

The Herald.

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By T. J. O'KEEFE.

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AROUND THE WORLD.

(Continued from last week.)

Governor Taft said that the Filipino's ability to evade the truth was his most marked characteristic. I was impressed that Eneilo Aguinaldo was uneasy, real uneasy about something. He is pleased that the army officials did not head him, but gave him his liberty. From what I have gathered, his apparent uneasiness arises from the advertising given him by Mrs. Gougar, who suggested his name for the presidency of the real Filipino republic yet to be established. He has no ambition in that direction but is anxious about his proposed mammoth banking project, application for which has gone to the war department. His son is attending an English school in Manila, the teacher being an American lady on the pay roll of the Insular government. On being told that the teacher had remarked that that his son was very bright and did everything in a military way, possessing a military bearing, Mr. Aguinaldo was quite pleased and was so glad to hear it that he requested the interpreter to repeat the statement, which he did, causing smiles of gladness to chase each other over his countenance. I was glad to note this evidence of appreciation on the part of a father. If appearances are to be relied upon, Aguinaldo is no more than twenty-four years of age. But considering his history I would not be surprised to learn that he has passed the thirty-fourth summer. In height he is above the average Filipino, though he lacks inches of reaching my shoulders, a measurement taken as I bade him good bye in the vestibule.

I was fortunate in being in Manila at a time when all the provincial governors were in the city. After meeting them at the Taft reception, together with the cardinal sent from Rome by the Pope to adjust the friars' claims, I also saw them as the artillery, cavalry and infantry marched in review around the luneta in honor of the governors' visit. As the majority of the governors are Filipinos and one battalion of the army marching in review was composed of Filipinos wearing American uniforms and carrying American guns under the American flag, it is needless to state that the applause was terrific when that battalion marched by with perfect steps, each soldier as proud as if he were king of the universe. I questioned their former commander in regard to their loyalty. He replied that no American soldier was more loyal than they. I saw some of Dewey's compliments in Manila, holes made by his well trained cannon.

One of the interesting places to visit in Manila is the "bone-yard," so called because there the bones or undecayed bodies of the dead are thrown when the rent for any reason is not paid at the mortuary. I walked through this hideous place amid putrescent skulls and bones and was very glad when the task was over.

Harbor improvements to cost \$3,000,000 are now in progress. When completed the largest ships can discharge their cargo without the bothersome and expensive transshipment now a necessity.

Through interviews with American school teachers, I learn that the native children are quick in mastering the English language. One teacher asserts that a class of girls aged 12, beginning last June have translated an English book of 125 pages into Tagalog. He also says that they are obedient, having had less trouble in controlling 400 Tagalos than he experienced in managing twenty Americans. This teacher has a dictionary of 7000 Tagalog words ready for the printer. The natives provide the school buildings and pay the native teachers while the Insular government pays the American teachers and provides American text books gratis. Through Dr. F. W. Atkinson, superintendent of the department of education, I learn that while much has been accomplished, the work is not yet thoroughly organized according to his ideal. Several Filipinos are now in America as students and many more are arranging to enter the states for study. So great is the desire to attend American schools that provinces and towns are planning to pay the expenses of students in America who manifest extraordinary genius.

Some Americans thrive here

physically while many others not so easily acclimated became little more than walking skeletons and are forced to sail for China or Japan on periodical vacations. Occasionally this tropical climate sends its victim on that longest of vacations without the convenience of a return ticket.

I shall not venture to draw my bow in a political discussion of the Philippine question but simply submit my observations though very much abbreviated, and shall consider my debt to the archipelago not vain if perchance I have succeeded in helping any one in his understanding of the Philippine situation by the introduction of even one diminutive ray of light.

CANTON, CHINA, Dec. 27, 1902.

After spending ten days on my tour to the Philippines, I returned to Hong Kong by the British steamer "Yuen Sang." The trip was very rough as we were forced to face a heavy north-west monsoon the entire distance of 630 miles.

