



# THE PHILIPPINES: THE WAR AND THE PEOPLE

A RECORD OF PERSONAL  
OBSERVATIONS AND  
EXPERIENCES

BY  
ALBERT G. ROBINSON

*To*  
*William Warner Bishop*  
*With the cordial regards*  
*Of the Author*

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## AUTHOR'S NOTE

**T**HE major portion of this volume consists of letters which were sent to the New York "Evening Post" in my capacity as staff correspondent for that paper. The period covered by the letters was that from July, 1899, to February, 1900. An entire rewriting, which would have taken time not at my immediate disposal, might have resulted in a more coherent and better literary form for the book. I had no choice in the matter, and perhaps an advantage lies in the presentation of the letters in so nearly their original form, as they thus offer the impressions of the time and place from an immediate viewpoint.

My trip to the islands was made for the purpose of obtaining the fullest possible information upon the general subject. In obtaining that information I have been hampered by no prejudices, influenced by no partisan politics. I have sought only that which was fair and honest and right. Some will accept the views and opinions here presented; some will doubtless refuse them. They are at least honest and, I believe, also just and charitable. I was under no instruc-

tions from the home office, save the brief injunction to tell the truth as I saw it. That I endeavored to do, seeking no favor and fearing no rebuke.

My sources of information were many and various. Friends and acquaintances in army life and in civil life, Filipinos, Americans and aliens, have all been channels through which information has been obtained. My conclusions have not been hastily formed. They are, in large measure, a consensus of the statements of the many whom I have met, rather than a purely individual opinion. That the book is, in its general tenor, a pro-Filipino argument, I freely admit. If I have erred in anything, my error lies in an overestimate of the vitality of fundamental issues for which the Filipinos have fought again and again during their history.

In their present stage, American affairs in the Philippines are, to large extent, a matter of argument. That which is here stated I believe to be true. The events of coming days will establish the correctness or determine the error of the conclusions and opinions. The future alone can measure the extent and the seriousness of America's problem in the far East.

ALBERT GARDNER ROBINSON.