

CONSULAR REPORTS ON PHILIPPINE AFFAIRS.

AFFAIRS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Mr. Williams to Mr. Cridler.

No. 8.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Manila, Philippine Islands, February 21, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that during the year 1897 the record of arrivals and departures of vessels of all flags from Manila, Iloilo, and Cebu, the open ports of the Philippine Islands, is as follows:

Flag.	Arrivals.			Total.	Departures.			Total.
	Steam-ships.	Ships.	Barks.		Steam-ships.	Ships.	Barks.	
United States.....	1	15	8	24	1	13	8	22
Great Britain.....	159	20	22	191	149	23	18	190
Germany.....	28	1	2	31	28		1	29
Spain.....	47			47	47			47
Japan.....	10			10	10			10
Norway.....	19	1	1	21	18		1	19
Holland.....	2			2	2			2
Denmark.....			3	3			1	1
Hawaii.....			1	1			1	1
France.....	1			1	1			1
Total.....				322				322

Certain defects as to tonnage, etc., exist in the records supplied me. These I hope to have remedied for the current year, so that my 1898 report may be nearer complete.

I have the honor, etc.,

OSCAR F. WILLIAMS,
United States Consul.

Mr. Williams to Mr. Cridler.

No. 9.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Manila, Philippine Islands, February 22, 1898.

SIR: Without specific instructions it seems my duty at this critical period to inform the Washington Government somewhat as to political conditions here. But as I have been here less than a month vigilance has not overcome all difficulties, and the rigid censorship of the press in general and the suppression of such publications as uttered the truth have made news gathering onerous.

I have before me a lengthy dispatch giving dates of many warlike and political matters, with rumors, observations, and conclusions, but deem it wise to write more briefly to-day, to bide events and wait specific instructions from you.

Peace was proclaimed, and since my coming festivities therefor were held; but there is no peace, and has been none for about two years. Conditions here and in Cuba are practically alike. War exists, battles are of almost daily occurrence, ambulances bring in many wounded,

and hospitals are full. Prisoners are brought here and shot without trial, and Manila is under martial law.

The Crown forces have not been able to dislodge a rebel army within 10 miles of Manila, and last Saturday, February 19, a battle was there fought and 5 dead left on the field. Much of such information is found in my longer dispatch, referred to, and which is at your command.

The Governor-General, who is amiable and popular, having resigned, wishes credit for pacification, and certain rebel leaders were given a cash bribe of \$1,650,000 to consent to public deportation to China. This bribe and deportation only multiplied claimants and fanned the fires of discontent.

Insurgents demand fewer exactions from church and state, a half of public offices, and fewer church holidays, which seriously retard business.

A republic is organized here, as in Cuba. Insurgents are being armed and drilled; are rapidly increasing in numbers and efficiency, and all agree that a general uprising will come as soon as the governor-general embarks for Spain, which is fixed for March.

While some combatant regiments have recently been returned to Spain, it was for appearance only, and all authorities now agree that unless the Crown largely reinforces its army here it will lose possession.

Command me for any desired information.

Your obedient servant,

OSCAR F. WILLIAMS, *Consul.*

Mr. Williams to Mr. Cridler.

No. 2, special.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

Manila, Philippine Islands, March 19, 1898.

SIR: Matters are in a serious state here. I have daily communication by cable and letter with Commodore Dewey, but we pass letters by British and other shipmasters and by private parties, because cables and letters are tampered with.

Insurrection is rampant; many killed, wounded, and made prisoners on both sides. A battle ship, the *Don Juan de Austria*, sent this week to the northern part of Luzon to cooperate with a land force of 2,000 dispatched to succor local forces, overwhelmed by rebels.

Last night special squads of mounted police were scattered at danger points to save Manila.

I caution Americans against bearing arms in violation of local law, although threats have been made by Spaniards that all Americans would soon have their throats cut. Certain ones are so frightened as to frequently come to my consulate and hotel, and spies watch all my movements.

Yesterday I examined stock of an American who had been threatened and abstracted his ledger. To-day his inventory and accounts were placed in my safe. To-day two others came to me to send their effects to some American ship lying in the bay, and I have so planned.

I have no instructions from you as to these delicate complications, but so far have gotten on well. I fly our flag all the time, give double hours to the consulate, and have notified Americans that they can find me all the time at the consulate, or at my hotel, or on the path between. We have many holidays, but I keep open consulate every day, including Sundays, so Americans may find me.

Rebellion never more threatening to Spain. Rebels getting arms, money, and friends, and they outnumber the Spaniards, resident and soldiery, probably a hundred to one.

Report says that Holy Week the insurgents plan to burn and capture Manila. But, if so, you will learn it by wire before you receive this dispatch.

My March quarterly reports may be delayed or captured. If no trouble thwarts my work, all reports from here will be sent by first mail after March 31, but my consular agents at Cebu and Iloilo are both absent, and hence I may not receive their reports for transmission as early as I send my own.

All news comes direct from Washington. I hear nothing as to relations between United States and Spain, and, depending upon unofficial reports, I must act as if peace reigned. I can only assure you of vigilance and loyalty, await your instructions, and remain,

Your most obedient servant,

OSCAR F. WILLIAMS, *Consul*.

Mr. Williams to Mr. Cridler.

Special.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Manila, Philippine Islands, March 27, 1898.

SIR: Because of having given daily information to Commodore Dewey as to disturbances here I have assumed that he informed the Washington Government, and I have written little on war matters.

Cuban conditions exist here possibly in aggravated form. Spanish soldiers are killed and wounded daily, despite claimed pacification, and the hospitals are kept full.

The majority of casualties are reported from the ranks of the native insurgents, and the cruelties and horrors of war are daily repeated.

Cavite is the naval port of Luzon, situated about 8 miles across the bay from Manila, and about twenty miles distant by way of bay shore and public highway, and last Thursday, March 24, a Crown regiment of natives, the Seventy-fourth, stationed there was ordered to advance against native insurgents near by. The regiment refused to obey orders, and 8 corporals were called out and shot to death in presence of the regiment, which was again ordered to advance and threat made that a refusal would be death to all. All did refuse and were sent to barracks to await sentence. On the morning of the following Friday, March 25, the entire regiment, with arms and equipment, marched out of the barracks and deserted in a body to the insurgents, saying they were willing to fight the foreign enemies of Spain, but would not fight their friends.

Since beginning this dispatch I learn of the desertion to the insurgents of another entire regiment. These are said to be the severest set backs received by Spain during the two years' insurrection here.

On Friday morning, March 25, a church holiday, a meeting of natives was being held near my consulate in Manila, the natives being unarmed. The building was surrounded by police and military, the meeting broken up, twelve natives wantonly shot to death, several wounded, and sixty-two taken prisoners. Saturday morning, March 26, the sixty-two prisoners were marched in a body to the cemetery and shot to death, although it was shown that several were chance passers-by or employees in ships adjoining, not being in attendance at the meeting.

It was cold comfort to the widows and orphans of innocent men to have Spanish officers present them the mangled corpses of husbands and fathers.

Such horrors, but usually on a smaller scale, but at times attended by greater disregard for modern rules of war, occur almost daily, and the piteous cry goes up, "Will it ever stop?"

The Crown forces are now building a cordon of small forts on city's outskirts for defense against provincial natives, who are expected to soon attack Manila. In fact, two detectives and one messenger have come to me this evening with information that attack was to be made to-night, and everybody is anxious, as 8,000 native insurgent soldiers are encamped only five miles away.

The insurgents seem to lack arms and organization, but, so far as I can learn, outnumber the Spanish forces and inhabitants twenty to one. Arms are being obtained and organization slowly effected, and all classes fear the near future. It is said that the only reason why Manila has not been taken and burned is because a vast majority of its population is in perfect accord with the insurgents.

Because of anxiety among Americans and my wish to keep in reach of all demands, I keep the consulate open double hours and on all holidays and Sundays, with biggest flag flying, so any needing a refuge may find it.

Barbarities are reported as daily practiced, such as placing prisoners and suspects in black-hole dungeons in the walls of old Manila, so placed that with rise of tide prisoners are drowned: several hundred reported to have so perished.

Cruelties too horrid for an official report are detailed to me every day, and it seems that the cry of outraged humanity would soon compel Spain to abolish Middle Age methods of warfare.

Christian nations are such only in name when such atrocities as daily blacken the calendar are known to be perpetrated here and no effort made to protect the weak.

There is to-day no Christian nation—policy and mock diplomacy govern all; the vilest cruelties of war are added to the mangling of old men, women, and children to make full the measure of iniquity.

The American Indians would not permit one of their tribes to practice such barbarities. Why should so called Christian nations decline to call a halt upon Spanish outrages?

All information as to defenses of Manila has been sent to Commodore George Dewey at Hongkong.

For fear of confiscation this dispatch and other mail go by messenger to Hongkong, to be there mailed.

Cable is cut in three places. I keep copies of dispatches, etc., but at present, for reasons, they are not copied on the register at consulate.

I remain, etc.,

OSCAR F. WILLIAMS,
United States Consul, Manila.

Mr. Williams to Mr. Day.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Manila, Philippine Islands, March 31, 1898.

HONORED SIR: My returns and accounts for March quarter to both your Department and the Treasury having been perfected and mailed, I turn with reluctance, but from a sense of duty, to somewhat inform

you, as Secretary for Foreign Affairs, of the insurrection which for about two years has devastated these marvelously fair islands, "covered them with blood, often of the innocent, and has bereft thousands of homes of the husbands and sons who were the sole breadwinners."

Last week Thursday, March 24, at Cavite, near here, the Seventy-fourth Spanish Regiment, recruited among the natives of the southern islands of this group, refused to obey orders and attack the native insurrectionists. Eight corporals were called out and shot to death in presence of the regiment. Again orders to advance were given and disobeyed, when death to all was threatened. The regiment expressed a willingness to fight the foreign enemies of Spain, but said they would all be shot rather than fight their friends. All were sent to barracks to be punished later, but the next morning all took arms and deserted to the insurgents.

On Friday, March 25, a church and legal holiday, unarmed natives were holding a meeting near my consulate. The building was surrounded by police and the suspicious military, the meeting broken up, twelve natives shot to death, several wounded, and sixty-two prisoners taken, certain of whom were mere passers-by, not having attended the meeting. The next morning these sixty-two prisoners, without form of trial, were marched in a body to the cemetery and all shot to death.

Hardly a day passes without such scenes of middle-age treachery and barbarity. A recent uprising at Cape Bolinao, on the northwest coast of this island (Luzon), about 300 miles from Manila, was crushed by united action of two regiments of infantry aided by the battle ship *Don Juan de Austria*. A British shipmaster there at the time reports about forty killed and forty wounded. After surrender, the Spaniards put dead and wounded together in a house and by burning it cremated all.

In the old walls of "Walled Manila," built about 300 years ago, are said to be several "black hole" dungeon prisons, in which incarceration is almost sure death. Two of these, both of which I have seen, with apertures at summit of wall, have floors below low tide, so two or three feet of slime, mud, and water floor the dungeons. In these hundreds of so-called insurgents have lately been placed, and all drowned by the rising tide. No judge, no jury—simply hate, suspicion, treachery. Of this several reports have been made to me, one that above two hundred victims were counted in one of these prisons. No reliance can be placed upon the public press. Censorship is rigid, and the oldest daily there, *El Diario de Manila*, and another, have been suspended by public order because truth was told.

Months ago pacification was claimed by the Governor-General. It was false. A truce had been bought with \$1,650,000, during which the Governor-General hoped to embark for Spain, but all was a hollow farce.

The Madrid Government seems now to understand all, and the Governor-General has been ordered to remain, and his appointed successor sent to one of the provinces.

Now 5,000 armed rebels, which for days have been encamped near Manila and have been reinforced from the mountains, plan to attack the city to night. All is excitement and life uncertain.

News came this afternoon of the wounding of a governor of one of the southern provinces and the defeat of the Crown forces under his command.

The only church permitted here is the Roman Catholic, and its interference with the Government, its intolerance, immorality, and despotism are perhaps the greatest bar to progress in these islands.

From consensus of opinion received from men of several nationalities, from oldest foreign residents, from natives, Chinese, and a few Spaniards, I believe that of the Philippine people, estimated at fifteen millions, not five per cent are loyal to Spain.

But officials and priests, the leeches of the people, are in authority, have money, influence, and cunning, so that the natives and half breeds (Chinese and European) are more or less controlled.

During the period when war between the United States and Spain was expected, which seems happily now to be disappearing, I daily heard the assurance that the natives, half-breeds, Chinese merchants, and such Spaniards as were in business were all ready to welcome our fleet, fight with it to hoist over these islands the United States flag, and swear allegiance to it; and once done, all interests here would thrive, be settled and happy.

I have daily felt it a duty to inform you, but for nearly the entire period of my incumbency every odd hour of day and many of evenings have been given to inspection of forts, arsenals, and battle ships in order to fully inform Commodore Dewey at Hongkong.

And because his means of communication with Washington were better than my own, I have trusted all to him. Another fact, I have not had money to cable Commodore Dewey as asked, but needed to borrow for it.

Fortunately I have been well every hour, so that by double hours at the consulate, and by keeping it open, with flag flying on holidays and Sundays, the Americans have felt sure of a refuge if trouble came, and threats were freely made that all Americans would have their throats cut. I have not dared to fully trust the post-office or telegraph company, as letters and cables have been freely tampered with, and hence have, until to-day, sent much mail by private messengers to Hongkong, and have received mail the same way.

To-day's mail being returns and accounts, etc., and having no chance to send to Hongkong, all was mailed here. This will be sent by messenger to China.

Now bubonic plague exists at Hongkong, and quarantine here delays ships, and Governor-General has ordered that ships take no passengers from these islands.

By discoveries here and by a plan devised, I have saved the United States Treasury in two months nearly double the amount of my salary, and each year hereafter it will be saved \$200 from one item alone.

