

"The Religious Argument"

An editorial from the pen of Dr. Winston, editor of the Nashville Christian Advocate, follows:

"A very large number of thoughtful American citizens deplored the acquisition by our country of the Philippine islands, since they believed our national government not well adapted to the management of colonial dependencies. Probably a much larger number are heartily in favor of setting these islands up in self-government at the very earliest day that such a step is justified by conditions. But there are comparatively few among us—though the number comprises some very able citizens not confined to any section of country or party in politics—who think that the only possible remedy for the mistake of acquiring the Philippines is the granting of immediate independence to their people. There is such a class, however, and its members make up for what they lack in numbers by vigor of language. It is but speaking moderately to say that these gentlemen would be more worthy of attention if they reasoned on the basis of the facts and not merely from theory.

It is all very well, for example, for us to speak of the Philippine and the Filipino, as if those islands constituted a unity and their people were homogeneous. We got them from Spain in a lump, since most of us scarcely had heard of them before 1898, and, as our language concerning them proves, know very little about them now. But what are the facts?

The islands are a straggling group that if thrown down beside our coast would reach from Maine to Florida. Their inhabitants, often even those of a single island, are not merely divided by tribal boundaries; they differ from each other in everything—in racial stock, in language, in religion, in degrees of civilization, in dress, habits, and even in physical appearance. There is absolutely not a trace of any bond of unity. They were nominally under the Spanish government, but most of them yielded allegiance but grudgingly, and the administration of affairs in one tribe or island was not connected in their minds with that in any other. According to Senor Buencamino, former "secretary of state" to Aguinaldo, only about twenty-five thousand of the population—that is, less than one-half of one per cent—can use the Spanish language. Probably a larger portion of our people that that understand German, yet who would suggest the German language as a bond of unity for the American nation?

As to intertribal relations, a recent visitor to the islands, writes: "In Luzon there are the Christian-Tagalogs, the Christian Matabeles (who murder Tagalogs as a tribal virtue), the non-Christian Igorrotes, and the Negritos, besides several tribes of head-hunters. In the Visayan group is another tribal division speaking a Malay dialect distinct from Tagalog; and in Mindanao, Sulu, and Tawi are the Moros, Muslim savages, enemies of the rest and continually warring among themselves."

Now how can an independent nation be formed of these mutually repellent and impractical elements? Aguinaldo appeared to the imagination of many

as the Washington or the Hidalgo of his country. But Aguinaldo was in fact the leader of a not very unanimous movement in a single tribe of the island of Luzon, a tribe against which the others even of that island cherish hereditary enmity. Had he been able to assert his leadership among his fellow-Tagalogs, and coax or bully the United States into granting him independence, there was not the remotest possibility that the Matabeles and Igorrotes on his own island, to say nothing of Moros, Visavans, and the rest on others, would treat his government with anything but scornful indifference and implacable hostility.

Philippine nationality, Philippine self-government, is a dream—will long remain a dream. Economically and politically speaking, we had no need of those islands. We may indeed have paid dearly for them quite aside from the twenty millions of money. But should not the meaning of the present situation be sought not in what we need but rather in what they need? Says the visitor above quoted: "I went to the Philippine islands convinced that our retention of them was an international crime; I left them convinced that any other course than that we are pursuing would be a breach of international humanity, comparable to leaving a helpless infant to perish in the storm. When they will be ready for self-government is an interesting question, but at present it is academic. It is a fact that they are not ready or capable for it." He quotes Senor Buencamino as saying: "The Filipinos have three great needs, and none of them is independence. The first is schools, the second is more schools, and the third is more schools." If the people of the United States—the Christian people, especially—fail to heed a plea like that, then they have departed from their traditions.

We have written thus because this constant agitation in favor of granting the Filipinos immediate independence, while in one sense the discussion of a purely academic matter, has in another a very serious practical side. It plays into the hands of irresponsible and ambitious agitators in those islands whose wish is not to see their people free, but to be themselves left free to exploit them. It hampers the administration of government thereby making very restive the ignorant and half-trained population, adding to the unhappiness of all concerned and making an obviously difficult situation far more difficult."

Nations Lend Money

A German authority estimates the country having 6,000,000 inhabitants and about one-quarter as large an area as Ohio, at no less than \$1,500,000,000. In proportion to the numerical natural resources these figures make the \$6,000,000,000, or thereabouts, which represents French capital put into investments outside of France look small, and they compare well with the largest current estimates of Great Britain's investments beyond the narrow limits of the British isles.

Authorities differ widely concerning the amount of British money put into other countries, some being as low as \$6,000,000,000, not counting British possessions, like India, and British colonies. To include those favorite fields for British enterprise might double the figures given. But it is not many years since the London stock exchange calculated the probable total of the foreign investments of the British people at more than

\$17,000,000,000. It does not seem possible that any very great decrease can have taken place since 1896.

Germany is believed to have about half as much money invested abroad as France, or twice as much as Belgium, but German wealth and German enterprise are alike fast gaining ground, and these proportions will soon be radically changed. Russia is the great debtor nation of Europe, and in that country billions of dollars of French, Belgium and German money has found employment, at greater or less risk, and with widely varying returns.—Ex.