An item of unusual interest now occupies the public mind on this side of the Pacific. The crew of the battleship "Glory," the flagship of the British Asiatic squadron, boasted that it possessed the banner rowing team of the world, having won every race with the navies of the Mediterranean sea, the Indian and Pacific oceans. When she came plowing into the Hong Kong harbor, her officers spied the battleship "Kentucky," the American flagship of the Asiatic squadron, commanded by "fighting Bob" Evans. Not having contested with American muscle the world's honors were in the balance until the stars and stripes should be left trailing in the rear. Consequently a challenge was immediately dispatched by a special detail to the "Kentucky" to determine whether our "Bob" thought it worth while to contest for the championship. It was duly accepted in a business like way without any boasting or apparent manifestation that success was even expected, whereupon the British bragged that they not only expected to win easily but also had big money to stake on the race and desired to know whether the Americans wished to cover it. After a short consultation report was made that the "Kentucky" was ready to cover \$25,000. This fairly astonished the Britons who were unprepared for such an immense proposition. A smaller amount was agreed upon and the time for the contest was set. The boats were to have four men each and the race to begin four miles out from Hong Kong and end at the battleship "Glory" in the Hong Kong harbor where all the city could witness the American defeat and the British triumph. Newspaper reporters were present to chronicle the event. Everybody was present that could get leave of absence. The race began. The Americans used the long slow stroke, twenty-two to the minute while the British quartet employed the short rapid stroke, thirty-two to the minute. American muscle and training had not been in vain, for before the harbor was reached the most splendid flag on earth was far in the lead and the faces of the British spectators began to lengthen like the shadow of the maple as the sun speeds down its course toward its western couch. Soon the "Kentucky" braves were sufficiently in advance to safely draw in their oars, rise in their places, doff their caps and, waving them at arm's length, give three shouts for the land of the free and the home of the brave. This was done three times before the goal was reached, and the boys did not stop there, but rowed around under the bow of the British flagship, turned on the backward course, crossed under the stern, and again passed the goal ahead of the boasted British team, who had been victors on the Mediterranean, the Indian and Pacific oceans heretofore, but now were vanquished completely by American athletes such as are proud to offer their services to their country and secure the enviable opportunity of riding the ocean under the waving stars and stripes. Not one word was printed in the English newspapers of Hong Kong regarding this all absorbing event while columns were devoted to insignificant games of golf and cricket, which were witnessed by a handful of people. The defeat was so overwhelming that the typos either refused to set it up or the editors were ashamed to chronicle their loss of money and boasted position. I was informed that the Americans won more than \$10,000 on the event, which I think is to be deplored. Betting is neither more nor less than gambling, and is stigmatized by every nation of importance in that no action can be brought in court to collect a wager.

Invited by Chaplain Hall, I visited the mammoth battleship of the British,

and was simply amazed as I was shown her man killing devices and equipment, such as guns thirty-four feet in length, mechanism for loading and firing, ranging appliances, electric and hydraulic apparatus, twelve-inch steel armor, powerful search lights, and rigging for protection against torpedoes. I was informed that this battleship holds the championship of the British navy for marksmanship, the target having been struck nineteen times in twenty-five shots with the twelve-inch thirty-four foot guns at long range. Since our superiority in certain particulars is admitted, I assure you that there will be something "doing" if these monsters of the British and American navies ever lock horns, and it is hoped that they will never have occasion to test each other on the high seas in real earnest.

E. C. HORN.

THE GIRLS OF KASHMIR.

Why They Are Not as Beautiful as They Once Were.

The girls of Kashmir in former times were sold and carried away to the Punjab, in India. They commanded a large price, and parents in moderate circumstances for centuries past have been in the habit of parting with their daughters to place themselves in easier circumstances, and the daughters have generally been quite willing to escape from a life of penury and labor to one of opulence and ease.

A laboring man in this part of India cannot earn over \$2 or \$3 a month, while many receive for their daughters as high as \$1,000. There are some cases where \$5,000 was paid, but the usual price has been from \$100 to \$500.

The practice became so common as well as so damaging that a severe law was enacted prohibiting any one from removing any woman from the country, but it is said that the business goes on now as it has done for hundreds of years, and to that practice may be charged the fact that the women of Kashmir are not as beautiful as they once were.

The process of taking all the beautiful girls away, leaving only the ordinary and ugly ones to continue the race, has lowered the standard of beauty. Most of the women and girls perform field labor as much as the men, and their dress is of the coarsest and plainest materials, consisting of a garment like a nightgown made of white cotton. There is no effort to have it fit.

The condition of women in Kashmir is a very sad one, but one from which there does not seem to be any present escape. It is a constant struggle to live, without the least hope of any accumulation or of ever seeing better days.

The men only receive about 5 cents a day and the women generally about 3 cents, and that will provide only the coarsest food.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

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