My hotel room has been searched, and, I believe, my consulate also, and friends have daily called to advise me to seek safety in hiding or in flight; but I have not shared their fears sufficiently to leave a post at which you had expectations that I would remain and perform every loyal duty to your Department and to our Government.

All officials have treated me well except one underling, whose head I threatened to smash, and with a return of cordiality between nations I shall make all official calls anew, as I have but just received my exequatur from Madrid.

My work for the commodore now lighter, I shall prepare reports on Philippine tariff, import wants, products, and institutions for the departments at Washington.

I do not copy this on the records of the consulate, because it may be there read any night by spies, and if so, my usefulness as well as my personal comfort would be impaired. I dare not even intrust my cipher cables and code to the old office safe, but carry all in my pockets.

I regret to burden you with a report so unfavorable, and hope ere long to be able to write of better conditions; but being your antipodes, the news is old before it passes between us.

For economy's sake I have not used the cable to United States, but have, as said, intrusted Commodore Dewey to inform you.

Believing that before you receive this you will have succeeded the venerable Mr. Sherman as premier, I beg you to accept congratulations, a moiety of which go to our country and its good President and a moiety to you, with the hope that your career as a national servant may be as long, as honored, and as beneficial as has been that of your illustrious predecessor.

I am, etc.,

OSCAR F. WILLIAMS,
United States Consul, Manila, Philippine Islands.

Mr. Williams to Mr. Day.

Special.]

U. S. S. BALTIMORE,
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Bay of Manila, Philippine Islands, May 4, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to briefly report to you concerning the battle of Manila Bay, fought on May 1, 1898.

Heeding your mandate, and by repeated request of Commodore George Dewey, of the United States Asiatic Squadron, I left Manila on Saturday, April 23, and on Wednesday, April 27, at about 1 o'clock p. m., boarded the flagship *Olympia* in Mirs Bay, near Hongkong. After meeting the commodore and his captains and commanders in council, the commodore at once ordered his fleet to start at 2 p. m. for Manila Bay.

On Saturday, April 30, Subig Bay was reconnoitered because of reported hiding of Spanish fleet in its inner harbor, but no fleet being there found, the commodore proceeded at once to the south channel entrance to Manila Bay, and while by many reports mines, torpedoes, and land defenses obstructed entrance, yet the flagship led the van, and between 10 p. m., April 30, and 2 a. m., May 1, our fleet of six war ships, one dispatch boat, and two coal-laden transports passed all channel dangers unharmed, despite shots from forts, and at 2 a. m. were all safe on the broad expanse of Manila Bay.

After my departure, April 23, and by drawing fire to save Manila if possible, all Spanish war ships went to their strongly fortified naval station at Cavite, where the inner harbor gave refuge and where potential support could be had from several forts and well-equipped batteries which extended several miles right and left from Port Cavite.

At about 5.30 a. m., Sunday, May 1, the Spanish guns opened fire at both the Manila breakwater battery and at Cavite from fleet and forts.

With magnificent coolness and order, but with greatest promptness, our fleet, in battle array, headed by the flagship, answered the Spanish attack, and for about two and a half hours a most terrific fire ensued.

The method of our operations could not have shown greater system, our guns greater effectiveness, or our officers and crews greater bravery. And while Spanish resistance was stubborn and the bravery of Spanish forces such as to challenge admiration, yet they were outclassed, weighed in the balance of war against the methods, training, aim, and bravery shown on our decks, and after less than three hours' perilous and intense

combat one of Spain's war ships was sinking, two others burning, and all others with land defenses had severely suffered when our squadron, with no harm done its ships, retired for breakfast. At about 10 o'clock a. m. Commodore Dewey renewed the battle and with effects most fatal with each evolution.

No better evidence of Spanish bravery need be sought than that, after the castigation of our first engagement, her ships and forts should again answer our fire. But Spanish efforts were futile. Ship after ship and battery after battery went to destruction before the onslaught of American energy and training, and an hour and a half of our second engagement wrought the annihilation of the Spanish fleet and forts with several hundred Spaniards killed and wounded and millions in value of their Government property destroyed. While amazing, almost unbelievable as it seems, not a ship or gun of our fleet had been disabled, and, except on the *Baltimore*, not a man had been hurt.

One of the crew of the *Baltimore* had had a leg fractured by slipping and another hurt in the ankle in a similar manner, while four received slight flesh wounds from splinters thrown by a 6-inch projectile which pierced the starboard side of the cruiser.

But in the battle of Manila Bay the United States squadron of six war ships totally destroyed the Spanish fleet of eight war ships, many forts and batteries, and accomplished this work without the loss of a man.

History has only contrasts. There is no complot to form a comparison. The only finish fight between the modern war ships of civilized nations has proven the prowess of American naval men and methods, and the glory is a legacy for the whole people. Our crews were all hoarse from cheering, and while we suffer for cough drops and throat doctors we have no use for liniment or surgeons.

To every ship, officer, and crew all praise be given. As Victoria was answered years ago, "Your Majesty, there is no second," so may I report to your Department as to our war ships conquering the Spanish fleet in the battle of Manila Bay: There is no first; there is no second. The cool bravery and efficiency of the commodore was echoed by every captain and commander and down through the lines by every officer and man, and naval history of the dawning century will be rich if it furnishes to the world so glorious a display of intelligent command and successful service as must be placed to the credit of the United States Asiatic Squadron under date of May 1, 1898.

It was my lot to stand on the bridge of the *Baltimore* by the side of Captain Deyer during the first engagement, and to be called to the flagship *Olympia* by the commodore, at whose side, on the bridge, I stood during the second engagement. And when the clouds roll by, and I have again a settled habitation, it will be my honor and pleasure to transmit a report showing service somewhat in detail, and for which commanders promise data.

Meanwhile our commodore will officially inform you of events which will rival in American history the exploits of Paul Jones.

I have, etc.,

OSCAR F. WILLIAMS,

United States Consul, Manila, Philippine Islands.

Mr. Williams to Mr. Day.

Special.]

CRUISER BALTIMORE,
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
MANILA BAY, OPPOSITE CAVITE,
Manila, Philippine Islands, May 12, 1898.

SIR: To aid you, if possible, permit me to give assurance of the friendliness of the Philippine natives to our country and to me as its representative.

During the period of my residence in Manila, every week was a history of barbarities by Spaniards, and of efforts, often futile, of the natives to obtain rights and protect their homes.

Scores of times I have heard hopes expressed that either United States or Great Britain would acquire these islands. In all this foreign residents, other than Spanish, concurred; and all such classes are most friendly to me.

In the struggle between Spain and the insurgents, the deaths have been many and greater among the natives. First, because the Spaniards have been much better armed. Second, because the Spaniards killed many noncombatants, old men, women, and children, while the natives refrained from such barbarities.

From consensus of opinions of many reliable people, I estimate Spanish forces here about as follows:

First, Naval force, in ships annihilated in the notable battle of Manila Bay, in which ten Spanish war ships were burned and sunk—two auxiliary gunboats, ditto—and about thirty steamers, schooners, tugs, etc., captured.

Second, About 4,000 Spanish infantry, nearly a half of whom are in hospitals.

Third, About 6,000 native troops under Spanish officers, but if such officers were deported their soldiers would eagerly follow our flag.

An insurgent leader, Major Gonzales, reported to me last week on the *Olympia*, that they had 37,000 troops under arms, good and bad, surrounding Manila, endeavoring to cooperate with us. In the main they are very poorly armed, but have about 6,600 rifles taken from the Spaniards. They have captured the entire railroad line and the River Pasig, thus cutting off supply lines, while we by cutting off supply by bay and sea can soon starve Manila into surrender.

These natives are eager to be organized and led by United States officers, and the members of their cabinet visited me and gave assurance that all would swear allegiance to and cheerfully follow our flag. They are brave, submissive, and cheaply provided for.

To show their friendliness for me as our nation's only representative in this part of the world, I last week went on shore at Cavite with British consul, in his launch, to show the destruction wrought by our fleet. As soon as natives found me out, they crowded around me, hats off, shouting "Viva los Americanos," thronged about me by hundreds to shake either hand, even several at a time, men, women, and children striving to get even a finger to shake. So I moved half a mile, shaking continuously with both hands. The British consul, a smiling spectator, said he never before saw such an evidence of friendship. Two thousand escorted me to the launch amid hurrahs of good feeling for our nation, hence I must conclude:

First, Our squadron can force surrender in a day. Spaniards are all cooped up in Manila.

Second. Spanish officers of native regiments away, these 6,000, together with selections from the 37,000 insurgents, can give us ample land force, and can be well armed with rifles of Spanish soldiers and from barracks and arsenals.

Third. Few United States troops will be needed for conquest and fewer still for occupancy. Expulsion of Spaniards, naval, civil, military, and clerics, will remove all discord and danger, and civil government, crude in the beginning but better than the present, will be easy and be well received, while native priests, of which there are many, can fully and with perfect acceptability meet all religious requirements so far as present established religion is concerned.

All natives, all foreigners other than Spanish, and certain Spaniards in mercantile and retired life will aid us to every extent. The people crave a change of flag. Hence I believe ample assurances are at hand that civil government by us will be easy of organization and gratefully received by the people.

My communications to your Department are, these war days, *supra* consular, but on other lines I endeavor to serve our fleet and thus serve our nation.

All rejoice over the merited promotion of our commodore to the rank of rear-admiral, but every man of the fleet proved a hero, and it seems as if the shield of Providence warded off the enemy's shot, leaving our men unharmed, our ships and guns intact, and gave us the most important and unique victory of history.

The student of the next century will read with pride that the right arm of Spain was broken at the battle of "Manila Bay," and from this must come the acquisition of these islands, many times more extensive, more populous, and more valuable than Cuba, or else their capture will force Spain to conditions of peace on basis of honor, so much sought by our nation.

I have, etc.,

OSCAR F. WILLIAMS,
United States Consul.

Mr. Williams to Mr. Day.

Special.]

U. S. S. BALTIMORE,
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
MANILA BAY, OFF CAVITE,
Manila, Philippine Islands, May 24, 1898.

SIR. I have the honor to report successful efforts on the part of the insurgents of these islands in preparation for more successful war against Spain.

Officers have visited me during the darkness of night to inform the fleet and me of their operations, and to report increase of strength.

At a conference with General Aguinaldo, the head of the movement, I was told that they had now above 4,500 Mauser rifles taken from the Spaniards, and had also abundant ammunition. Until the present they have been fatally crippled in these respects.

Last week Major Gonzales captured two buffalo cart loads of rifle ammunition from the Spaniards. To-day I executed a power of attorney whereby General Aguinaldo releases to his attorneys in fact \$400,000, now in bank in Hongkong, so that money therefrom can pay for 3,000 stand of arms bought there and expected here to-morrow.

The same sources informed me that about 37,000 insurgents stand ready to aid United States forces, and General Aguinaldo's headquarters were this a. m. at 7 o'clock surrounded by 500 to 1,000 men eager to enlist. I was there at that hour and saw the men.

My relations with all are cordial, and I manage to keep them so *pro bono publico*.

When General Merritt arrives he will find large auxiliary land forces adapted to his service and used to this climate.

I am, sir,

OSCAR F. WILLIAMS,
United States Consul.

Mr. Williams to Mr. Day.

Special.]

U. S. S. BALTIMORE,
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Manila, Philippine Islands, June 16, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to report that since our squadron destroyed the Spanish fleet on May 1, the insurgent forces have been most active and almost uniformly successful in their many encounters with the crown forces of Spain. General Emilio Aguinaldo, the insurgent chief, who was deported late in 1897, returned recently to Cavite and resumed direction of insurgent forces. He is not permitted by his people to personally lead in battle, but from headquarters governs all military movements. He told me to-day that, since his return, his forces had captured nearly 5,000 prisoners, nearly 4,000 of whom were Spaniards, and all of whom had rifles when taken. General Aguinaldo has now about 10,500 rifles and 8 fieldpieces, with 8,000 more rifles, 2 Maxim guns and a dynamite gun bought in China and now in transit. The insurgents have defeated the Spaniards at all points except at fort near Matate, and hold not only North Luzon to the suburbs of Manila, but Batanes Province also and the bay coast entire, save the city of Manila.

While the Spaniards cruelly and barbarously slaughter Filipinos taken in arms, and often noncombatants, women, and children, the insurgent victors, following American example, spare life, protect the helpless, and nurse, feed, and care for Spaniards taken prisoners and for Spanish wounded as kindly as they care for the wounded fallen from their own ranks.

For future advantage I am maintaining cordial relations with General Aguinaldo, having stipulated submissiveness to our forces when treating for their return here. Last Sunday, 12th, they held a council to form provisional government. I was urged to attend, but thought best to decline. A form of government was adopted, but General Aguinaldo told me to-day that his friends all hoped that the Philippines would be held as a colony of United States of America.

It has been my effort to maintain harmony with insurgents in order to exercise greater influence hereafter when we reorganize government.

Manila is hemmed in; foreigners other than Spaniards have, by kindness of Rear Admiral Dewey, been allowed to leave the beleaguered city and are cared for on merchant ships in the bay.

The *Baltimore* leaves early to-morrow to meet the troop ships northeast of Luzon, and incidentally to reconnoiter Dagupan Bay, the northern terminus of the Manila railroad, for Spanish cruisers and merchant ships.

We are impatient, made doubly so by the miraculous battle of May 1, which after inspection of waters and wrecks proved to be more signal than detailed in my dispatch on that subject.

The Spanish fleet, comprised of the following vessels, was annihilated so far as Spain is concerned, viz: Cruiser (flagship) *Reina Christina*, cruiser *Don Antonio de Ulloa*, cruiser *Don Juan de Austria*, cruiser *Isle de Cuba*, cruiser *Isle de Luzon*, gunboat *General Lezo*, gunboat *Marques del Duero*, gunboat *Velasco*, gunboat *Argos*, and armed transport *Isle de Mindanao*.

The above destroyed and sunk: the armed transport *Manila* was captured and soon appears as a United States cruiser, and the cruiser *Callao* has since been captured and augments our fleet.

