## The Commoner.

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## Mr. Bryan in the Philippines

Negros, January 5, Senor Joaquin Jor- aspiration, we understand that peolich spoke as follows:

distinguished party-Gentlemen:

"The people of Bacolod and the province in general, through me, have today the honor of greeting their distinguished visitors, giving to them all a most cordial and sincere welcome, and very especially to the illustrious leader of the democratic party who has deigned to grant us the high distinction of his visit.

"Mr. Bryan has doubtless noticed since he set foot on Filipino soil that the people of the islands received him as if he were an old and beloved friend.

"There is nothing strange in this; and this, because the pride of superione of the most striking qualities of ority will always dominate the govthe Filipino is gratitude, even though his enemies and detractors assert the contrary. The Filipino people know that Mr. Bryan has been and is a sincere champion of the Filipino ideals ago have said in Washington that the and interests in America, and this Filipino people are growing away from little suffices to make all here, with- the American people. That statement out distinction, receive him today with open arms and with hearts swelling with joy. "His visit today to this province gives us the satisfaction of knowing him personally as well as the opportunity of expressing our true sentiments toward the North American people, to whom we hope to make our humble voice through the channel of our illustrious visitor. "The Filipino people can not fail to thank Providence which has appointed to them the good fortune of being under the protection of the brought some evils; among the beneable and powerful stars and stripes. and the constitution of North America can fail to admire the spirit of petty tyrants have arisen to restrict wisdom and morality which permeate them. Therefore, the Filipino people "It is true that the Philippines bill is not in every way based upon the principles which that constitution preathes, and it is also true that in the government administration there exist certain prejudices which find ao place in so wise a constitution; may have been, it has left in our but those defects are errors which we hope will be rectified in time and befits a people of culture. through the education of the people.

At the reception given at Bacolod, in broad day. But in spite of this ples, like men, in order to be inde-"Hon. William Jennings Bryan, and pendent must necessarily pass in strictly chronological order, through different stages, which they can not traverse by leaps and bounds. Nor do we fail to realize that the liberty, great or small, which may be grant- fore, it is very difficult to frame a ed to a people, must be in direct relation to the state of their culture. "Our ambition is just and within the bounds of reason and logic. We wish independence through evolution because we understand that a people, differing from another in race and in its ethnographical and ethnological justice and equity except by itself;

mire and love, for we would be contemptible did we through the fault Smith, Muncie, Ind.; R. M. Fry, Nye, of some bad representatives, come to Mont.; H. H. Burwell, Washington, hate an entire nation which has been

> "Our illustrious visitor has proof positive of my assertion. The Filipino people, without knowing him personally, receive him with open arms and as to an old and beloved friend open to him their hearts, telling him their troubles.

> "This is the Filipino people, these are their real feelings towards the people of North America.

"We trust that these prejudices may disappear in time, as these two races. destined to live together, continue on the road of mutual sympathy and a better understanding.

"With regard to our present situation, with an administrative standpoint, although we are, relatively better off than formerly, nevertheless there are in the present government many defects which merit censure.

"Against such defects we shall continue to struggle so long as the Philippines shall not possess a legislative body which shall know better than that of today the needs and conditions of this people.

"At present we have no legislative body but the civil commission, composed of three Filipino members, without portfolios, and four American members with them. The latter members, the majority of whom do not know the country in its inside phases, clearly can never dictate laws which are adapted to the circumstances and conditions of the people.

"The Philippine archipelago is very diverse in its ethnographical and ethnological conditions, and, therelaw which is adapted to its general necessities, unless one has an accurate and profound knowledge of the situation and conditions of each and every one of the thirty-some provinces which form the archipelago.

"Another of the greatest defects which we observe in the present government is the inequality and lack of justice in the appointments of governconditions, can never be governed with ment positions, as between Filipinos and Americans, with the exception of the judiciary which is the department

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"To deny that the Filipino people not all those who are here as Amer-

erning race to the detriment of the governed, and the latter will never be happy. Some of the congressmen and senators who were here a short time is by no means as clear as it should be.

"The Filipino people, by virtue of being a tropical race, are very sensitive and with the same impetuosity with which they love and admire a benefactor, they hate and despise a tyrant.

"The American people have brought us in the Philippines many things of great value; they have bestowed upon us many benefits and have granted us many liberties which formerly we did not enjoy; but it is also true that among the good things they have fits there have sprung up "No one familiar with the history brambles certain unjust abuses, and among the many liberties conceded us have grown away from the bad Americans, but in no way from the American people to whom we owe but gratitude and love.

"We love those who love us and despise those who despise us. However defective our past civilization hearts the feeling of dignity which

"Unfortunately, in the Philippines, aspire to independence in the future icans possess the nuble sentiments of would be to deny the light of the sun the American people, whom we ad-

most evenly distributed.

"In the civil commission and in the provincial boards the voice of the Filipino is not in the majority, neither ANNANA Box 234





