

**GIVE US PUBLICITY**

**If It Is Good Applied to Trusts, Why Not If Applied to the Philippines, Asks**

**Herbert S. Bigelow**

Cincinnati, May 31.—"Suppression of Facts in the Philippines" was the subject of a discourse at the Vine Street Congregational church, by the pastor, Mr. Herbert S. Bigelow. Mr. Bigelow announced for his text:

"Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."  
—John III. 19.

Mr. Bigelow said in part:

If some one made the charge against the treasurer of your city that his accounts were dishonest and that the treasury was being plundered, what would this official do?

If he knew he was innocent he would welcome and demand a thorough investigation, as a protection against false accusations.

But if such an investigation were proposed, and he and his friends resisted it, what would you say? You would say, "That looks suspicious." You would say to him, "You must not complain, if we interpret your action as a virtual confession of guilt."

That is the situation in the Philippines. Charges have been made by reputable citizens, of frightful cruelties in the Philippines. At first these charges were laughed at, and those who made them were ridiculed and abused. But evidence accumulated and an investigation was forced.

This investigation proved, so that no one will dispute it now, that torture has been employed, and that the charges were true, which at first were so stoutly denied.

But this investigation was not strenuously conducted. It was conducted by a senate committee. The administration had a majority on that

and was dismissed from the service. What community would not be outraged if a civil court were to punish murder by so light a sentence? Yet the president seems to have thought five years labor too strenuous punishment for murder when committed by an army officer. For the president commuted that sentence to a slight reduction in rank and a nine months' vacation on half pay.

Another case which puts a strain on our faith in the president's strenuousness in these matters, is that of two native mayors who were whipped to death, in Iloilo. The details of this atrocity are shocking to read, and we need not wonder that those terrible beatings, brought tears to the eyes of some of the soldiers who witnessed them. The officer responsible for these outrages is Robert L. Howze. Has he ever been called to account? Why not take the testimony of the village doctor who dressed the wounds of these unfortunate victims? Instead of asking Howze to explain the matter, or allowing an ex parte court to hush the matter up, why not have a committee of well known citizens to take the testimony of eye witnesses; why not conduct this investigation in daylight, and allow the presence of attorneys to cross examine witnesses? This would be an excellent opportunity for the president to display those strenuous qualities which he so frequently lauds. But we are told that this same Howze is a friend of the president and that the favor of an appointment as major in the Porto Rican regiment. I think something other than shoulder straps should be given the man who is guilty of beating to death helpless prisoners.

Then there is the case of Richter, an American soldier who was given the "water cure" until he died. The officer who commanded the torture which resulted in his death wrote the boy's mother that he died of bronchitis. When the mother sought information at the war department, they told her that her son died of appendicitis. At last she learned the truth, that her son was tortured to death by his own officer and fellow soldiers. A mysterious military trial was conducted in which the officer, for some unknown reason, was acquitted. The mother has made a personal appeal to the president asking that this case be opened and thoroughly investigated. Her petition has been ignored.

But I have not yet spoken of the most astonishing proof of bad faith on the part of our public servants. There are in existence sworn statements of witnesses which Senator Lodge's committee did not "have time" to investigate, which statements give the most explicit testimony concerning the cold-blooded shooting of prisoners at the battle Caloccan. The war department did essay to investigate these charges. The military judge, who was commissioned to begin the investigation by trying a soldier by the name of Putnam, wrote:

"If put on trial, it is probable that acts would develop implicating many others. I doubt the propriety of his trial."

General Otis indorsed this letter and the war department dropped the matter. If there was any honest intention to expose abuses and punish offenders, that letter, confessing that many others were implicated, would have been the best possible reason for pursuing the case. So the war department permitted one rascal to go unpunished for fear that others might be discovered. If too many were discovered the fault would lie, not with individual offenders, but with the managers of the war. But it is probably expecting too much of human nature that the war department should put itself on trial.