The superb cruisers *Isle de Cuba* and *Isle de Luzon* were almost uninjured when sunk, by scuttling, to defeat capture. These are rich prizes which, later on, I hope to see flying our flag. We have had neither death nor serious sickness since we came. Manila is at the mercy of our fleet, and I believe its capture may be effected, so far as the fleet's part is concerned, without the loss of a man or the disabling of a vessel. Rear-Admiral Dewey only awaits troops to insure order and good government once we are in possession. We fear the city may fall too soon. For this reason Admiral Dewey asked me to remain here, where he could command such service as I may be able to render in event of his taking the city.

I expect that on July 4 we will celebrate in Manila under the folds of "Old Glory," and write in living letters a page of history that this magnificent insular empire has become a part and parcel of the United States of America.

I have the honor, etc.,

OSCAR F. WILLIAMS,
United States Consul.

Mr. Cridler to Mr. Williams.

No. 18.]

WASHINGTON, August 4, 1898.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your special dispatch of the 16th of June last, copy of which has been sent to the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy. Your course, while maintaining amicable relations with the insurgents, in abstaining from any participation in the adoption of their so-called provisional government, is approved.

Respectfully, yours,

THOS. W. CRIDLER,
Third Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Williams to Mr. Day.

Special.]

U. S. S. BALTIMORE, MANILA BAY,
Manila, Philippine Islands, July 2, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to report the arrival here on June 30 of 2,500 United States troops under command of General Anderson, the flotilla being convoyed by the *Charleston*.

To General Anderson and all I am rendering every possible assistance, and have been asked by him to treat with General Aguinaldo as to American interests.

We await second flotilla, and also *Monterey*, but may take Manila to-morrow.

The health of men, naval and military, is excellent; all eager for great results. Cavite and navy-yard have been put in excellent sanitary condition and soldiers are most comfortably quartered.

Weather is superb for the latitude—mercury hovering about 80° to 85° in the shade during day, with cooler nights. Frequent rains make air pure and climate healthful.

En route the *Charleston* made conquest of the Ladrone group of the Philippine Islands by taking Guam and bringing away its government officials and Spanish residents as prisoners of war.

If long occupation or possession on the part of our Government be considered, I believe early and strenuous efforts should be made to bring here from the United States men and women of many occupations—mechanics, teachers, ministers, shipbuilders, merchants, electricians, plumbers, druggists, doctors, dentists, carriage and harness makers, stenographers, typewriters, photographers, tailors, blacksmiths, and agents for exporting—and to introduce American products, natural and artificial, of many classes. To all such I pledge every aid, and now is the time to start. Good government will be easier the greater the influx of Americans.

My dispatches have referred to our present percentage of export trade. If now our exports come here as interstate duty free, we have practical control of Philippine trade, which now amounts to many millions, and because of ingrafting of American energy and methods upon the fabulous natural and productive wealth of these islands can and probably will be multiplied by twenty during the coming twenty years. All this increment should come to our nation, not go to any other. Those who come early will reap great rewards and serve patriotic purpose at the same time, while their prompt and successful work will furnish outlet for the glut of United States products. Each American concern in each of the hundred ports and populous towns of the Philippines will be a commercial center and school for tractable natives conducive to good government on United States lines. Spanish or native language not essential. With Spaniards expelled, it should apply that our language be adopted at once in court, public office, school, and in newly organized churches, and let natives learn English.

I hope for an influx this year of 10,000 ambitious Americans, and all can live well, become enriched, and patriotically assist your representatives in the establishment and maintenance of republican government on these rich islands so extensive in area as to form an insular empire.

I hope in your own good way my idea may be effectively placed before the American people.

I have the honor, etc.,

O. F. WILLIAMS, Consul.

Mr. Williams to Mr. Day.

[Special.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
MANILA, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS,
U. S. S. Baltimore, Manila Bay, August 4, 1898.

SIR: It has been my study to keep on pleasant terms with General Aguinaldo for ultimate objects. By so doing I have avoided certain troubles and aided our forces. Admiral Dewey says I have planted the seeds of cordial cooperation.

My argument with General Aguinaldo has been that the conditions of government by U. S. A. in the Philippine Islands would be vastly better for him and his people in honor, advancement, and profits than could exist under any plan fixed by himself and Filipinos. I have traversed the entire ground of government with him in council, and he has called his officials from fifteen provinces to meet me for their discussion, all stated as friendly but unofficial on my part. Our relations are cordial, while certain antagonisms have arisen between the general and certain other Americans.

I hope to bring about harmony and cooperation for mutual good.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

OSCAR F. WILLIAMS,
United States Consul, Manila, Philippine Islands.

Mr. Williams to Mr. Day.

(Special.)

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
MANILA, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS,
U. S. S. Baltimore, Manila Bay, August 5, 1898.

SIR: Because of my isolation and of your many duties I have left to representatives of our Navy and Army much of the duty of correspondence.

Presumably when Manila falls and the Philippine Islands become by conquest a part of our national domain, my duties as consul will end. In view of such probabilities I seek your appointive favor, and with pride recall to your mind the report of the then Commodore Dewey, made to Secretary Long and by him transmitted to you—this under date of April 18—says of me: "His assistance has been invaluable." This report was made before I ever saw the admiral, and made without my knowledge, and I know that my services to our Navy, Army, citizens, and nation have since been much greater than before.

Your commendations of my service have been most gratifying to me, and because of narrow resources I hope to have honorable and profitable station here or elsewhere in the United States public service. Could I be appointed general commissioner of customs of the Philippine Islands, light-house inspector, or general commissioner of agriculture, I should be honored and pleased. For many years I have made special study of tariffs and economic questions; have translated the Philippine tariff, and so have a measure of fitness. Then I was reared a farmer, and my business interests having always been along such lines, I have kept fully abreast with agricultural matters. Am a graduate of Cornell University, and for above twenty years was a teacher, lecturer, and author, and might well serve as superintendent of public instruction.

I need your recognition, and hope by cable or otherwise to have relief from present anxieties.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

OSCAR F. WILLIAMS,
United States Consul, Manila, Philippine Islands.

Mr. Williams to Mr. Day.

[Telegram.]

MANILA, *September 5, 1898, (Received 10.20 a. m.)*

To-day delegation from 4,000 Viscayan soldiers, also representing southern business interests, came to me pledging loyalty to annexation. Several insurgent leaders likewise. Spain can not control; if we evacuate, anarchy rules.

WILLIAMS.

Mr. Wildman to Mr. Day.

No. 19.]

HONGKONG, *November 3, 1897.*

SIR: Since my arrival in Hongkong I have been called upon several times by Mr. F. Agoncilla, foreign agent and high commissioner, etc., of the new republic of the Philippines.

Mr. Agoncilla holds a commission, signed by the president, members of cabinet, and general in chief of the republic of Philippines, empowering him absolutely with power to conclude treaties with foreign governments.

Mr. Agoncilla offers on behalf of his government alliance offensive and defensive with the United States when the United States declares war on Spain, which, in Mr. Agoncilla's judgment, will be very soon. In the meantime he wishes the United States to send to some port in the Philippines 20,000 stand of arms and 200,000 rounds of ammunition for the use of his government, to be paid for on the recognition of his government by the United States. He pledges as security two provinces and the custom-house at Manila.

He is not particular about the price—is willing the United States should make 25 per cent or 30 per cent profit.

He is a very earnest and attentive diplomat and a great admirer of the United States.

On his last visit he surprised me with the information that he had written his government that he had hopes of inducing the United States to supply the much-needed guns, etc.

In case Señor Agoncilla's dispatch should fall into the hands of an unfriendly power and find its way into the newspapers, I have thought it wise to apprise the State Department of the nature of the high commissioner's proposals.

Señor Agoncilla informs me by late mail that he will proceed at once to Washington to conclude the proposed treaty, if I advise.

I shall not advise said step until so instructed by the State Department.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

ROUNSEVILLE WILDMAN, *Consul.**Mr. Oridler to Mr. Wildman.*

No. 23.]

WASHINGTON, *December 15, 1897.*

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 19 of November 3, 1897, in which you announce the arrival at your post of Mr. F. Agoncilla, whom you describe as foreign agent and high com-

missioner of the new republic of the Philippines, and who holds full power to negotiate and conclude treaties with foreign powers. Mr. Agoncilla offers an alliance "offensive and defensive with the United States when the United States declares war on Spain, which, in Mr. Agoncilla's judgment, will be very soon," and suggests that 20,000 stand of arms and 200,000 rounds of ammunition be supplied to his government by that of the United States.

You may briefly advise Mr. Agoncilla, in case he should call upon you, that the Government of the United States does not negotiate such treaties and that it is not possible to forward the desired arms and ammunition.

You should not encourage any advances on the part of Mr. Agoncilla, and should courteously decline to communicate with the Department further regarding his alleged mission.

Respectfully, yours,

THOS. W. CRIDLER,
Third Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Wildman to Mr. Day.

No. 42.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Hongkong, May 6, 1898.

SIR: Supplementary to my cable of this date, I have the honor to inclose, by request, statement of Don Dorotes Cortes, Don Maximo Cortes, and Dona Eustaquia, wife of Don Maximo; also like statement of Arcadio Rosario, Gracio Gonzaga, and Don Jose Maria Basa, all very wealthy landholders, bankers, and advocates of Manila.

They desire to tender their allegiance and the allegiance of their powerful families in Manila to the United States. They have instructed all their connections to render every aid to our forces in Manila.

The letters to the President, inclosed, explain themselves.

I have the honor to be, etc.,

ROUNSEVILLE WILDMAN, *Consul.*

Mr. Cridler to Mr. Wildman.

No. 42.]

JUNE 16, 1898.

SIR: The Department has received your dispatch No. 42, of the 6th ultimo, reporting that a number of influential families of Manila desire to tender their allegiance to the United States.

In reply I have to inform you that a copy has been sent to the War Department, with the suggestion that the information be conveyed to General Merritt.

Respectfully, yours,

THOS. W. CRIDLER,
Third Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Wildman to Mr. Day.

No. 43.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Hongkong, May 14, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose, by request, the statements of Severino Rotea, Claudio Lopez, A. H. Marti, and Eugenia Plona, all wealthy and prominent landholders of the Philippine Islands.

They desire to submit their allegiance and the allegiance of their families in the Philippine Islands to the United States.

The letters to the President inclosed explain themselves.

I have the honor to be, etc.,

ROUNSEVILLE WILDMAN,
Consul.

To the President of the United States of North America:

Severino Rotea and Lopez, proprietor and farmer, native of Negros Oriental (Visayas), Philippine Islands, with great consideration exposes:

Having known the history and Constitution of the noblest liberal and rightful nation of the United States, he willingly adheres to the Government in annexing his country, and it will be for him a great honor to be joined it as soon as an additional star to the victorious flag of the United States of America and considered him as one of its citizens.

Hongkong, May 11, 1898.

(Signed)

SEVERINO ROTEA.

To the President of the United States of America:

Claudio Lopez, merchant and proprietor and vice-consul of Portugal at Iloilo, native of the Philippine Islands, emigrant to this colony of Hongkong for political causes, exposes with great consideration:

Having known the history and Constitution of the noblest liberal and rightful nation of the United States of America, he, for the present, adheres to the Government in annexing his country, and considers that it will be for him a great honor to join his country as an additional star to the always victorious flag of the United States of America and to count him as one of its citizens.

Hongkong, 9th May, 1898.

(Signed)

CLAUDIO LOPEZ.

To the President of the United States of America:

We, the subscribers, natives of the Philippine Islands, emigrants to this colony, for political causes, with great consideration expose:

Having known the history and the Constitution of the noble, liberal, and rightful nation of the United States of America, for the present, they adhere to the Government, considering that it will be for them a great honor to join their country as an additional star to the always victorious flag of the United States of America and considered them as its citizens.

(Signed)

A. H. MARTI.

To the President of the United States of North America:

Eugenia Plona and Padillo, proprietor and farmer, native of Negros Occidental (Visayas), Philippine Islands, and emigrant to this colony for political causes, with great consideration, exposes:

Having known the history and Constitution of the noblest liberal and rightful nation of United States, he willingly adheres to the Government in annexing his country, and it will be for him a great honor to be joined it as an additional star to the always victorious flag of the United States of North America and considered him as one of its citizens.

Hongkong, May 10, 1898.

(Signed)

EUGENIA PLONA.

Mr. Wildman to Mr. Day.

[Telegram received in cipher.]

HONGKONG, May 19, 1898. (Received 19th—4.55 a. m.)

DAY, Washington:

This answers Long's cable to Dewey. From best information obtainable Dewey can not reply under week. Twenty-one thousand Spanish troops, of which 4,000 native, 2,000 volunteers. All but 1,000 at Manila. They have ten mountain guns; no large field artillery; proven last rebellion not practicable. Plenty good ponies, 12 hands high. No food Philippines but rice. Large supply of rifles should be taken for insurgent allies.

WILDMAN.

Mr. Wildman to Mr. Moore.

No. 63.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

Hongkong, July 18, 1898.

SIR: I am taking the liberty of calling your attention to the continuous repetition of telegraphic information reaching this port that it is the policy of the United States Government to allow the Philippine Islands to return to Spain on the conclusion of the war.

Without placing any reliance in these statements, I desire to use them as a text upon which to respectfully submit the result of my experience with the leaders of the present Philippine insurgents, and to suggest the utter impossibility of Spain, even with the aid of the United States, ever regaining a foothold on these islands.

I have lived among the Malays of the Straits Settlements and have been an honored guest of the different sultanates. I have watched their system of government and have admired their intelligence, and I rank them high among the semicivilized nations of the earth. The natives of the Philippine Islands belong to the Malay race, and while there are very few pure Malays among their leaders, I think their stock has rather been improved than debased by admixture. I consider the forty or fifty Philippine leaders, with whose fortunes I have been very closely connected, both the superiors of the Malays and the Cubans. Aguinaldo, Agoncilla, and Sandico are all men who would all be leaders in their separate departments in any country, while among the wealthy Manila men, who live in Hongkong and who are spending their money liberally for the overthrow of the Spaniards and the annexation to the United States, men like the Cortes family and the Basa family, would hold their own among bankers and lawyers anywhere.

