

**DEATH AND STARVATION**

**The Result of the Republican Policy in the Philippines—President Schurman Makes a Remarkable Speech**

There was an immense meeting at Cooper Institute the other day to consider the suffering in the Philippines, about which the plutocratic dailies have so little to say. On that occasion President Schurman made a remarkable speech, from which The Independent makes the following extracts:

"The new year has opened with peace in the Philippine islands; and as the clouds of war which for four years have hung over that unhappy archipelago roll away, and the blinding passions which war arouses gradually subside, the American people are coming to discern with clear vision and in dry light the real nature of their undertaking in what was once with roseate expectation described as "those gems and glories of the tropic seas." And I think no man will charge me with misrepresentation if I say that the heartrending spectacle on which our latest sun has just risen in Luzon and the Visayas—the universal devastation of a long and ruthless war, the complete obliteration of towns and villages, the transformation of fruitful plains and valleys into desolate wastes and howling wilderness, the vast, uncounted loss of human life, the destruction of nearly all farm animals, the annihilation of capital, the paralysis of agriculture, trade and commerce, the derangement of the currency, the dread specters of poverty, famine, cholera and the pestilence that walketh at noonday, men, women and children—brethren of ours and fellow-Christians, perishing like wanton flies in summer, and the whole nation sick at heart, sullen in temper, unreconciled to American rule and, though disarmed and overmastered by force, yet resolutely determined to achieve national independence, which we still deny them—this, I say, is an accumulation of calamities that must touch our hearts with the profoundest pity and a combination of problems that must awaken in our minds the gravest anxiety and concern, not unmingled, perhaps, with self-reproach or even remorse."

Mr. Schurman finds that the spirit of freedom is indelibly rooted in the breasts of the Filipinos and that the war has welded them into one nation. There are no longer separate and jealous tribes—they are as thoroughly united as were the thirteen American colonies by the war of the revolution.

"We must reckon, he says, "with the spirit and temper of these people as well as make provision for their material welfare. Among freemen, however it be with slaves, their state of mind is a far more vital matter than mere bodily condition. Men will despise comforts and fling away life itself in pursuit of some moral ideal or political end. Now there are two facts which will serve to interpret to us the political sentiments of the Filipinos. First, there is not, I believe, a single man of them who will consent that his country should be permanently a dependency or colony of the United States, which is the policy of our imperialists. This circumstance, which all recent information confirms, I noted in the report of the first Philippine commission, explicitly stating that even those Filipinos who were supporting American sovereignty—the minority, indeed—did so in the expectation that, after an interval of American training and tutelage, the Filipinos should be granted their independence. And, secondly, of that vast majority who were compelled by force to acquiesce in American sovereignty, thousands have died and hundreds of thousands are still ready to die in the cause of Philippine independence. Here is another crucial fact. Our war with the Filipinos has made a nation of them; they are no longer Tagalogs or Visayans or Ilocanos, but one people with a single national consciousness and a single national heart. If the idea of independence was originally the dream of Aguinaldo and the Tagalogs, it is today the hope, the goal and the resolute determination of a nation of 6,500,000 united Filipinos.

"While the American people were divided on the opening phases of the Philippine question, I cannot persuade myself that they will be divided on the final issue which now confronts us—the policy of dealing with the Filipinos as we have dealt with the Cubans and granting them speedy independence.

"What else can we do? There is but one alternative. It is the use of force to keep the Filipinos in subjection. Now, as a temporary expedient, force may be justifiable; but as a permanent policy it is the feeblest and

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most uncertain thing in the world, while of all instruments it is the most odious, the most revolting and the most galling to the spirits on whom it is exercised. By force the Filipinos may be worried and harassed; but force will not mitigate or destroy their unconquerable love of independence. Nor could I possibly be convinced that the American people desire to break the spirit of the Filipinos; for it is the same spirit that has made America."

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