As an American citizen you and I have a right to the full text of General Miles' report. We have a right to a copy of the reports of all the courts-martial up to date. My earnest advice is that every friend of liberty write at once to Secretary Root and President Roosevelt, not begging as subjects, but demanding as citizens, that this information be furnished us, and further, that the cases referred to above be reopened and investigated by such men, and under such conditions, that there can be no reason to doubt the good faith of the administration.

For the above facts I have relied on statements of the Springfield Republican, the New York Evening Post, Mr. Moorefield Story of Boston, and Mr. Herbert Welsh of Philadelphia. These statements may be in error. But I should believe them, although every official in Washington denied them, if their denials were not accompanied by a complete publication of all the evidence in the possession of the government. Has not the president urged publicity for the trusts? Will he deny us publicity for the war department?

Karl Marx Edition, July 23, 1903.

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HERBERT S. BIGELOW.

committee. By a strict party vote the committee decided to discontinue the investigation, when there were scores of important witnesses waiting to give their testimony.

By the same party vote this committee voted down a motion to make public the court-martial proceedings in the cases that have already been tried.

In accordance with this same policy of suppression, General Miles' report was kept secret for a long time, and only a part of that report has as yet been vouchsafed to the public.

Why may not the American people know all that General Miles reported concerning the conduct of the war and the condition of the people in those islands?

Why may we not have access to the reports of the trials and investigations that have been made in the Philippines?

Why did the senate committee by a party vote stop before its work was done?

Why may we not have a commission, made up of men who will honestly try and make known, the whole truth? Why may not that commission be sent to the Philippines, and take testimony on the spot where these cruelties occurred?

Do these men love darkness because their deeds are evil? Are they afraid of the truth?

The president has promised us, repeatedly, that a thorough investigation would be made and offenders brought to justice.

With all due respect to the president, I think the facts show that, as yet, his promises have not been redeemed.

Take the case of Lieut. Preston Brown. A court-martial found him guilty of killing an unarmed, unresisting native Filipino, who was a prisoner of war in his charge. He was sentenced to five years' hard labor

**Political Clubs**

Our subscriber and single tax-direct legislationist friend, Dr. Wm. N. Hill of Baltimore, Md., seems to be arousing some interest in his home city in behalf of better government. The following, from the Baltimore American, preceding the recent city election there, is self-explanatory:

The Twentieth Century club had its monthly dinner at the Hotel Lexington last evening. The president, Dr. Wm. N. Hill, made an address explaining the club's connection with the unaffiliated voters' union. He said in part:

"The nucleus of this club was formed of believers in direct legislation who had taken part in the union reform movement, whose candidate for governor I was at the last election. After the adjournment of the last legislature it was found that one of the provisions of the new primary election law required every signer to a petition for independent nominations to make an affidavit to vote for the nominees at the general election. No such requirement was found to be necessary with those who declared their party affiliations, which means that all who called themselves democrats or republicans when registering were morally and legally absolved from any obligation to vote for the nominees of the primaries.

This state of the law was held to be unjust by many union reformers, as it practically prevented independent nominations without greatly added expense and trouble to what was the previous custom. To these independents it appeared, also, that the secrecy of their ballot was taken away by the required oath. A number of meetings were held last summer and fall, at which the speakers roundly denounced the new primary election law. All this culminated in a concerted movement to induce citizens to refrain from stating their party allegiance. Letters were written to the papers, meetings held, and finally the unaffiliated voters' union was organized by Mr. Frank Sheridan. The result of the registration showing nearly 15,000 unaffiliated voters was in a considerable measure due to this agitation, which has in some form or other gone on for twelve months. Its effects are apparent in every ward in the city, and the independent unaffiliated voters holding the balance of power in every political subdivision.

The majority of those who first led the agitation for nonaffiliation have changed their minds, especially within the last two months. It is becoming apparent that the people will really have some power in the coming primaries. Therefore, the duty of those who believe that in the not distant future the people will really rule is plain. They are logically compelled to take part in the primaries or be considered altogether unreasonable."

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