I believe I know the sentiments of the political leaders and of the moneyed men among the insurgents, and, in spite of all statements to the contrary, I know that they are fighting for annexation to the United States first, and for independence secondly, if the United States decides to decline the sovereignty of the islands. In fact I have had the most prominent leaders call on me and say they would not raise one finger unless I could assure them that the United States intended to give them United States citizenship if they wished it. In my opinion, Spain with the aid of the entire world can never reestablish herself outside of a few of the large cities. An attempt at reconquest would reduce the islands to a state of anarchy, and reduce them to a level of Acheen.

There has been a systematic attempt to blacken the name of Aguinaldo and his cabinet, on account of the questionable terms of their surrender to Spanish forces a year ago this month. It has been said that they sold their country for gold, but this has been conclusively disproved, not only by their own statements but by the speech of the late Governor-General Rivera in the Spanish Senate June 11, 1898. He said that Aguinaldo undertook to submit if the Spanish Government would give a certain sum to the widows and orphans of the insurgents. He then admits that only a tenth part of this sum was ever given to Aguinaldo, and that the other promises made he did not find it expedient to keep.

I was in Hongkong September, 1897, when Aguinaldo and his leaders arrived under contract with the Spanish Government. They waited until the 1st of November for the payment of the promised money and the fulfillment of the promised reforms. Only \$400,000, Mexican, was ever placed to their credit in the banks, and on the 3d of November Mr. F. Agoncilla, late minister of foreign affairs in Aguinaldo's cabinet, called upon me and made a proposal which I transmitted to the State Department in my dispatch No. 19, dated November 3, 1897. In reply the State Department instructed me "to courteously decline to communicate with the Department further regarding the alleged mission." I obeyed these instructions to the letter until the breaking out of the war when, after consultation with Admiral Dewey, I received a delegation from the insurgent junta, and they bound themselves to obey all laws of civilized warfare and to place themselves absolutely under the orders of Admiral Dewey if they were permitted to return to Manila. At this time their president, Aguinaldo, was in Singapore negotiating through Consul-General Pratt with Admiral Dewey for his return.

On April 27, in company with Consul O. F. Williams, we received another delegation, composed of Señor Sandigo, José Maria Basa, Tomas Mascardo, Lorenzo L. Zialcita, Andres E. de Garchitorena, Manuel Malvar, Mariano Llanza, Salvatore Estrella. We agreed on behalf of Dewey to allow two of their number to accompany the fleet to Manila, consequently on the same day I took in the tug *Fame* Alizandrino and Garchitorena, accompanied by Mr. Sandigo, to the *Olympia* in Mir's Bay. On May 2 Aguinaldo arrived in Hongkong and immediately called on me. It was May 16 before I could obtain permission from Admiral Dewey to allow Aguinaldo to go by the United States ship *McCulloch*, and I put him aboard in the night so as to save any complications with the local Government. Immediately on the arrival of Aguinaldo at Cavite he issued a proclamation, which I had outlined for him before he left, forbidding pillage, and making it a criminal offense to maltreat neutrals. He, of course, organized a government of which he was dictator, an absolutely necessary step if he hoped to maintain control over the natives, and from that date until the present time he has been uninterruptedly successful in the field and dignified and just as the head of his government. According to his own statements to me by letter, he has been approached by both the Spaniards and the Germans, and has had tempting offers made him by the Catholic Church. He has been watched very closely by Admiral Dewey, Consul Williams, and his own junta here in Hongkong, and nothing of moment has occurred which would lead any one to believe that he was not carrying out to the letter the promises made to me in this consulate.

The insurgents are fighting for freedom from the Spanish rule, and rely upon the well-known sense of justice that controls all the actions of our Government as to their future.

In conclusion, I wish to put myself on record as stating that the insurgent government of the Philippine Islands can not be dealt with as though they were North American Indians, willing to be removed from one reservation to another at the whim of their masters. If the United States decides not to retain the Philippine Islands, its 10,000,000 people will demand independence, and the attempt of any foreign nation to obtain territory or coaling stations will be resisted with the same spirit with which they fought the Spaniards.

I have the honor, etc.,

ROUNSEVELLE WILDMAN,
Consul-General.

Mr. Moore to Mr. Wildman.

[Tel-gram sent.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 6, 1898.

WILDMAN, *Consul, Hongkong:*

If you wrote Aguinaldo, as reported by Hongkong correspondent Daily Mail, your action is disapproved, and you are forbidden to make pledges or discuss policy.

MOORE.

[Telegram received in cipher.]

HONGKONG, *August 8, 1898.* (Received 9.10 a. m.)

MOORE, *Washington:*

Never made pledges or discussed policy of America with Aguinaldo further than to try and hold him to promises made before Dewey took him (to) Cavite, believing it my duty, it being understood that my influence is good. If report contrary, I disavow it. WILDMAN.

Mr. Wildman to Mr. Moore.

No. 66.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Hongkong, August 9, 1898.

SIR: On August 7 I received the following cablegram:

WASHINGTON, *August 7, 1898.*

WILDMAN, *Consul, Hongkong:*

If you wrote Aguinaldo as reported by Hongkong correspondent Daily Mail, your action is disapproved, and you are forbidden to make pledges or discuss policy.

MOORE.

To which I replied on August 8, 1898:

MOORE, *Washington:*

Never made pledges or discussed policy of America with Aguinaldo further than to try and hold him to promises made before Dewey took him (to) Cavite, believing it my duty, it being understood that my influence is good. If report contrary, I disavow.

WILDMAN.

I feel it only justice to myself to make some explanation regarding the numerous newspaper reports that go from this city, and to the many opinions that are put into my mouth regarding the conduct of

the war by my friends of the press. I have never so far taken occasion to deny any of them, knowing that the Department would realize that, through the accidents of war and the geographical situation of Hong-kong, I have been placed in a position, through no desire of my own, which has made me a mark for the representatives of all the big newspapers of the world.

In my dispatch, No. 63, of July 18, 1898, I tried to briefly outline the position Consul Williams and myself have taken toward the insurgents. We believed that they were a necessary evil, and that if Aguinaldo was placed in command, and was acceptable to the insurgents as their leader, that Admiral Dewey or General Merritt would have some one whom they could hold responsible for any excesses. The other alternative was to allow the entire islands to be overrun by small bands bent only on revenge and looting. We considered that Aguinaldo had more qualifications for leadership than any of his rivals. We made him no pledges and extracted from him but two, viz, to obey unquestioningly the commander of the United States forces in the Philippine Islands, and to conduct his warfare on civilized lines. He was in and out of the consulate for nearly a month, and I believe I have taken his measure and that I acquired some influence with him. I have striven to retain his influence and have used it in conjunction with and with the full knowledge of both Admiral Dewey and Consul Williams.

Aguinaldo has written me by every opportunity, and I believe that he has been frank with me regarding both his actions and his motives. I do not doubt but that he would like to be President of the Philippine Republic, and there may be a small coterie of his native advisers who entertain a like ambition, but I am perfectly certain that the great majority of his followers, and all the wealthy educated Filipinos have but the one desire—to become citizens of the United States of America. As for the mass of uneducated natives they would be content under any rule save that of the friars. My correspondence with Aguinaldo has been strictly of a personal nature, and I have missed no opportunity to remind him of his antebellum promises. His letters are childish, and he is far more interested in the kind of cane he will carry or the breast-plate he will wear than in the figure he will make in history. The demands that he and his junta here have made upon my time is excessive and most tiresome. He is a man of petty moods, and I have repeatedly had letters from Consul Williams requesting me to write to Aguinaldo a friendly letter congratulating him on his success, and reminding him of his obligations. I do not care to quote Admiral Dewey, as his letters are all of a strictly personal nature, but I feel perfectly free to refer you to him as to my attitude and actions. I do not say this because I feel that I need to make any defense, but because I believe that the Daily Mail to which you refer in the above telegram has misconstrued my attitude, and placed me in a false position.

I find on investigation that the letter you refer to as published in the London Mail was a personal one, written by me on July 25 at the request of Consul Williams, and on lines with which we have been working with Aguinaldo from the first. Aguinaldo had for some weeks been getting what Admiral Dewey called a "big head," and writing me sulky, childish letters. In consequence I wrote him in part as follows:

"If you stand shoulder to shoulder with our forces, and do not allow any small differences of opinion, and fancied slights to keep you from the one set purpose of freeing your island from the cruelties under which you claim it has been groaning for so many hundred years, your name in history will be a glorious one. There are

greater prizes in the world than being the mere chief of a revolution. Do not forget that the United States undertook this war for the sole purpose of relieving the Cubans from the cruelties under which they were suffering, and not for the love of conquest or the hope of gain. Whatever the final disposition of the conquered territory may be you can trust to the United States that justice and honor will control all their dealings with you. The first thing is to throw off the Spanish yoke. Do not let anything interfere with this."

If the newspapers can make anything out of this personal letter that looks like a pledge or an assumption on my part of powers that are not vested in me, I must decline to accept their interpretation, and inasmuch as Aguinaldo himself does not so construe it, I trust the Department will not consider that I have exceeded the bounds of discretion or embarrassed the Department in any way.

I have the honor, etc.,

ROUNSEVELLE WILDMAN,
Consul-General.

Mr. Wildman to Mr. Moore.

[Telegram received.]

HONGKONG, August 15, 1898. (Received 3.20 a. m.)

MOORE, Washington:

Spanish consul received dispatch Sunday ordering surrender Manila. Shall I offer to deliver personally and save more delay? Believe can be of service to Dewey should Aguinaldo make trouble.

WILDMAN.

The above telegram from Wildman was answered by the Secretary thus:

"Spanish consul should deliver dispatch in his own way. Take no action respecting Aguinaldo without specific directions from this Department."

JUNE 22, 1898.

For the Secretary:

Here are two dispatches from Mr. Pratt, consul-general at Singapore, respectively numbered 214 and 217.

No. 214 incloses a copy of Mr. Pratt's confidential No. 212, to which you have already replied.

It also incloses a copy of his No. 213, narrating his parting interview with General Aguinaldo. Mr. Pratt states that in this interview he enjoined upon General Aguinaldo the necessity, under Commodore Dewey's direction, of assuming absolute control over his forces in the Philippines, since no excesses on their part would be tolerated by the United States, the President having declared that the present hostilities with Spain were to be carried on in strict conformity with the principles of civilized warfare. Mr. Pratt states that to this injunction General Aguinaldo gave his full assent, assuring him that he intended, and was able, when in the field, to hold his followers, the insurgents, in check and lead them on "as our commander should direct." General Aguinaldo, as Mr. Pratt reports, "further stated that he hoped the United States would assume protection of the Philippines for at least long enough to allow the inhabitants to establish a government of their own, in the organization of which he would desire American

advice and assistance." "These questions," says Mr. Pratt, "I told him I had no authority to discuss." This confirms Mr. Pratt's statement, in his recent telegram, that he confined his action to bringing General Aguinaldo and Commodore Dewey together.

In his No. 217, of the 5th of May, he incloses an article from the Singapore Free Press containing an account of his conferences with General Aguinaldo. The statements in this article Mr. Pratt pronounces to be substantially correct, and it seems to be the source of the article which was published in the New York Herald the other day from Vancouver.

These dispatches of Mr. Pratt seem to be covered by the instruction already sent him, which stated that it was proper for him to obtain the unconditional personal assistance of General Aguinaldo, but not to make any political pledges.

J. B. M.

Mr. Pratt to Mr. Day.

No. 214.] CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Singapore, May 1, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the inclosed copies of my reports, Nos. 212 and 213, of the 28th and 30th ultimo, respectively, regarding my action in arranging for the cooperation with the American forces of General Emilio Aguinaldo, leader of the insurrectionary movement in the Philippines, and departure of the latter to join Commodore Dewey.

I have the honor to be, etc.,

E. SPENCER PRATT,
United States Consul-General.

Mr. Pratt to Mr. Day.

[Confidential.]

No. 212.] CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Singapore, April 28, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I sent you on the 27th instant, and confirmed in my dispatch No. 211 of that date, a telegram, which deciphered read as follows:

SECRETARY OF STATE, Washington:

General Aguinaldo gone my instance Hongkong arrange with Dewey cooperation insurgents Manila.

PRATT.

The facts are these: On the evening of Saturday the 23d instant, I was confidentially informed of the arrival here, incognito, of the supreme leader of the Philippine insurgents, General Emilio Aguinaldo, by Mr. H. W. Bray, an English gentleman of high standing, who, after fifteen years' residence as a merchant and planter in the Philippines, had been compelled by the disturbed condition of things resulting from Spanish misrule to abandon his property and leave there, and from whom I had previously obtained much valuable information for Commodore Dewey regarding fortifications, coal deposits, etc., at different points in the islands.

Being aware of the great prestige of General Aguinaldo with the insurgents, and that no one, either at home or abroad, could exert over them the same influence and control that he could, I determined at once

to see him, and, at my request, a secret interview was accordingly arranged for the following morning, Sunday, the 24th, in which, besides General Aguinaldo, were only present the General's trusted advisers and Mr. Bray, who acted as interpreter.

At this interview, after learning from General Aguinaldo the state of and object sought to be obtained by the present insurrectionary movement, which, though absent from the Philippines, he was still directing, I took it upon myself, whilst explaining that I had no authority to speak for the Government, to point out the danger of continuing independent action at this stage; and, having convinced him of the expediency of cooperating with our fleet, then at Hongkong, and obtained the assurance of his willingness to proceed thither and confer with Commodore Dewey to that end, should the latter so desire, I telegraphed the Commodore the same day as follows, through our consul-general at Hongkong:

Aguinaldo, insurgent leader, here. Will come Hongkong arrange with Commodore for general cooperation insurgents Manila if desired. Telegraph.