The South's Attitude

Referring to the prospective visit by Mr. Roosevelt to the South, the Houston Post says that "if it is necessary that anything be done, rather let the president exhibit a spirit of broad nationality and repair the mischief he has done so far as he can. Personally, he knows little about the South, its institutions, its civilization, its problems, except what he has gained from sectional partisans and an unfriendly press. Let him inform himself thoroughly and act with wisdom, and it is in his power to restore the conditions which McKinley brought about. Let him look the South over and see if he cannot revise the opinion he holds of us as set forth in his writings and manifested by his acts. He has the power to correct his own mistakes; it is not within southern province or power. The South will hold to its self-respect and look to the future for the vindication of its position and for the justice and fair dealing which ought never to be withheld from any state nor any section. In the meantime, the South is busy."

Can Earthquakes be Prevented

In an address before the Belgian Astronomical society recently Mr. Gaurini made an interesting suggestion about earthquakes. It was that if the theories of Dary and Plante with regard to the cause of these disturbances are correct, then it may be within human power to lessen their violence.

Reduced to untechnical language, the theories of Dary and Plante are that earthquakes are subterranean electric storms, similar in character to those of the atmosphere. Different strata of the earth become electrically charged at different tensions, as the earth and the atmosphere, or strata of the atmosphere, become charged at different tensions before an electrical storm.

In an effort to find an easier road, the electric current leaps from the body under high electric pressure to that under low pressure. When this happens between the earth and the atmosphere we call the leap a bolt of lightning. When the same leap occurs between strata of the earth we call the resulting shock an earthquake.

That is the theory. Accepting this theory as correct, it is easy to see how it might be possible for man to give the earth currents, to a certain extent, an easier road, just as he gives the atmospheric currents easier roads to the earth with lightning rods and by planting trees.

For it is well known that a lightning rod does not actually arrest the thunderbolt when it comes. Whatever service it performs is by so drawing off the electricity from the air above the building that thunderbolts are less likely to occur there. That trees perform a similar service is believed from the observation that when large desert tracts are reclaimed electric storms seem to decrease in violence there.

Mr. Guarini suggested that the violence of subterranean electric storms might be lessened by connecting dif-

ferently charged earth strata or bodies with conductors that would give the electric current an easier road than it now has. He suggested that the rails of a railroad properly connected might in some cases act as a conductor.

In this connection may be recalled the belief of many western pioneers that the building of railroads has increased rainfall. That belief is persistent in many observing and credible men. The truth behind it probably is that since railroads have been built across the western prairies their rainfall has become more equally diffused through the year. The rails have, perhaps, acted as electrical equalizers, lessening the difference of electric tension, and so breaking up the occasional violent electric storms which brought rain upon the unbroken plains into more frequent and less violent atmospheric disturbances, with a consequent diffusion of rainfall.

Whether Mr. Guarini's suggestion will lead to any practical results in the way of prevention of earthquakes or of lessening their violence it is impossible to predict. The task proposed is so vast and so far beyond what would seem the limits of human power that speculation on the subject would be idle. But it is a striking illustration of the range and scope of science that its sober votaries should even venture to suggest that the prevention of earthquakes to any extent may be within human power.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Subscribers' Advertising Department

A little thought will convince at this department of The Commoner offers superior advantages to those who desire to secure publicity. Only Commoner subscribers are allowed to use it, and only responsible articles are allowed to be advertised. Confidence in the advertising management will explain in large measure why advertising in The Commoner is profitable. The manager is in receipt of many letters from advertisers who have used this department with profit. The rate is the lowest made in this publication—6 cents per word per insertion, payable in advance. Address all orders to The Commoner, Lincoln, Nebraska.

WRITE FOR BOOKLET AND COLOR CARD of the best waterproof paints on earth. American Roofing Co. 665-67 N. 15th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

THE LITTLE HOTEL WILMOT IN SOUTH Penn Square, Philadelphia have a number of good rooms for \$1 a day, if you bring your wife \$2 a day. The Commoner always on file. The hotel is right at the door of the Pennsylvania Railway. The Ryerson W. Jennings Co.

FOR SALE A THOROUGHBRED HEREFORD Bull, 11 months old, splendid individual. Also a full blooded Holstein bull, 9 months of age. Both animals eligible to registry. Address W. J. Bryan, Fairview Stock Farm, Lincoln, Neb.

ON RECEIPT OF 10c I WILL SEND FORMULA for making the best medicine in the world for coughs, colds, or consumption. I had throat and lung trouble for six years and spit blood continuously. This remedy cured me in three months—I am now perfectly well. R. A. MAYS, 665 N. 15th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

FOR SALE, GOOD FARM IN ARKANSAS Valley, close to Hutchinson, cheap. Easy payments. Write for particulars, Willis Vincent, Hutchinson Kansas.

FOR SALE, A DEMOCRATIC PAPER IN Iowa. Good paying property. Plant worth as much as asking price for plant, business and paper. Condition of health reason for selling. Address "K", care Commoner.

FOR SALE: 20 THOROUGHBRED POLAND China pigs, eligible to registry. Satisfaction guaranteed. Address W. J. Bryan, Fairview Stock Farm, Lincoln, Neb.

YOU COULD SELL OLD LINE LIFE INSURANCE if you knew how. We teach the art free of charge and pay you for your time. Durable contracts awaiting special and general agents for the states of Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas. Address L, care of Commoner.

ALLEN'S
LUNG
BALSAM Best Cough Medicine
S. J. Sur., Prompt