

AROUND THE WORLD.

Concluded from last week.

MANILA, P. I., Dec. 20, 1902.

Recently the palatial steamship "Korea," probably the best, fastest and finest on the Pacific, was nearly grounded in the inland sea of Japan by a misunderstood order. Likewise dangerous attitudes result from mistakes in the administration of the home government and the Philippines partly on account of the remoteness of the wards from the mother power, and partly because congress and the Taft commission are compelled to act in every instance without precedent, forcing their every step into the realm of experiment, requiring them to act with more than ordinary human foresight if an errorless administration is secured. Since history has proven that men and governments are not infallible, faults must be expected, and no one is so foolish as to claim that no mistakes have crept into the Philippine project. Governor Taft is accused of having come to Manila with only eleven hundred pounds of baggage and of returning to the states on a visit with fifteen tons, being conclusive evidence, his accusers affirm, that the spoils system is on the program. His supporters answer that the governor had a perfect right to spend his money for whatever evidences of Philippine wealth he desired in order to show to the American people the riches of their new possessions. The Taft commission is accused of having refused to appoint to lucrative positions certain American soldiers who bared their breasts to Filipino bullets and disease and appointed in their stead American citizens who remained at home during the entire war, drawing salaries. It is further claimed that the men turned down are competent, well qualified to occupy the positions in question on account of their knowledge of the natives, their language, etc., acquired by two or three years of association with them. The other side answers by stating that the soldiers of merit are employed wherever possible, but that positions requiring the official to expose himself in out-of-way places in the islands must be filled by persons who never bore arms, on account of the bitter feeling that exists in many places where fathers, sons and brothers have been shot and in many instances left unburied in the jungles or mountain fastnesses.

About forty miles out from Manila an American soldier told that a Tennessee sharpshooter was sent from an outpost to headquarters with fifteen prisoners. He arrived at headquarters alone and reported that he was sent to report with fifteen prisoners of war. On being asked where his men were, he replied that they all tried to get away and were then strung along the road dead as sardines. The sight of fifteen dead Filipinos along the roadside is not conducive to the creation of love for the soldier, and I have no doubt but that it would be wrong to all concerned to appoint soldiers to certain positions. Several times I inquired whether I was safe and was invariably informed that I was if I had not been a soldier, or if I had been I must not let it be known.

At Calumpit, a city of 14,000 Filipinos, I went everywhere, being accompanied by only three Americans and one native, the Rev. Nicholas Zamora who is regarded as the Demosthenes or Patrick Henry of the Archipelago. As a preacher he is a cyclone. He is pastor of the largest church in Manila and is in the employ of the missionary society, his half-tone having recently appeared in American papers.

The report having reached Manila that a native preacher and leading members of his flock were in jail at Calumpit, forty-six miles out, we decided to investigate the matter in order to see that justice might be administered if the persons were guilty of some offense and their freedom secured if guiltless. On our arrival, we learned that a Spaniard, having observed that the religion apparently imported from America was gaining ground by leaps and bounds, and thinking that something ought to be done at once to check its progress, laid in wait for an excuse to strike it a blow. Accordingly he attended a meeting and noticing that a collection was taken, then went out and took oath that a meeting was being held and money was being raised to assist the insurgents, and that the meeting was held to defy the United States government. Nine of the leading ones were summoned to appear before a Spanish justice of the peace, who it seems, with the other Spaniards in the islands, would be glad to have them raise money for the ladrones. The presidente, a Spaniard, committed them to jail. They had been in jail four days when we reached them and they received us as gladly behind the bars as if we were angels of mercy. Pass-

ing into the jail, I noticed a Filipino guard lying within the door, his rifle by his side and a well filled belt of cartridges about his waist. I shall not forget the hearty hand shake and the smiles of gratitude that were in evidence as we four filed into the hall of prosecution. It is said the Filipino is absolutely devoid of the sense of gratitude. I want to set my testimony against the utter falsity of that accusation. If I ever saw an evidence of gratitude anywhere, it was manifested within that Calumpit jail. I have traveled almost ten thousand miles on this journey and would willingly double the distance, if need be, through sunshine and storm, surrounded by dangers, for an experience that would do me an equal amount of good. Heroism for gospel truth and fidelity to God are not dead. When America presents to the Filipino the gospel instead of the bullet, evidences of gratitude will be abundant and no two-by-four scantling newspaper correspondent will then need to apologize for the Filipino's lack of gratitude for what Uncle Sam has done for the Archipelago. Questioning these prisoners as to how they were treated, they replied through our interpreter: "We are not permitted to hold any kind of service. Cannot sing a song. Our food comes from the door of heaven, our friends who are Christians bring us our meals from their homes." The rear of the jail was left open so they could escape, as the Spanish authorities saw they had no case and evidently desired to have them break jail, as they might term it, and then bring a genuine case against them. But the Christians were not to be fooled in that manner. The guard went to sleep as another inducement, but that ruse failed. The Spanish presidente saw that our presence meant business, and knowing that there were no grounds for a case whatever, tried to clear himself by turning it over to the Court of First Instance, presided over by an American judge, who was only too anxious to free the persecuted ones. But this does not end the matter. The American officials say that the Spanish trickery will cost that official his place and stand as a warning to other Spaniards who occupy similar positions. A religious controversy is on now but I shall not entangle myself with it, although it was thoroughly explained to me by Governor Taft during my first interview with him at the Palace. If Governor Taft were as popular in America as he appears to be in Manila he would get almost anything he might be pleased to ask for.

I am, indeed, sorry that the Philippine question has political significance in the states, but since no political party is a unit in its attitude toward the solution of this tremendous elephant, I set forth the facts as I find them without a grain of coloring to correspond with any preconceived ideas, being willing to let the truth apply itself as it may.

At Nagasaki I conversed with several soldiers aboard the transport "Thomas" on their way from Manila to San Francisco. Every soldier with whom I talked said: "Better not go to Manila. The constabulary are all going over to the insurgents with their rifles and ammunition. The authorities at Manila, fearing an uprising at any moment, are throwing up barricades and digging entrenchments about Manila in order to protect the city." From Shanghai to Hong Kong Lieutenant Wigmore, serving on the staff of Gen. Davis, and I occupied the same cabin. On relating the statements of the soldiers to him, he requested that I say nothing about it to Mrs. Davis and daughters who were also on the same steamship with us as it would cause them considerable uneasiness. Gen. Davis having his headquarters in Manila at the time. Such conditions were not attractive to one contemplating a visit to the Philippine metropolis, but sufficient courage was mustered on my arrival at Hong Kong to cause me to buy a round trip ticket. Having a fast vessel, a voyage of a day and a half brought us in sight of Luzon's northwestern point, a half day's sail from Manila. With a good glass we could see smoke rising as if a great battle might be in progress but, as we neared the shore an hour later, it was evident that the natives were busy burning trash preparatory to planting rice. At one o'clock p. m. we passed Corregedos island and in less than two hours Cavite and Manila were reached. United States men-of-war and craft from the world's ports were everywhere, but no sound of musketry or the whoop of warriors bold was heard. We landed, passed the usual custom house examination, and arrived at our hotel without being killed or even booled. Colonels, majors, captains, lieutenants and business men galore

(Continued on last page.)

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