PRATT.

The Commodore's reply reading thus:

Tell Aguinaldo come soon as possible.

DEWEY.

I received it late that night, and at once communicated to General Aguinaldo, who, with his aid-de-camp and private secretary, all under assumed names, I succeeded in getting off by the British steamer *Malacca*, which left here on Tuesday the 26th.

Just previous to his departure, I had a second and last interview with General Aguinaldo, the particulars of which I shall give you by next mail.

The general impressed me as a man of intelligence, ability, and courage, and worthy the confidence that had been placed in him.

I think that in arranging for his direct cooperation with the commander of our forces, I have prevented possible conflict of action and facilitated the work of occupying and administering the Philippines.

If this course of mine meets with the Government's approval, as I trust it may, I shall be fully satisfied; to Mr. Bray, however, I consider there is due some special recognition for most valuable services rendered.

How that recognition can best be made I leave to you to decide.

I have, etc.,

E. SPENCER PRATT,
United States Consul-General.

Mr. Pratt to Mr. Day.

No. 213.] CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Singapore, April 30, 1898.

SIR: Referring to my dispatch No. 212, of the 28th instant, I have the honor to report that in the second and last interview I had with Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo on the eve of his departure for Hongkong, I enjoined upon him the necessity, under Commodore Dewey's direction, of exerting absolute control over his forces in the Philippines, as no excesses on their part would be tolerated by the American Government, the President having declared that the present hostilities with Spain were to be carried on in strict accord with modern principles of civilized warfare.

To this General Aguinaldo fully assented, assuring me that he intended and was perfectly able, once on the field, to hold his followers, the insurgents, in check and lead them as our commander should direct.

The general further stated that he hoped the United States would assume protection of the Philippines for at least long enough to allow the inhabitants to establish a government of their own, in the organization of which he would desire American advice and assistance.

These questions I told him I had no authority to discuss.

I have, etc.,

E. SPENCER PRATT,
United States Consul-General.

Mr. Pratt to Mr. Day.

No. 217.] CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Singapore, May 5, 1898.

SIR: I regret to have to report that the circumstances attending the departure from here of General Emilio Aguinaldo to join Commodore Dewey, which I had endeavored so hard to prevent being disclosed, were, in substance, made public in yesterday's edition of the Singapore Free Press, from the inclosed copy of which you will note, by reference to my reports Nos. 212 and 213 of the 28th and 30th ultimo, respectively, that though the facts are, in the main, correctly given, the dates are not quite accurate and a certain amount of conjecture has been indulged in as regards my action in the matter and that of the commodore.

Almost immediately after the occurrence the editor of the above journal told me that he had been informed, but declined to say by whom.

I endeavored to get him to promise to keep the whole affair quiet, but, though he would not agree to this, he gave me his word not to mention it until after sufficient time should have elapsed to admit of General Aguinaldo's reaching Hongkong, which he must already have done.

Hence no harm can come of the disclosure, and, though it is annoying, I suppose I should rather congratulate myself that the secret possessed by such a number was kept so long.

I have, etc.,

E. SPENCER PRATT,
United States Consul-General.

[Inclosure.—The Singapore Free Press, Wednesday, May 4, 1898.]

THE WAR—IMPORTANT POLITICAL ARRANGEMENT—AGUINALDO IN SINGAPORE—AN INCOGNITO VISIT—HE JOINS ADMIRAL DEWEY—PLAN CARRIED OUT BY AMERICAN CONSUL-GENERAL.

Just before the actual outbreak of hostilities between Spain and the United States Singapore has been the scene of a secret political arrangement by which Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo y Fami, the supreme head of the revolutionary movement in the Philippines, has entered into direct relations with Admiral Dewey, commander of the American squadron in China waters, while that officer was still at Hongkong.

In order to understand and appreciate this interesting historical incident properly, it will be necessary to allude to the causes leading to the second appearance of the rebellion in the Philippines, which was almost coincident with, though not instigated by, the strained relations between Spain and the United States.

In December last General Primo de Rivera, who above all other Spanish generals has an intimate knowledge of the country and its inhabitants, found the position

untenable for both parties. Neither of these had the remotest chance of terminating the rebellion decisively, the rebels secure in their mountain fastnesses, the Spaniards holding the chief towns and villages on the coast. Primo de Rivera therefore sent two well-known Philippine natives, occupying high positions in Manila, to propose terms of peace to General Aguinaldo in Biac-na-Bato. A council of the revolutionary government was held, in which it was agreed to lay down arms on condition of certain reforms being introduced. The principal of these were:

1. The expulsion, or at least secularization, of the religious orders, and the inhibition of these orders from all official vetoes in civil administration.
2. A general amnesty for all rebels, and guarantees for their personal security and from the vengeance of the friars and parish priests after returning to their homes.
3. Radical reforms to curtail the glaring abuses in public administration.
4. Freedom of the press to denounce official corruption and blackmailing.
5. Representation in the Spanish Parliament.
6. Abolition of the iniquitous system of secret deportation of political suspects, etc.

Primo de Rivera agreed to these reforms in sum and substance, but made it a condition that the principal rebel leaders must leave the country during His Majesty's pleasure. As these had lost all their property or had had it confiscated and plundered, the Government agreed to provide them with funds to live in a becoming manner on foreign soil.

The rebels laid down their arms and peace was apparently secured, but no sooner had they done so and returned to their homes than the intemperate religious orders commenced at once to again persecute them and trump up imaginary charges to procure their rearrest. The Spanish Government, on its side, imagining itself secure, desisted from carrying out the promised reforms, thinking another trick like that played on the Cubans after the peace of Zanjón, arranged by Martínez Campos, might succeed. The Philipinos, however, with this business before them, refused to be made dupes of, and have taken up arms again, not alone in the immediate districts round Manila but throughout the Archipelago, which merely awaits the signal from General Aguinaldo to rise en masse, no doubt carrying with them the native troops hitherto loyal, and for which loyal service they have received no thanks but only ingratitude.

Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, accompanied by his aide-de-camp, Col. Marcelo H. del Pilar, and his private secretary, Mr. J. Leyba, arrived incognito in Singapore from Saigon on April 21, 1898. In Saigon, where Aguinaldo had remained for one week, he had interviews with one or two old Philippine friends now resident there. The special purpose of Aguinaldo's visit to Singapore was to consult other friends here, particularly Mr. Howard W. Bray, an old and intimate English friend, for fifteen years resident in the Philippines, about the state of affairs in the islands generally—particularly as to the possibility of war between the United States and Spain, and whether, in such an event, the United States would eventually recognize the independence of the Philippines, provided he lent his cooperation to the Americans in the conquest of the country. The situation of the moment was this, that the conditions of the honorable peace concluded on December 14, 1897, between President Aguinaldo, on behalf of the Philippine rebels, and H. E. Governor-General Primo de Rivera, on behalf of Spain, had not been carried out, although their immediate execution had been vouched for in that agreement.

These reforms would have provided protection to the people against the organized oppression and rapacity of the religious fraternities, would have secured improved civil and criminal procedure in courts, and have guaranteed, in many ways, improvements in the fiscal and social conditions of the people. The repudiation by the Spanish Government of these conditions, made by General Primo de Rivera, now left the rebel leaders, who had for the most part gone to Hongkong, free to act. And it was in pursuance of that freedom of action that Aguinaldo again sought counsel of his friends in Saigon and Singapore, with a view to the immediate resumption of operations in the Philippines.

Meantime Mr. Bray, whose assistance to this journal on matters connected with the Philippines has been very considerable, as our readers will have seen, was introduced by the editor of the Singapore Free Press to Mr. Spencer Pratt, consul-general of the United States, who was anxious, in view of contingencies, to learn as much as possible about the real condition of the Philippines. It was a few days after this that Aguinaldo arrived incognito in Singapore, when he at once met his friends, including Mr. Bray.

Affairs now becoming more warlike, Mr. Bray, after conversation with Mr. Spencer Pratt, eventually arranged an interview between that gentleman and General Aguinaldo, which took place late on the evening of Sunday, the 24th April, at "The Mansion," River Valley road. There were present on that occasion Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo y Fami, Mr. E. Spencer Pratt, consul-general United States of America; Mr. Howard W. Bray; Aguinaldo's private secretary, Mr. J. Leyba; Col. M. H. del Pilar, and Dr. Marcelino Santos.

During this conference, at which Mr. Bray acted as interpreter, General Aguinaldo explained to the American consul-general, Mr. Pratt, the incidents and objects of the late rebellion, and described the present disturbed state of the country. General Aguinaldo then proceeded to detail the nature of the cooperation he could give, in which he, in the event of the American forces from the squadron landing and taking possession of Manila, would guarantee to maintain order and discipline amongst the native troops and inhabitants in the same humane way in which he had hitherto conducted the war, and prevent them from committing outrages on defenseless Spaniards beyond the inevitable in fair and honorable warfare. He further declared his ability to establish a proper and responsible government on liberal principles, and would be willing to accept the same terms for the country as the United States intend giving to Cuba.

The consul-general of the United States, coinciding with the general views expressed during the discussion, placed himself at once in telegraphic communication with Admiral Dewey at Hongkong, between whom and Mr. Pratt a frequent interchange of telegrams consequently took place.

As a result another private interview was arranged at the American consular residence at the Raffles Hotel between General Aguinaldo, Mr. Spencer Pratt, Mr. Howard Bray, and Mr. Leyba, private secretary to General Aguinaldo.

As a sequel to this interview, and in response to the urgent request of Admiral Dewey, General Aguinaldo left Singapore for Hongkong by the first available steamer, the *Peninsular and Oriental Malacca*, on Tuesday, the 26th April, at noon, accompanied by his aide-de-camp, Captain del Pilar, and Mr. Leyba, his private secretary.

The only interview or conversation with any strangers that General Aguinaldo had during his stay in Singapore other than the above interviews was during a visit paid by General Aguinaldo to Mr. W. G. St. Clair, editor of the *Singapore Free Press*, at the office of this journal. On that occasion General Aguinaldo was accompanied by Mr. Bray and Mr. Leyba.

Throughout the whole stay of General Aguinaldo in Singapore the editor was kept fully informed daily of the progress of affairs. Naturally, however, all statement of what occurred has been withheld by us until what has been deemed the fitting moment has arrived.

The substance of the whole incident in its relations to the recent course of affairs in the Philippines has been very fully telegraphed by the editor both to New York and London.

The influence of the incident on the future of the Philippines may prove to be of a far-reaching historical character.

AGUINALDO'S POLICY.

General Aguinaldo's policy embraces the independence of the Philippines, whose internal affairs would be controlled under European and American advisers. American protection would be desirable temporarily, on the same lines as that which might be instituted hereafter in Cuba. The ports of the Philippines would be free to the trade of the world, safeguards being enacted against an influx of Chinese aliens who would compete with the industrial population of the country. There would be a complete reform of the present corrupt judicature of the country under experienced European law officers. Entire freedom of the press would be established, as well as the right of public meeting. There would be general religious toleration, and steps would be taken for the abolition and expulsion of the tyrannical religious fraternities who have laid such strong hands on every branch of civil administration. Full provision would be given for the exploitation of the natural resources and wealth of the country by roads and railways, and by the removal of hindrances to enterprise and investment of capital. Spanish officials would be removed to a place of safety until opportunity offered to return them to Spain. The preservation of public safety and order, and the checking of reprisals against Spaniards would, naturally, have to be a first care of the government in the new state of things.

Mr. Pratt to Mr. Day.

No. 223.] CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Singapore, May 20, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to submit for your consideration a proclamation in Spanish, issued prior to the departure of our fleet for Manila by the insurgent leaders in Hongkong, calling upon the Filipinos not to obey the appeal of the Spaniards to oppose the Americans, but to rally in support of these, as they came as their friends and liberators.

Three copies of the English translation of the above I also inclose for handing to the press, should that, in your opinion, seem advisable.

I have the honor to be,

E. SPENCER PRATT,
United States Consul-General.

[Inclosure.]

AMERICA'S ALLIES—THE MANIFESTO OF THE FILIPINOS.

The following is a translation from the Spanish of a proclamation of the rebel leaders in Hongkong, sent over to the Philippines in advance of the American squadron:

Compatriots: Divine Providence is about to place independence within our reach, and in a way the most free and independent nation could hardly wish for.

The Americans, not from mercenary motives, but for the sake of humanity and the lamentations of so many persecuted people, have considered it opportune to extend their protecting mantle to our beloved country, now that they have been obliged to sever relations with Spain, owing to the tyranny this nation is exercising in Cuba, causing enormous injury to the Americans, who have such large commercial and other interests there.

At the present moment an American squadron is preparing to sail for the Philippines.

We, your brothers, are very much afraid that you may be induced to fire on the Americans. No, brothers, never make this mistake. Rather blow your own brains out than fire a shot or treat as enemies those who are your liberators.

Your natural enemies, your executioners, the authors of your misery and unhappiness, are the Spaniards who govern you. Against these you must raise your weapons and odium; understand well, against the Spaniards and never against the Americans.

Take no notice of the decree of the Governor-General calling you to arms, although it may cost you your lives. Rather die than be ungrateful to our American liberators.

The Governor-General calls you to arms. What for? To defend your Spanish tyrants? To defend those that have despised you, and even in public speeches asked for your extermination—those that have treated you little better than savages? No! No! A thousand times no!

Give a glance at history and you will see that all Spain's wars in Oceania have sacrificed Philippine blood. We have been put to fight in Cochin-China to assist the French in an affair that in no way concerned the Philippines. We were compelled to spill our blood by Simon de Anda against the English, who in any case would have made better rulers than the Spaniards. Every year our children are taken away to be sacrificed in Mindanao and Sulu, on the pretense of making us believe these people are our enemies, when in reality they are our brothers, like us fighting for their independence.

