

The Commoner.

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OUR COMMON HUMANITY

Only for a moment did America stand appalled at the great disaster that has befallen San Francisco. Only a moment, and then it hastened to extend aid to the stricken city, and in the work America has shown again the truth of the saying that "one touch of nature makes the whole world kin." Almost before the telegraph instruments had clicked the first bulletins of the disaster the people began organizing the work of relief, and before the full nature of the calamity was known relief train after relief train was being hurried across the continent with great cargoes of food and clothing for the hungry and the homeless. The purse strings of the rich and poor alike were unloosened, and from every quarter of the country money and food were donated. Confronted by such generosity as this the pessimist must stand silent, and he who constantly insists that the world is growing worse is answered by a million generous acts. Our common humanity is more than a sentiment—it is a fact. The stranger of yesterday is the neighbor of today, brought into close communion with us by ties of commerce and of common interests. Great calamities like the one that fell upon San Francisco—Chicago, Johnstown, Galveston—have their bright side, for they show that the brotherhood of man is nearer realization today than it was yesterday. America is not too busy to mourn with the stricken city by the Golden Gate, not too busy to give all that is necessary, or that money can buy, to aid the unfortunates. And with every contribution goes a wealth of sympathy more precious than money. San Francisco is in a sad plight, but the rest of the country is made better by her misfortune, for it provided another opportunity for the exercise of goodwill and brotherly love that knits men closer together and makes the old world a better place in which to live.

HE CRITICISES THE COURT!

In a special message to congress President Roosevelt keenly criticised Federal Judge Humphrey because of his decision in the beef trust cases at Chicago.

Several years ago we had a national campaign in this country. It was along about 1896. Then the democratic party was arraigned by republican newspapers because it had undertaken to criticise the courts. And now comes a president, elected as a republican, and in a special message to congress, commits the very offense which, a few years ago, drew upon the heads of faithful democrats the most bitter condemnation by republican editors and republican leaders!

"Little by little, but steadily as man's march to the grave" the Chicago platform is being vindicated.



FROM THE HEART AND FROM THE HAND

THE PHILIPPINE PROBLEM

Mr. Bryan's Fifteenth Letter

Having in previous articles discussed the conditions as I found them in the Philippines, let us consider what the United States should do in regard to the Filipinos and their islands.

First, as to the northern group of islands—the islands north of Mindanao. Have the Filipinos a right to self government? Do they desire self government and independence? Have they the capacity for self government?

The first question must be answered in the affirmative if our theory of government is correct. That governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, is either true or false; if true, we can not deny its application to the Filipinos; if false, we must find some other foundation for our own government.

To the second question I am able to answer, yes. My visit to the Philippines has settled this question in my own mind. I have heard people in America affirm that the intelligent Filipinos preferred American sovereignty to self government, but this is unqualifiedly false. Captain J. A. Moss, a member of General Corbin's personal staff, recently made a trip through the provinces of Pampanga, Nueva Ecija and Pangasinan and published a journal of his trip in one of the Manila papers upon his return. He concluded his observations as follows: "The discharged soldiers who are married to native women and who are 'growing up with the country' and are, therefore, in a most excellent position to feel the native pulse, all told me the great majority of the natives have no use for us. Ex-interpreters and other Filipinos with whom I was on

intimate, cordial relations while serving in the provinces, told me the same thing. I have, therefore, from the foregoing, come to the conclusion that the Filipinos may be divided into three classes: (a) The 'precious few,' comprising those who are really friendly towards the Americans and think our government beneficial to the islands. (b) Those who are in some way beneficiaries of the government and entertain for us what may be termed 'expedient friendship.' (c) The great majority, who have absolutely no use for us and to please whom we can not get out of the islands any too soon."

The conclusion drawn by Captain Moss is warranted by the facts and the feeling for independence is stronger in Manila, if possible, than in the provinces. I talked with Filipinos, official and unofficial, and while they differed in the degree of friendliness which they felt toward the United States, all expected ultimate independence. The college students of Manila in the various law schools, medical colleges and engineering schools, numbering in all about a thousand, prepared and presented to me a memorial of more than fifty printed pages. This was prepared by sub-committees and afterwards discussed, adopted and signed by the students. It presented an elaborate review of the economic, industrial and political situation, viewed from the standpoint of these young men. It criticised certain acts of the American government thought to be unjust and set forth arguments in favor of self government and independence—arguments so fundamental and so consistent with American