to whom they are attached.

Before the days of Spanish rule there was considerable commercial intercourse between the Philippines and China and Japan, but this, which would naturally have developed enormously if the Spanish trade between

Manila and America had been left free, was interrupted and at times almost completely stopped by absurd restrictions devised to secure to Spain a monopoly of the American trade. For



A PHILIPPINE MALAY BEAUTY.

a long period only a single galleon, and that under government supervision, was allowed to proceed yearly from Manila to Acapulco, the value of the cargo each way being restricted within a prescribed sum. Direct trade from Europe via the Cape of Good Hope commenced in 1764; but, as if the exclusion from it of all but Spanish ships was not sufficient, in 1785 a monopoly of this commerce was bestowed on the Royal Company of the Philippines. With the close of the eighteenth century a certain amount of liberty began to be conceded to foreign vessels. The first English commercial house was established in Manila in 1809, and in 1834 the monopoly of the Royal Company expired. Manila remained the only port for foreign trade till 1842, when Cebu was also opened. Jambaonga (Mindanao), Iloilo (Panay), Sual (Luzon), Legazpi or Albany (Luzon) and Tacloban (Leyte) are now in the same category, but only Manila, Iloilo and Cebu have proved of real importance, as they are the only ports where foreign-bound vessels have hitherto loaded.

The exports from the United States to the Philippines have always been very insignificant, although our imports from the islands have often reached large proportions. The principal articles exported from this country to the Philippines are flour, petroleum, leather goods, iron and steel, etc. Imports from the Philippines are chiefly sugar and hemp.

The foreign trade of the Philippines has always been subject to great fluctuations. The insecurity arising under the Spanish administration, and the consequent dissatisfaction of the native population, together with constantly recurring insurrections, have prevented these islands from developing the riches with which nature has bountifully endowed them. Gold, sulphur and large deposits of excellent steaming coal are widely distributed over the country, and an intelligent government, coupled with enterprise in business and humanity of spirit, could rapidly turn this fertile region into a source of great wealth for mankind.

### Witch Wreaths.

A remarkable object illustrating a popular survival of the belief in witchcraft has just been presented to the museum of the University of Pennsylvania by Professor William Romaine Newbold. It consists of a matted ring of chicken feathers, about three inches in diameter, described as a "witch wreath." It was secured by Dr. George B. Kline, of Pittsburg, who gave it to Dr. Newbold, who transferred it to the museum.

A resident of Pittsburg who had been ill for several years, died in July, 1897. During his last illness, extending over several months, he would frequently throw his pillow away, saying: "There is something in that pillow that hurts my head." His wife said that this was impossible, as she had gathered the feathers and made the pillow herself a few years before. Some days after her husband's death the widow claimed that something seemed to say to her, "Look at the pillow." Upon opening the pillow she found this object within it. When questioned closely she declared that the sewing was hers, and that it showed no signs of having been tampered with. The neighbors believe in the woman's truthfulness.

Dr. Kline writes that a similar wreath was found in the pillow of a six-year-old child who died of the same disease and about the same time as the above-mentioned patient. This was burned by the witch doctor without Dr. Kline seeing it, but he is informed that it was precisely like this one. By inquiry Dr. Kline learned of four or five other families who were said to have found witch wreaths in their pillows, and who ascribe to their presence cases of illness in their families.

It appears that a belief in the evil effects of witch wreaths is extremely common in parts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey among the descendants of German settlers, and it used to be customary to put a Bible under the pillow to prevent their forming.—Philadelphia Press.

### Diamond Combustion.

No one can tell where the diamond goes to in combustion. Burn it, and it leaves no ash; the flame is exterior, like that of a cork, and when it has blazed itself out there remains not even so much as would dust the antennae of a butterfly.

There are forty varieties of the tobacco plant.

# THE FARM GARDEN



Keeping Apples in Pits.

A uniform temperature and one but little above freezing is more easily maintained in an out-of-door pit covered with soil than in the house cellar which is always kept too warm for the best keeping of fruit or vegetables. But in keeping apples in pits, care should be taken not to leave the fruit in contact with earth or where soil filtered water can get to it. This will give apples an earthy and disagreeable taste, which makes them unfit to eat raw and is not wholly removed by cooking.

### Locations for Bees.

Many people fail of success with bees, because they do not place the hives right. If too shaded the bees are likely to be attacked by the moth miller, which breeds those worms that destroy the honey. It is well to have the bees up early, so the hives should front to the east, so as to catch the first rays of the morning sun. Either a well-roofed, low building should be put up as a bee stand, or the hives should be set on a bench under a tree all through the summer. In winter it is not best that bees should see sunlight. If an underground cellar out of doors can be fitted up where the temperature may be kept below freezing all the time, it will be much better than the warmer house cellar.

### Seedling Peach Trees.

In every peach orchard free from the yellows, there will be more or less seedling peach trees springing up every year from pits dropped after the peach was eaten the previous fall. It requires freezing to open these pits, and the germ usually comes forth with the first warm weather of spring. These seedlings will usually be of poor quality, as they are only natural fruit. But if they are set out in rich soil as soon as the shoots start, they will grow rapidly and be plenty large enough to be budded in July next. It is a comparatively easy thing to learn to bud. In this way a stock of peach trees can easily be secured if one plants peach stones from healthy fruit in the fall, and takes care to use only buds from healthy stock for budding purposes.