After having sacrificed our blood against the English, against the Annamites, against the people of Mindanao, etc., what recompense or thanks have we received from the Spanish Government? Obscurity, poverty, the butchery of those dear to us. Enough, brothers, of this Spanish tutelage.

Take note, the Americans will attack by sea and prevent any reinforcements coming from Spain; therefore we insurgents must attack by land. Probably you will have more than sufficient arms, because the Americans have arms and will find means to assist us.

There, where you see the American flag flying, assemble in numbers; they are our redeemers.

Our unworthy names are as nothing, but one and all of us invoke the name of the greatest patriot our country has seen, in the sure and certain hope that his spirit will be with us in these moments and guide us to victory—our immortal José Rizal.

Mr. Pratt to Mr. Day.

No. 225.] CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Singapore, June 2, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to submit inclosed a telegram from Hongkong of the 25th ultimo, on the situation in the Philippines, published in Singapore yesterday afternoon, the 1st instant.

Considering the enthusiastic manner General Aguinaldo has been received by the natives and the confidence with which he already appears to have inspired Admiral Dewey, it will be admitted, I think, that I did not overrate his importance and that I have materially assisted the cause of the United States in the Philippines in securing his cooperation.

Why this cooperation should not have been secured to us during the months General Aguinaldo remained awaiting events in Hongkong, and that he was allowed to leave there without having been approached in the interest of our Government, I can not understand.

No close observer of what had transpired in the Philippines during the past four years could have failed to recognize that General Aguinaldo enjoyed above all others the confidence of the Filipino insurgents and the respect alike of Spaniards and foreigners in the islands, all of whom vouched for his high sense of justice and honor.

I have the honor to be, etc.,

E. SPENCER PRATT,
United States Consul-General.

[Inclosure in dispatch No. 125.]

[The Singapore Free Press, Wednesday, June 1, 1898. Hongkong Telegraph, 25th.]

THE WAR—THE SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The Japanese cruiser *Akitsushima* arrived here yesterday from Manila, and the following is the latest news:

General Aguinaldo arrived by the *McCulloch* on the 19th instant, and was received with great enthusiasm by the natives.

Admiral Dewey was very much pleased with him, and has turned over to him two modern field pieces and 300 rifles, with plenty of ammunition.

General Aguinaldo is now organizing an attack on the Spanish land forces, and a decisive battle may be expected soon.

The Manila papers are publishing sensational articles hourly, among which is that the U. S. S. *Baltimore* is so used up in the late engagement that the American admiral decided to scuttle her.

The archbishop has assured the people that four Spanish battle ships are on their way out, and that God has informed him that in the next engagement the armies of the most Christian Spain will be victorious.

Mr. Pratt to Mr. Day.

No. 228.] CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Singapore, June 8, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to submit an article from the London Spectator, which was reproduced in the Singapore Free Press of yesterday, and a reply thereto, published to-day in the same paper, which last, I think, is deserving of special consideration as being the expression of opinion of Mr. H. W. Bray, one of the best authorities on the Philippines and the Filipinos.

I have the honor to be, etc.,

E. SPENCER PRATT,
United States Consul-General.

[Inclosure 1.—Singapore Free Press, June 7, 1838.]

THE FATE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

We take it to be certain, in spite of interruptions in the telegraphic service, that Manila has surrendered; that the Tagal population will hold the larger Philippine Islands, subject to guidance from leaders recognized by the Americans; and that the latter will never, whatever the ultimate issue of the war, hand the colony back to Spain. They are more governed by moral considerations than their enemies choose to think, and a conviction that Spaniards are incurably cruel, are, in fact, born inquisitors, has sunk deeply into their minds. To an American the Spaniard, it should be remembered, is not the man of the Peninsular war, but the man who conquered the Americas and so misgoverned them that his own people rose upon him in unquenchable fury. The Americans will have, therefore, at the close of the war, to decide how their newly acquired property shall be disposed of, and already fierce jealousies and far-reaching ambitions have been awakened throughout Europe.

America, it is said, will not keep the islands; and if they are to be sold, either for money or for territory, to whom are they to go? Their possession might disturb "the balance of power" in the far East. England, it is said, must not have them, because she has already too much; Germany, because her designs upon China would thereby be facilitated; Russia, because she would be too near Australia; and France, because she may choose in the next war to act as Russia's obedient ally. Japan, as a pagan power, is out of the question when two and a half millions of Christians have to be disposed of; and it is very doubtful whether Holland would undertake the laborious task of reducing the Philippines to order. She succeeds in Java after a fashion, and might make a heavy bid for a second tropical estate, but the attempt to form a colonial army seems beyond her strength. She has been trying through a whole generation to conquer Acheen, and the fierce little Malay State holds her successfully at bay. These arguments and many like them will be urged on the Americans by the chancelleries of Europe, which are already twittering with excitement and putting out little feelers, and looking at Manila like children at a cake which they want badly but think it decorous not to ask for or see.

We think the Americans will keep the Philippines; we hope they will, most heartily, and we can show that they have the means of doing so with little trouble to themselves. We think they will keep them because we think that the Americans will emerge from this war with new ideas and larger ambitions. They will have defeated a second-class European State, and will feel acutely that as matters stand they would have been defeated by a first-class one. They could not have fought France, to say nothing of Great Britain, without suffering great defeats at sea and enormous losses by land. That is not a position which suits the American temper, and Washington will therefore set itself to construct a first-class iron fleet. They can do that at home with twice the rapidity of the Japanese, because they have a hundred times the Japanese command of money, and they can man the fleet when constructed by sweeping all the shiftless boys of the Union, as they are doing already, into great naval schools, one for each State. That fleet once built, the desire for a position in the world equal to their position among nations, for islands as coaling stations, for posts of vantage if Europe threatens them, will induce, or, indeed, compel them to give up their idea of nonintervention, which already, as we see, has given way the moment their deeper emotions are stirred.

Already, before the war has well begun, they are threatening Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii, and the Philippines, and as soon as it is over and the fleet built they will open the Nicaragua Canal, claiming right of free passage through it for their battle ships, and change their Monroe doctrine into a direct and effective protectorate of the two Americas. They will, we believe, from the first hesitate to give up the Philippines, partly because the islands provide admiral stations for their fleet, but chiefly because they are determined that China, which is their biggest natural foreign market, shall not be closed to their trade. They must be ready to strike, if need be, on the Chinese coast, and to strike hard; and seeing that, they will not give up islands which offer them impregnable defenses for their dockyards, their coal vaults, and their arsenals. To retain them is, of course, to give up their traditional policy of noninterference in the politics of the world; but we confess we have not much faith in self-denying politics of that kind. To shake down an ancient European throne is surely interference with Europe of a definite kind, and they are doing that already. The people of the United States have not realized their new position yet, but when they do, we shall hear, we feel confident, much less of nonintervention.

We think America will keep the Philippines and we heartily hope it. She will govern them well enough, much better than any power except ourselves, and we have more of the world's surface than we can well manage. It is true that the position in the Pacific would be magnificent; that we can create a civil service by a mere advertisement in the Gazette, the educated middle class thirsting for more

careers," and that we could garrison the islands with Sikhs and Afridis, to the delight of both, without risking a single bone of "Tommy Atkins," but we can not undertake to govern the whole dark world. The envy we excite is already too great, and the strain upon the mental power of those who govern is already excessive, so excessive that we fear there is already a faltering at the center of affairs, produced not by timidity, but by a just sense that for England to do anything anywhere is to stir the water which envelops the world and drive a wave upon some coast it is not intended to attack.

It would be a relief if another English-speaking power would take up a portion of our task, and in taking it perform the duty of repaying something to the world which yields her such advantages. The "weary Titan," in fact, needs an ally while traversing "the too vast orb of his fate," and the only ally whose aspirations, ideas, and language are like his own is the great American people. The Frenchman is too fickle, the Russian too full of guile, and the German too harsh in his treatment of all who do not think that to be drilled is the first, if not the only duty of man.

We hope the Americans will keep the Philippines, and that they can keep them we have no doubt whatever. Europe, to put the truth in its most brutal form, can not attack them without our permission, and the constitutional difficulty is all rubbish, as Congress can make laws for territories, or declare the islands to be held, like Bosnia, as lands "in temporary military occupation" of the United States. The Americans are not governing Manila to-day through the universal suffrage of the Tagals, and need not therefore govern it to-morrow, while as to the means of holding the islands they have a resource of which no one has spoken hitherto, but to which, as an instrument of power, there is hardly a limit. No one doubts that the States can produce and train any amount of officers, and they have, like ourselves, the means of enlisting a large and effective Sepoy army.

They have already 4,000 or 5,000 negro troops who have distinguished themselves in the Indian wars, and who are now about to be dispatched to Cuba because they are "immune" from yellow fever. Nothing stops the Americans from raising the negro force to 20,000 men—there are now 9,000,000 of colored people under the Stars and Stripes—and with them holding the Philippines, Hawaii, and Porto Rico, paying them out of local revenues. With such a garrison those islands would be as safe as drawing-rooms and as full of business as Broadway or the Strand. There is really no obstacle, for the prejudice of color, as fierce as it is in the States, would not operate against a colonial army, more especially if that army were a good one. And it would be a good one. The bravery of the trained negro is never questioned, he is accustomed not only to obey, but to respect white officers, and the tropical regions in which he would be stationed exactly suit not only his constitution, but his notion of that which constitutes happiness in life. Instead of remaining a source of weakness to the Union, he can be turned by wise and lenient management into an instrument of empire.

We do not, be it observed, give way for one moment to the theory that white men can not retain their energy in the tropics—nearly the whole of Brazil is within their limit; but if white Americans dislike service in lands so warm they have millions of dark Americans who do not, and who are as proud of the greatness of the Republic, and, if decently treated, as faithful to its flag, as any of their lighter brethren. The Americans are waking up to a perception of the value of this instrument of force, and when once they have fully realized it we shall hear little of their difficulty in garrisoning distant possessions inhabited by dark tribes. The Tagals will not feel insulted because the garrison which keeps their villages safe is only white at the top.

[Inclosure 2—Singapore Free Press, June 8, 1898.]

THE FATE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

The author of the Spectator article quoted in your yesterday's issue under the above heading has put forward one sensible proposition. His theories on other points may be all right, but I am afraid he has reckoned without his host. America has not yet conquered the Philippines—not by a long way—but will occupy them with the assistance and good will of the Filipinos. The possession of Manila no more means the possession of the Philippines than the possession of New York means the possession of America, and without this good will and assistance of the inhabitants I must beg leave to state that neither the United States nor any other nation could ever hope to take the Philippines, except with an army of 200,000 men or more, if even then, no matter what theorists may say to the contrary. The solutions which the European papers have been kind enough to put forward re the disposal of the Philippines may be dismissed with the words of General Augustin's

proclamation: "Vain designs, ridiculous boasts!" When the time comes I am inclined to think the inhabitants themselves are going to have the biggest say in this question, especially after the events of May 30 to June 1 last.

Spain, with an army of 35,000 men fully armed, has been able to do nothing against an army of imperfectly organized Filipinos, who have never disposed to more than 600 rifles. Yet nobody can taunt the Spanish soldier with want of valor, whilst his patient endurance of hardships and privations, indifferent food, and entire absence of personal comforts give him the advantage over other European soldiers, who require an efficient commissariat and transport department. In a country like the Philippines a soldier to be effective must be able to skip from crag to crag like a goat, without hindrance or paraphernalia, to be evenly matched with the inhabitants.

The Tagals will feel very much insulted if they try to garrison their villages by troops of the type proposed by the writer of the article under review. It would be a dangerous experiment. I would not advise the Americans or any one else to try. Such crass ignorance on the state of the Philippines and its inhabitants exists on every side, that it is almost useless to try and explain to outsiders that the Philippines are as different from British India, Ceylon, Burma, the West Indies, etc., as light is from darkness. The people are the most enlightened and vigorous branch of the Malay race, and have been Christians for centuries, in fact longer than the principles of the Reformation were established in Great Britain, and are the nearest akin to Europeans of any alien race, and it is simply ridiculous to imagine that eight to ten millions of such people can be bought and sold as an article of commerce without first obtaining their consent. Let all those who are greedy for a slice of the archipelago ponder well over this before burning their fingers.

To put them on a level with Sikhs and Afridis is simple nonsense. The much over-estimated Sikh would find his match pretty soon with the sturdy Philippine native, and those who think differently had better read what no less an authority than General Gordon says of his Philippine troops in the Taiping rebellion.

No decent or respectable Filipino will tolerate any social relations with the pagan Chinese.

The only possible solution of the Philippine question is an independent government, under American protection, and this is the policy I recommended General Aguinaldo and his compatriots to accept, and which will, no doubt, be carried out. Time will show.

H. W. BEAY.

SINGAPORE, 8th June, 1898.

Mr. Pratt to Mr. Day.

No. 229.] CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,

Singapore, June 9, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to report that this afternoon, on the occasion of the receipt of the news of General Aguinaldo's recent successes near Manila, I was waited upon by the Philippine residents in Singapore and presented an address which, though written in Spanish, was delivered in French, and which I accordingly replied to in that language.

The reports of the proceedings sent me by the editors of the Singapore Free Press and Straits Times, both of whom were present, I submit herewith, with duplicates for the press should you consider their publication desirable.

The original address in Spanish was not left with me, but I am promised it as soon as properly written out, and will then forward it.

My reply, however, I can not forward, as it was not written, but extemporaneous, and has been correctly rendered from the French into English in the within reports, from which you will note that I avoided touching upon the question of our future policy re the Philippines.

I have the honor, etc.,

E. SPENCER PRATT,
United States Consul-General.

[Inclosures.—The Straits Times, June 9.]

MR. SPENCER PRATT SERENADED—MEETING OF FILIPINO REFUGEES AT THE UNITED STATES CONSULATE—THEY PRESENT AN ADDRESS TO MR. SPENCER PRATT AND DRINK TO AMERICA, ENGLAND, AND ADMIRAL DEWEY.

