

Social Conditions in Manila.

Two years ago the Atlanta Constitution published from its special representative in the Philippine Islands a number of letters showing that disgraceful conditions figured prominently in the "benevolent assimilation" of the Filipinos. The statements made by the Constitution's correspondent were bitterly criticised by republican newspapers, but just now it is the Constitution's time to laugh, if, indeed, anything connected with the conditions in the Philippines may be said to be properly productive of mirth.

T. Thomas Fortune, a negro lawyer who was recently sent to the Philippines in the role of special commissioner, has written to the New York Evening Post an interesting article in which he touches upon social conditions in Manila. Mr. Fortune says:

"There are relatively few American white women in the Philippine islands. Those who are there have to go away once every two years to renew their life. The climate eats them up. Where white women cannot live permanently, white men will not.

"This pregnant fact is the parent of many evils in the social life of the Philippine islands, which are so glaring that they cannot escape the notice of the most casual observer. Marriages between white American men and Filipino women are regarded with as much horror as marriages between blacks and whites in Tennessee. A white chief of bureau who married a Filipino woman was shunned by his associates and hounded by his superiors so that he was glad to find seclusion in a common clerkship in another department; but, being a competent man, he gradually recovered his official position, but not his social position. Just before I left Manila, in May last, the local press was full of the story of a Filipino woman who was deserted by her American husband. The story was as follows: A Filipino woman in one of the provinces married an American. They lived together for some time. One day the American told his wife he was compelled to go to India on business. After his departure his wife became suspicious and followed him to Manila. She discovered that he had taken passage on an army transport, then lying in the harbor, bound for the states. She appealed to the civil authorities to prevent her husband from deserting her, as the Manila newspapers phrase it, but she was told that they had no authority. She then appealed to the military authorities, according to the local newspapers, and got a like answer. The poor woman, deserted and heart-broken, was standing on the shore as the transport swept out of the glorious bay.

"But this sort of agony is avoided in the main by not marrying and giving in marriage. I was seated in the third-story room of a house in the Tondo district of Manila one afternoon in April last. The weather was warm and sticky. All the windows and doors in sight were wide open. Across the way there was a row of two-story tenement houses, eleven in number. My friend suddenly said: 'There is a condition for you. Those eleven houses are occupied by eleven American men and eleven Filipino women. The house on the extreme left is occupied by a colored American, who is married to the Filipino

woman. The other ten houses are occupied by ten white Americans, who are not married to the Filipino women. You will find that all of these men occupy subordinate positions in the civil government. They are never seen outside the house with these women, and they leave them when they tire of them. The condition is a common one here and in the provinces, and it is much to be regretted.' And as I rambled about Manila, as I did all the time that I was not in the provinces, I found that the statement made by my friend was substantially correct."

It is fortunate for Mr. Fortune that he is not attached to the regular army, else he might be court-martialed and dismissed in disgrace. But as it is, the Constitution says that "Fortune has written only what everybody knows to be true, but as truth of this kind is not popular with President Roosevelt and his party, he is not likely now to find thrust upon him many invitations to stretch his legs under the White house mahogany."

Manitowoc (Wis.) Pilot: Postmaster General Payne, that notorious Wisconsin politician, is to give up his position and come back home. From the day he entered the cabinet the postal trouble began and after being unable to even partially explain himself out of his mix-up in Delaware it will be considered best for him to retire on account of his health. That is a way



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we have in Wisconsin whenever a student gets "fired" from the university—he leaves on account of his health. The president, it is stated,

is willing to accept the resignation and said that he believed he made a mistake in selecting Mr. Payne. We think so.