### Lettuce Preceding Cucumbers.

One of the favorite uses for the hot-house by market gardeners is in winter to grow successive crops of lettuce planting as many as three successions, and then following with a cucumber crop, which may continue bearing until all danger of frost is passed, and when the hot-house may be kept warm enough by the sun's rays shining in on the plants during the daytime. In fact, the sun will heat any hot-house too warm for any vegetables at this time of year. The windows must be opened for ventilation all through the day. Some bees should be kept by every gardener who grows cucumbers, as they are necessary to carry pollen from the male to the female blossoms. The male blossoms are the first that appear on the cucumber vine, and they are much visited by bees. So soon as the female blossoms appear the bees also visit them and fertilize the flowers. When cucumbers are grown in hot-houses a swarm of bees inside the building devoted to this use is a necessity.

### An Inexpensive Hotbed.

There was no one who had time or inclination to help about making a hotbed out of doors, and it was deemed absolutely necessary to start a few early plants. Experience has demonstrated that a large number of plants may be grown in a very small space, and a novel idea presented itself. There was in the storeroom a worn-out, rusted-out kitchen sink. This was filled with earth fine and mellow and carefully sifted to make it as light and soft as possible. The seeds were planted, the sink was placed on a large box and inside of the box a lighted lamp was put with the flame just high enough to prevent smoking. It was a small lamp and consumed but little oil, but it furnished the bottom heat that makes plant growing such a success. Almost before one could be aware the seeds pushed their tiny leaves up to the light, and the roots crept down to find the warmth below. The drainage was excellent and all conditions seemed favorable. When the plants were well up and established, less water was given and stronger, more stocky plants were never planted out from an indoors nursery to an open garden. Large-sized galvanized pans are not at all expensive and are very manageable. When first planted a number of them may be stacked one above another with cross sticks to keep them separate. If they are kept in the dark it will be quite as well, as the roots will grow faster than the tops and furnish a most excellent start in life.—The Ledger.

### Cowpeas a Satisfactory Crop.

Select such land as was sown in peas or some cultivated crop last year. Poor land with a liberal covering of stable manure and all the phosphate

### OUR FIRST NAVY.

The Brilliant Achievements of Admiral Ezekiel Hopkins.

The outbreak of the Revolutionary War found the patriots without a navy. Congress had to create one. Four merchantmen were first purchased, hastily equipped with guns and sent to sea as cruisers; but their defects as war vessels soon became so apparent that Congress determined at once to set about the building of a navy. On October 3, 1775, Congress ordered two cruisers built; and on December 13 the order was increased to five 32 gun ships, five 28-gun ships and three 24-gun ships. They were to be ready for the sea by the following April. The names given to the thirteen vessels were Boston, Congress, Effingham, Delaware, Hancock, Montgomery, Raleigh, Trumbull, Virginia, Warren, Washington and Randolph. These were the first war vessels constructed in the United States.

The first Commander-in-Chief was Ezekiel Hopkins, of Rhode Island, a younger brother of Congressman Stephens Hopkins. He was appointed to this high office on December 22, 1775.

In a short time a fleet of four ships and three sloops was ready, and with these Admiral Hopkins set out to win glory for himself and country. Among his lieutenants was the famous John Paul Jones, who was, probably, the most brilliant and daring naval officer of the wars with England.

The Bahama Islands in the West Indies were then an English colony, with New Providence as their principal seaport and seat of government;



ADMIRAL EZEKIEL HOPKINS.

and hither the new Admiral sailed the new navy. He attacked the city, captured the harbor fort and town, and brought back with him to America the English Governor as a prisoner, eighty cannons and a very large quantity of ammunition and military stores. This brilliant achievement was a godsend to the disheartened and impoverished patriots.

Soon after his return from the Bahamas he met two English ships off Block Island, and captured both of them. Two days later he had an engagement with the English twenty-nine-gun ship Glasgow, but did not succeed in capturing it.

Ezekiel Hopkins in 1777 equipped a fast and powerful privateer and again went to sea. He sailed to the East Indies, where his daring and skill found rich rewards. During one cruise he captured a sufficient number of rich English merchantmen to cause his profits to foot up over \$1,000,000. At another time he fell in with a large fleet of English merchantmen protected by a man-of-war. He boldly joined the fleet, and every night cut out and captured a vessel, until he had sent ten home and could spare no more men from his crew. He became the most successful and daring of all the American privateersmen.

When the war ended he returned to Rhode Island, and became one of her most prominent and busy citizens.

### Boston Common's Gates.

Massive ornamental iron gates, which were never closed, and the posts supporting them and bearing tall lanterns, all of which have stood for years at one of the entrances to Boston Common and now have given way because of the subway excavations, are to be re-erected at the entrance to the site of the Confederate military prison at Andersonville, Ga. When originally placed the gates were "dedicated" by Governor John A. Andrew, of Massachusetts.

### First Run on a Bank.

The first "run" on banking institutions in London was in 1667. Many Lombard street goldsmiths and bankers had lent out the money entrusted to them, and being called upon for payment, were unable to meet the demand. A crowd of creditors and others assembled and a riot followed, in which four bankers were hanged at their own doors before order could be restored and the angry creditors persuaded that they were not being swindled.

### Origin of Infantry.

The term "infantry" soldiers originated with the Spanish, and was first applied to the military force employed by an infante, or young prince of Spain, to rescue his father from the Moors.

### Stepchildren.