The United States consulate at Singapore was yesterday afternoon in an unusual state of bustle. That bustle extended itself to Raffles Hotel, of which the consulate forms an outlying part. From a period shortly prior to 5 o'clock, afternoon, the natives of the Philippines resident in Singapore began to assemble at the consulate. Their object was partly to present an address to Hon. Spencer Pratt, United States consul-general, and partly to serenade him, for which purpose some twenty-five or thirty of the Filipinos came equipped with musical instruments. Gradually the crowd gathered in the vicinity of the United States consulate, and, after a little quiet preliminary music, Dr. Santos, as representing the Philippine community in Singapore, proceeded to read the following address, which was originally drafted in Spanish and then translated into French. The address was read in French, and the following is an English translation:

THE ADDRESS.

"To the Hon. Edward Spencer Pratt, consul-general of the United States of North America, Singapore:

"SIR: The Philippine colony resident in this port, composed of representatives of all social classes, have come to present their respects to you as the legitimate representative of the great and powerful American Republic, in order to express our eternal gratitude for the moral and material protection extended by Admiral Dewey to our trusted leader Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, who has been driven to take up arms in the name of 8,000,000 Filipinos, in defense of those very principles of justice and liberty of which your country is the foremost champion. Our countrymen at home, and those of us residing here, refugees from Spanish misrule and tyranny in our beloved native land, hope that the United States, your nation, persevering in its humane policy will efficaciously second the programme arranged between you, sir, and General Aguinaldo in this port of Singapore, and secure to us our independence under the protection of the United States. Our warmest thanks are especially due to you, sir, personally, for having been the first to cultivate relations with General Aguinaldo, and arrange for the cooperation with Admiral Dewey, thus supporting our aspirations which time and subsequent actions have developed and caused to meet with the applause and approbation of your nation. Finally, we request you to convey to your illustrious President and the American people, and to Admiral Dewey, our sentiments of sincere gratitude and our most fervent wishes for their prosperity.

"SINGAPORE, June 8, 1898."

Dr. Santos, having presented the above address to Mr. Spencer Pratt, proceeded, speaking in French, to state his belief that the Filipinos would prove and were now proving themselves fit for self-government. While it would be very desirable that such a government should be under American protection, yet it would be found that the brave Filipinos, who were now driving the Spanish troops before them, were quite fit also to fill offices of civil administration. Referring to certain news which had been telegraphed from Europe, Dr. Santos deprecated the transfer of the Philippines from Spain to any power. He was quite confident that the sympathy of the American people would be with a nation who were struggling to be free.

THE UNITED STATES CONSUL-GENERAL REPLIES.

After listening to the address the United States consul-general, also speaking in French, said:

"Gentlemen, the honor you have conferred upon me is so unexpected that I can not find appropriate words with which to thank you and with which to reply to the eloquent address you have just read to me. Rest assured, though, that I fully understand and sincerely appreciate the motives that have prompted your present action and that your words, which have sunk deep in my heart, shall be faithfully repeated to the President, to Admiral Dewey, and to the American people—from whom I am sure that they will meet with full and generous response. A little over a month ago the world resounded with the praises of Admiral Dewey and his fellow-officers and men for a glorious victory won by the American Asiatic Squadron in the Bay of Manila. Now we have news of the brilliant achievements of your own distinguished leader, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, cooperating on land with the Americans at

sea. You have just reason to be proud of what has been and is being accomplished by General Aguinaldo and your fellow-countrymen under his command. When, six weeks ago, I learned that General Aguinaldo had arrived incognito in Singapore, I immediately sought him out. An hour's interview convinced me that he was the man for the occasion; and, having communicated with Admiral Dewey, I accordingly arranged for him to join the latter, which he did, at Cavite. The rest you know.

"I am thankful to have been the means, though merely the accidental means, of bringing about the arrangement between General Aguinaldo and Admiral Dewey, which has resulted so happily. I can only hope that the eventful outcome will be all that can be desired for the happiness and welfare of the Filipinos. My parting words to General Aguinaldo were, 'General, when you have proved yourself great, prove yourself magnanimous,' and from the treatment accorded to the recent Spanish prisoners it would appear that he had done so." [Applause.]

At the conclusion of Mr. Pratt's speech refreshments were served, and as the Filipinos, being Christians, drink alcohol, there was no difficulty in arranging as to refreshments. "Long life and prosperity" were drunk to Mr. Consul-General Spencer Pratt. Then the American Republic was cheered. Then Commodore Dewey was cheered for his gallant victory. Then England was cheered for sheltering the Filipino refugees.

PRESENTING A FLAG.

Then Dr. Santos, as the spokesman of the Filipino refugees, again addressed the audience with many complimentary remarks on the gallantry of Admiral Dewey and the skill and foresight of United States Consul-General Pratt, and with glowing forecasts of the prosperity that awaited the Philippine Islands under the new régime. He expressed a desire to have an American flag as a reminiscence of the day's proceedings. Mr. Spencer Pratt, again speaking in French, replied, saying:

"This flag was borne in battle, and is the emblem of that very liberty that you are seeking to attain. Its red stripes represent the blood that was shed for the cause; the white represents the purity of the motive; the blue field stands for the azure of the sky; the stars are the free and independent States of the Union. Take the flag and keep it as a souvenir of this occasion."

At the conclusion of Mr. Pratt's speech, he handed an American flag to Dr. Santos, who received it reverently, and waved it exultantly amidst the cheers of the assembled Filipinos. The flag would, said Dr. Santos, be preserved so that future generations might look at it with pride.

[Singapore Free Press, June 9, 1898.]

MR. SPENCER PRATT AND THE FILIPINOS OF SINGAPORE—AN ADDRESS OF CONGRATULATION.

A little after 5 p. m. last evening a numerous deputation, consisting of all the Filipinos resident in Singapore, waited upon the American consul-general, Mr. Spencer Pratt, at his residence, and presented him with an address congratulatory of the American successes in the present war, and expressive of the thanks of the Filipino community here for the aid now being given by the United States to the aspirations of the Filipino people for national freedom. There were also present Mr. W. G. St. Clair, editor of the Singapore Free Press; Mr. A. Reid, editor of the Straits Times, and Mr. Howard W. Bray, whose active sympathies with the Filipino nation are so well known as to entitle him to be styled "Aguinaldo's Englishman." Mr. Spencer Pratt and Mr. Bray both wore the badge of the Liga Filipina, presented to them by General Aguinaldo during his incognito visit to Singapore.

After Mr. Bray had performed the ceremony of introducing the deputation to Consul-General Spencer Pratt, Dr. Santos, the chief Filipino refugee here, who has been educated at Barcelona and Paris, delivered the address of which the following is a translation:

"To the Hon. Edward Spencer Pratt,

Consul-General of the United States of North America, Singapore.

"SIR: The Filipino colony resident in this port, composed of representatives of all social classes, have come to present their respects to you as the legitimate representative of the great and powerful American Republic, in order to express our eternal gratitude for the moral and material protection extended by Admiral Dewey to our trusted leader Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, who has been driven to take up arms in the name of 8,000,000 Filipinos in defense of those very principles of justice and liberty, of which your country is the foremost champion.

Our countrymen at home, and those of us residing here, refugees from Spanish misrule and tyranny in our beloved native land, hope that the United States, your nation, persevering in its humane policy, will efficaciously second the programme

arranged between you, sir, and General Aguinaldo in this port of Singapore, and secure to us our independence under the protection of the United States.

Our warmest thanks are especially due to you, sir, personally, for having been the first to cultivate relations with General Aguinaldo and arrange for his cooperation with Admiral Dewey, thus supporting our aspirations which time and subsequent actions have developed and caused to meet with the applause and approbation of your nation.

"Finally we request you to convey to your illustrious President and the American people, and to Admiral Dewey, our sentiments of sincere gratitude and our most fervent wishes for their prosperity.

"SINGAPORE, June 8, 1898."

The address, which was written in Spanish, and read in French by Doctor Santos, the spokesman, was replied to in French by Mr. Spencer Pratt, to the following effect:

"Gentlemen, the honor you have conferred upon me is so unexpected that I can not find appropriate words with which to thank you, with which to reply to the eloquent address you have just read to me. Rest assured, however, that I fully understand and sincerely appreciate the motives that have prompted your present action, and that your words, which have sunk deep in my heart, shall be faithfully repeated to the President, to Admiral Dewey, and to the American people, from whom, I am sure, they will meet with full and generous response. A little over a month ago the world resounded with the praise of Admiral Dewey and his fellow officers and men for a glorious victory won by the American Asiatic Squadron in the bay of Manila. To-day we have the news of the brilliant achievements of your own distinguished leader, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, cooperating on land with the Americans at sea. You have just reason to be proud of what has been and is being accomplished by General Aguinaldo and your fellow-countrymen under his command. When, six weeks ago, I learned that General Aguinaldo had arrived incognito in Singapore, I immediately sought him out. An hour's interview convinced me that he was the man for the occasion, and having communicated with Admiral Dewey, I accordingly arranged for him to join the latter, which he did at Cavite. The rest you know.

"I am thankful to have been the means, though merely the accidental means, of bringing about the arrangement between General Aguinaldo and Admiral Dewey, which has resulted so happily. I can only hope that the eventual outcome will be all that can be desired for the happiness and welfare of the Filipinos. My parting words to General Aguinaldo were, 'General, when you have proved yourself great, prove yourself magnanimous,' and from the generous treatment that we understand he has accorded to the Spanish prisoners taken in the recent fight he has done so." [Applause.]

Dr. Santos then addressing his fellow-countrymen (Paysanos), called for successive vivas for the President of the United States, for Admiral Dewey, and for Consul-General Pratt; for England, the "nation hospitalière," and for the editors of the Singapore Free Press and Straits Times. Consul-General Pratt called for "vivas" for General Aguinaldo and the Filipino people.

Mr. Spencer Pratt subsequently presented an American flag to Dr. Santos, for the Filipino deputation. This flag, he said, was borne in battle, and is the emblem of that very liberty that you are seeking to attain. Its red stripes represent the blood that was shed for the cause, the white the purity of the motive, the blue field the azure of the sky, the stars the free and independent States of the Union. Take it and keep it as a souvenir of this occasion.

On receiving the flag from the consul's hands Dr. Santos called for three cheers for the American nation, waving the flag on high, and stating that the Filipinos would always cherish this emblem, which would be preserved for future generations to look upon with pride.

A band of Filipino musicians was in attendance and played a selection of music, including some very pretty melodies of their native land.

This interesting ceremony terminated about 6 p. m.

Mr. Day to Mr. Pratt.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, June 16, 1898.

Two hundred twelve received and answered. Avoid unauthorized negotiations with Philippine insurgents.

DAY.

Mr. Day to Mr. Pratt.

No. 78.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, June 16, 1898.

SIR: I have to acknowledge receipt of your confidential dispatch No. 212, of the 28th of April last, in which you report your proceedings in bringing together the insurgent general Emilio Aguinaldo and Admiral Dewey, before the latter's departure for Manila. It appears that your meeting with General Aguinaldo was brought about through the good offices of Mr. H. W. Bray, a British subject, who had been compelled by the disturbed condition of things in the Philippines to abandon his property and business there, and that, after an interview with General Aguinaldo, you telegraphed to Admiral Dewey that the insurgent leader would come to Hongkong to arrange for a general cooperation of the insurgents, if this should be desired. The admiral telegraphed in reply: "Tell Aguinaldo come as soon as possible." As a consequence General Aguinaldo, with his aid-de-camp and private secretary, left Singapore for Hongkong on the 26th of April for the purpose of joining Admiral Dewey. You promise the Department a fuller account of your interview with General Aguinaldo by the next mail, and say that in arranging for his "direct cooperation" with the commander of the United States forces you have prevented a possible conflict of action and facilitated the work of occupying and administering the Philippines.

The Department observes that you informed General Aguinaldo that you had no authority to speak for the United States; and, in the absence of the fuller report which you promise, it is assumed that you did not attempt to commit this Government to any alliance with the Philippine insurgents. To obtain the unconditional personal assistance of General Aguinaldo in the expedition to Manila was proper, if in so doing he was not induced to form hopes which it might not be practicable to gratify. This Government has known the Philippine insurgents only as discontented and rebellious subjects of Spain, and is not acquainted with their purposes. While their contest with that power has been a matter of public notoriety, they have neither asked nor received from this Government any recognition. The United States, in entering upon the occupation of the islands, as the result of its military operations in that quarter, will do so in the exercise of the rights which the state of war confers, and will expect from the inhabitants, without regard to their former attitude toward the Spanish Government, that obedience which will be lawfully due from them.

If, in the course of your conferences with General Aguinaldo, you acted upon the assumption that this Government would cooperate with him for the furtherance of any plan of his own, or that, in accepting his cooperation, it would consider itself pledged to recognize any political claims which he may put forward, your action was unauthorized and can not be approved.

Respectfully yours,

WILLIAM R. DAY.

Mr. Pratt to Mr. Moore.

No. 235.]

CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,

Singapore, June 20, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have received the Department's cipher telegram reading thus:

PRATT, Consul-General,

Singapore:

WASHINGTON, June 17.

Two hundred and twelve received and answered. void unauthorized negotiations with Philippine insurgents.

DAY.

and that I have sent the Department the following cipher telegram in reply:

SECRETARY OF STATE,

Washington:

SINGAPORE, June 19.

No intention negotiate. Left that Dewey who desired Aguinaldo come.

PRATT.

which means that I neither have nor had any intention to negotiate with the Philippine insurgents, and, in the case of General Aguinaldo, was especially careful to leave such negotiations to Commodore Dewey.

My action in the matter was indeed limited to obtaining the assurance of General Aguinaldo's willingness to cooperate with our forces, communicating this to Commodore Dewey, and, upon the latter's expressing the desire that he should come on as soon as possible, arranging for the general to do so.

I shall anxiously await the instruction your telegram refers to for the Department's opinion of my above course, but can scarcely believe, in view of the motives which prompted it and the excellent results which have ensued, that it can be altogether disapproved.

