

therefore is the voice of the people. It is true that the municipalities appear to operate with the fullest liberty, but this liberty is restricted, because the provincial boards exercise direct control over all their acts, so that municipal autonomy is, as a matter of fact, nominal.

"The most noble and acceptable institution which the American government has established here is that of public instruction. Even the officials in that department are also the best liked and those upon the most friendly terms with the Filipino people, although defects are not entirely absent as is the case with every human creation. Against this department we can say nothing up to the present. God grant that it may continue so for many years, without being affected by the discord of prejudices which the enemies of the country seek to sow.

"With respect to the economic phase, we could be no worse off than we are now, and this can be easily explained. Since the year 1896 in which the revolution against Spain commenced, the Philippines have gone from bad to worse in all their economic conditions, particularly in matter of agriculture which is the sole source of their wealth. Of 56,000,000 acres of land which we have fit for cultivation only 6,000,000 acres are cultivated and 50,000,000 are not cultivated. War, drouth, cholera and rinderpest among our work animals have prostrated us to such an extent that all which the farmer might say of the situation pales before the reality. To these inferior troubles must be added others on the outside, the lack of market for our sugar; Japan, protecting herself from Formosa, raises her custom tariff upon sugar; China, with the boycott, closes her market to us because of our relations with America, and rich America, which should protect us, also closes her doors to us with a Dingley tariff.

"To sum up, the Philippines have no money, they have no production, they have no market. Could there be a harder situation?

"The plantations paralyzed and the laborers without work, thus rises the germ of ladronism. The scarcity of money is such that in order to find a dollar today one needs a search light, and to make matters worse the articles of prime necessity rise in price, making existence almost impossible for the poor workman.

"In the time of the Spanish government there were in circulation some two hundred million of Mexican pesos, today we have hardly thirty million, according to the last report of the secretary of finance, a sum which, when divided among eight million inhabitants, gives 3.75 pesos per capita.

"If to this we add the stoppage of all business through the paralysis of commerce and the industries, it will be seen that with 3.75 pesos for each inhabitant, pauperism, hunger and misery are necessary consequences.

"Here we have the actual state of the Philippines, whose competition the powerful sugar trusts in America still fear. America needs three million tons of sugar for her home consumption; her production amounts to only one million tons, so that she must import two million tons from abroad. The Philippines produce only three millions piculs of sugar, or be it 187,500 tons. Is it possible to dream of competition?

"Our money crisis can only be met by the establishment of agricultural mortgage banks, and if we wish to escape disaster in that enterprise it is necessary that its administration be completely separated from the government, with the exception of the usual powers of inspection, this because it is well known that prosperity in these affairs is based upon mercantile interest, which does not exist in government officials, whose interests are political rather than mercantile. As proof of this statement let us look at what happened with the \$3,000,000

which the national government donated to the insular government to improve the greivous situation of the country. With all our soul we are grateful for so generous a gift, but we greatly regret that the government has not known how to administer it better. The \$3,000,000 have been exhausted, but the situation of the country has not improved in the slightest degree. That was, indeed, a disaster.

"Today questions involving many millions are being discussed and it would be very lamentable if the protection and good wishes of the national government should come to naught through a mistaken or defective administration. Our agricultural crisis is due rather to the terrible mortality of the work animals, which is today extending to all classes of cattle. This is a misfortune from which we have been suffering since the year 1901. Five years of massacre, no stock in the world will stand it.

"To remedy this state of affairs we need machinery which will take the place of the work animals, and we believe that the free entry of every class of machinery for a definite time would be one of the most efficacious means of fomenting and encouraging the many lines of industry which we have to exploit, and, therefore, of raising the country from the state of prostration in which it is found.

"With what has been said, our distinguished guest will be able to form an idea of the situation of this country under its triple aspect, political, administrative and economic and echo across the seas our by no means enviable condition. I have spoken."

YOUNG EQUERRY'S ADROITNESS

Senator Beveridge, in conversation with a group of young disciples, desired to illustrate the quality of adroitness. "By means of adroitness," he said, "a young equerry of the Caliph Calid sprang in one bound to the important post of keeper of the privy purse. The caliph sat on a divan drinking coffee and smoking a narghile, and the courtiers surrounded him. Suddenly, with a queer frown, he said:

"Whom do you regard as the greater man, my father or me?"

"The vizer, the cadri and the white-bearded councillors were silent, puzzled, unable to think of an answer that would not imperil their places, and even their heads.

"But the adroit young equerry stepped easily into the breach.

"What was the question, sire?" he asked.

"Which is the greater man, my father or I?" repeated the caliph.

"Your father, sire," the equerry announced; "for, though you are your father's equal in all other respects, he is your superior in this—he had a greater son than any you have."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

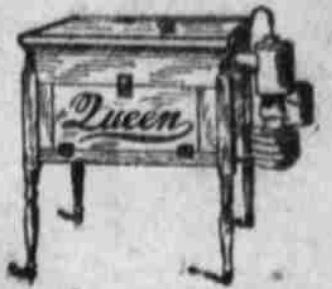
COMPLETE DEFINITION

Mark Twain defines a gentleman as "a man who is just, merciful and kind." This definition is worthy to stand as definite and authoritative without any of the artificial addenda of culture, courtliness, etc. Still there are many men who are neither just, merciful nor kind who resent the imputation that they are not "gentlemen."—San Antonio Express.

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