I have, etc.,

E. SPENCER PRATT.

Mr. Pratt to Mr. Moore.

No. 236.]

CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,

Singapore, June 21, 1898.

SIR: In continuation of my dispatch No. 235, of the 20th instant, I beg to state that if, in regard to General Aguinaldo, I arranged directly with Commodore Dewey without obtaining the Department's previous authorization it was because of the little time there was in which to act and the practical impossibility of explaining by cable to the Department the value of the general's cooperation, of which I felt the commodore would already be in a position to judge from what he must have learned of the situation while at Hongkong.

I beg further to state that it was not only on account of the material aid I was confident he could lend us that I regarded the cooperation of General Aguinaldo as so desirable, but also because, as the recognized leader of the insurgents, he was, I considered, the one best able to direct and influence them, and therefore the one most important for our commander to have under immediate control, both as concerned the present and future policy of our Government in the Philippines, whatever that policy might be.

Had it not been arranged for General Aguinaldo thus to cooperate with us it is more than probable that he would have returned to the islands of his own accord and undertaken independent operations, which might, I fear, have caused us serious embarrassment. I am not having, nor do I propose to have, any further dealings here with the Philippine insurgents.

I have the honor, etc.,

E. SPENCER PRATT,
United States Consul-General.

Mr. Cridler to Mr. Pratt.

No. 82.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 25, 1898.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches, Nos. 214 (May 1) and 217 (May 5, 1898), in regard to arrangements made with Aguinaldo for cooperation with our Navy.

In reply I have to inform you that the Department is pleased to learn that you did not make any political pledges to Aguinaldo.

Respectfully, yours,

THOS. W. CRIDLER,
Third Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Cridler to Mr. Pratt.

No. 84.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 9, 1898.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 222 bis of May 18 last, in regard to the expenses incurred in relieving the American refugee from the Philippines.

You will please ascertain and report the amount necessarily expended in this matter by the British vice-consul at Cebu.

The \$30 expended by you in sending Mr. Dorr to Hongkong is covered by the Department's telegram to relieve immediate necessities.

Respectfully, yours,

THOS. W. CRIDLER,
Third Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Day to Mr. Pratt.

No. 87.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 20, 1898.

SIR: Your No. 229 of the 9th ultimo, inclosing printed copies of a report from the Straits Times of the same day, entitled "Mr. Spencer Pratt's Serenade," with a view to its communication to the press, has been received and considered.

By Department's telegram of the 17th of June you were instructed to avoid unauthorized negotiations with the Philippine insurgents.

The reasons for this instruction were conveyed to you in my No. 78 of the 16th of June, by which the President's views on the subject of your relations with General Aguinaldo were fully expressed.

The extract now communicated by you from the Straits Times of the 9th of June has occasioned a feeling of disquietude and a doubt as to whether some of your acts may not have borne a significance and produced an impression which this Government would be compelled to regret.

The address presented to you by the twenty-five or thirty Filipinos who gathered about the consulate discloses an understanding on their part that the object of Admiral Dewey was to support the cause of General Aguinaldo, and that the ultimate object of our action is to secure the independence of the Philippines "under the protection of the United States."

Your address does not repel this implication, and it moreover represents that General Aguinaldo was "sought out by you," whereas it had been the understanding of the Department that you received him only upon the request of a British subject named Bray, who formerly lived in the Philippines. Your further reference to General Aguinaldo as "the man for the occasion," and to your "bringing about" the "arrangement" between "General Aguinaldo and Admiral Dewey which has resulted so happily," also represents the matter in a light which causes apprehension lest your action may have laid the ground of future misunderstandings and complications.

For these reasons the Department has not caused the article to be given to the press, lest it might seem thereby to lend a sanction to views the expression of which it had not authorized.

Respectfully, yours,

WILLIAM R. DAY.

[Confidential.]

Mr. Pratt to Mr. Moore,

No. 240.] CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Singapore, July 2, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have learned from reliable private sources that the Sultan of Sulu, who, on his return home from Mecca, stopped over in Singapore, where he still remains, has negotiated or is in the way of negotiating for the transfer of the protectorate of his territory in the Philippines from Spain to British North Borneo, to which, as will be seen by the map, it is adjacent.

This would seem to have special significance at the present juncture, and I have considered that you might deem it of sufficient importance to demand investigation.

After the Sulu war of 1876, it will be remembered, Spain's suzerainty, hitherto disputed, was formally admitted by the Sultan and recognized by both England and Germany in the protocol signed by the powers on the 11th of March, 1877.

I have the honor, etc.,

E. SPENCER PRATT,
United States Consul-General.

Mr. Pratt to Mr. Day.

[Confidential.]

No. 250.] CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Singapore, July 28, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your instruction No. 78, of the 16th ultimo, in reply to my dispatch No. 112, of the 28th of April last, reporting my proceedings in bringing together the insurgent leader, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, and Admiral Dewey before the latter's departure for Manila.

I have carefully considered your observations upon my action in this matter and beg to repeat what I have stated in my later dispatches on the same subject, that I declined even to discuss with General Aguinaldo the question of the future policy of the United States with regard to the Philippines, that I held out no hopes to him of any kind, committed the Government in no way whatever, and, in the course of our confidences, never acted upon the assumption that the Government would cooperate with him—General Aguinaldo—for the furtherance of any plan of his own, nor that, in accepting his said cooperation, it would consider itself pledged to recognize any political claims which he might put forward.

I have the honor, etc.,

E. SPENCER PRATT,
United States Consul-General.

Mr. Cridler to Mr. Pratt.

No. 90.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 2, 1898.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 235 and No. 236 of June 20 and 21, 1898, concerning the Philippine insurgents and your action regarding them.

In this connection reference is made to the Department's instructions No. 78 of June 16 and No. 87 of July 20, 1898, as well as to the concluding paragraph of your No. 236, wherein you say that you are not having nor do you propose to have any further dealings with the Philippine insurgents.

Respectfully, yours,

THOS. W. CRIDLER,
Third Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Johnson to Mr. Moore.

No. 26.] CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Amoy, China, July 8, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to submit a few facts and comments on conditions prevailing here which are suggested by the supposition that our Government contemplates taking charge of the Philippines, either temporarily or permanently. If the information I offer is already in your possession, then this dispatch can be of no service.

There is a large Chinese population in the Philippines, who constitute the most intelligent class of common laborers, as well as many wealthy merchants. It is estimated that over 90 per cent of these are from Amoy and speak the Amoy dialect. There is a regular line of steamers between Amoy and Manila, and the traffic both in passengers and freight is an important industry.

The Spanish Government maintains a consulate at Amoy for the sole purpose of looking after this trade with the Philippines, and it is

given out here, I am informed, that the consulate will be closed and the affairs turned over to a merchant as soon as the islands pass from Spanish control.

The largest British firms here inform me that Amoy is the most important Chinese port, so far as the Philippines are concerned, and that should we retain them the business in this consulate will increase many fold.

It would under such conditions be inimical to our interests for any other nation to secure any exclusive rights in this province, especially in the vicinity of Amoy. It is reported in the press that Japan is now endeavoring to secure the exclusive right to develop the mines of this province. These include large coal fields near Amoy, as well as extensive deposits of lead, iron, and precious minerals. These coal fields are not yet worked. The Japanese recently secured a concession on the island of Amoy, which is to be developed in the interest of her Formosa trade. She has within a year let the contracts for buildings to the extent of 70,000 yen, and many moves which have attracted my attention confirm the rumor that she has in view a monopoly of the coal and iron and lead of the surrounding mountains.

Amoy has probably the finest harbor in southern China, which is also taken into consideration.

The leading British merchant here, Mr. Francis Cass, who during the past twenty years has frequently acted as American vice-consul, and whose knowledge is extensive and judgment good, thinks these are facts which should be considered in the event America retains the Philippines.

Amoy's trade with the United States leads that of all other China ports, and is chiefly in the hands of the British. The entire community is jubilant over the prospect of the Manila trade passing under our control. So enthusiastic are they that every possible demonstration of good will has been resorted to. On July 4 every American flag which they could secure was hoisted over their commercial houses during the entire day, and every firm called at the consulate to express congratulations. The German firms were scarcely less cordial in their congratulations. They have suffered in their extensive trade with the Philippines because of certain annoying regulations, and realize that if put upon a similar fair basis to that now prevailing with the United States great good will result.

Not knowing whether these facts are known in the Department or not, I refrain from further details until I know your pleasure.

I have the honor, etc.,

A. BURLINGAME JOHNSON,
United States Consul.

SINGAPORE, *June 30, 1896.*

To His Excellency the President of the United States of America.

YOUR EXCELLENCY: Confirming my letter of 20th instant, I have now the honor to inclose a cover just received from General Aguinaldo, the Philippine insurgent leader, with instructions to forward it by first mail to Your Excellency.

In the letter which General Aguinaldo writes me he states that he incloses a telegram which he desires me to transmit to Your Excellency, but both this and other documents I regret to say have been extracted from the cover during transit.

The envelope arrived here with the side torn away and a note written on the same by your consul-general in Hongkong, through whom it was

forwarded, that it had been received in bad condition from H. M. S. *Linnet*.

I have taken steps to find the missing document, which will be forwarded to Your Excellency if the search proves successful.

I have the honor, etc.,

HOWARD W. BRAY.

[Translation.]

CAVITE, June 10, 1898.

*To the President of the Republic of the
Great North American Nation.*

DEAR AND HONORED SIR: I come to greet you with the most tender effusion of my soul, and to express to you my deep and sincere gratitude, in the name of the unfortunate Philippine people, for the efficient and disinterested protection which you have decided to give it, to shake off the yoke of the cruel and corrupt Spanish domination, as you are doing to the equally unfortunate Cuba, which Spain wishes to see annihilated rather than free and independent, giving her, to quiet her and to cicatrize the deep wounds made in her heart by the iniquities committed upon her children, a false autonomy, of which one bold blow of the Governor-General may deprive her immediately, as she has no colonial army to serve as a counterpoise to the almost-sovereign powers of that supreme authority.

At the same time, as I am always frank and open, I must express to you the great sorrow which all of us Filipinos felt on reading in the *Times*, a newspaper of the greatest circulation and reputation in the whole world, in its issue of the 5th of last month, the astounding statement that you, sir, will retain these islands until the end of the war, and, if Spain fails to pay the indemnity, will sell them to a European power, preferably Great Britain: but we found a palliative to our sorrow in the improbability and suddenness of that statement, as common sense refuses to believe that so sensible a public man as you would venture to make an assertion so contrary to common sense, before events are entirely consummated, as you well know that if God favors the triumph of your arms to-day, to-morrow He may defeat them and give the victory to Spain, and because such an assertion is not consistent with the protection of which you make a boast toward this unfortunate people, which has been groaning for more than three centuries in the clutches of a nation which has for its shield (emblem) the lion, one of the ferocious animals, although she displays it as a symbol of nobility, which she certainly does not possess, besides the fact that it is opposed to your noble and generous sentiments to wish to sell these islands to a European power such as England, thereby making us pass under the domination of that nation, which, although it has a truly liberal government, partakes none the less of the nature of a tyranny as it is monarchical.

Oh, sir, you are greatly injured by this statement, which ought to be regarded merely as a diplomatic trick invented by the friends of Spain to induce us to help her by using this vile slander which has been hurled against you to arouse our hostility to that powerful nation over whose destinies you happily preside.

The Philippine people, however, have not given credit to that awkwardly invented fable, and have seen in your nation, ever since your fleet destroyed in a moment the Spanish fleet which was here, in spite of its being assisted by the guns of their two forts, the angel who is the harbinger of their liberty; and they rose like a single wave when,

as soon as I trod these shores, I addressed them to gain them over; and they captured, within the period of ten days, nearly the whole garrison of this Province of Cavite, in whose port I have my government—by the consent of the admiral of your triumphant fleet—as well as the garrison of the adjoining Province of Bataan, together with the governors and officials of both provinces; and my valiant hosts are now besieging Manila, the capital, on the south and east, while my forces in the Province of Bulacan, which adjoins this province on the north, and the chief town of which is likewise being besieged by them, nearly surround Manila on the north.

Such is the astonishing triumph which this suffering people has gained in a few days over the conquering race whose traditional valor, of which it is continually bragging, has been humbled on these battle-fields and has been succeeded by a great terror; and a people of such warlike qualities, which is, moreover, thoroughly civilized, as nearly two thirds of them can read and write, and as they have in their midst many men of high attainments in the sciences and arts, should not be sold as if it were a lamb to be sacrificed and exploited for the greed of another nation.

I close by protesting once and a thousand times, in the name of this people, which knows how to fight for its honor by means of its improvised warriors and artillery men, against the statement published by the Times, mainly for the purpose of casting a blot in history upon its glorious name; a people which trusts blindly in you not to abandon it to the tyranny of Spain, but to leave it free and independent, even if you make peace with Spain, and I offer fervent prayers for the ever-increasing prosperity of your powerful nation, to which and to you I shall show unbounded gratitude, and shall repay with interest that great obligation.

Your humble servant,

EMILIO AGUINALDO.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,

Hongkong, August 4, 1898.

SIR: By request I have the honor to confirm the following telegram sent you on the 2d instant:

Cortes family, representing wealthy educated families Manila, implore you through Consul-General Wildman, in name humanity and Christianity, not to desert them, and aid to obtain annexation Philippines to America. Please see the President.

I may add in explanation of this telegram that there is a large colony of wealthy Filipinos who have been driven out of Manila, and the bulk of whose fortunes have been confiscated, resident here. They are people of education as well as wealth, and they are intensely loyal to the United States. The Cortes family are particularly so, and they have contributed money liberally to aid Aguinaldo on the understanding that he was fighting for annexation of the Philippines to the United States. Naturally I sympathize with them in their desire to become a part of the United States, and have advised them that you would give their cablegram your kindly consideration.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

ROUNSEVELLE WILDMAN,
Consul-General.

HON. MARCUS HANNA,
United States Senate, Washington.