

MORE ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES

Racial, Commercial, Political and Social Conditions of the Inhabitants of Those Islands.

The Philippine group were discovered by an expedition under Magellan in 1521, the islands, on the occasion of a later expedition under Villaboa, were named Philippine in honor of the then Prince of Asturias, afterwards Philip II. Manila was founded in 1571, and since that date has been held by the Spaniards, except for a brief interval between 1762 and 1764, when it was occupied by the British.

Situation, Topography.

The islands of the Philippine archipelago are described by Sir John Bowring as "innumerable." Other authorities variously estimate them at from 400 to 1,200 in number. The eleven most important, embracing some 95 per cent of the total area (computed at 114,350 square miles), and the great mass of the population are Luzon, Mindanao, Negros, Panay, Mindoro, Cebu, Samar, Leyte, Palawan, Bohol and Masbate. Lying between Borneo and Formosa, the archipelago extends some 300 leagues from north to south, and 183 from east to west, and covers 14 1/2 degrees of latitude and 9 degrees of longitude. Luzon and Mindanao together exceed all the other islands combined. Manila, the capital, situated on the west coast of Luzon is in latitude 14 degrees 36 minutes north and longitude 120 degrees 57 minutes east. Its position, "as a central point between Japan, China, Annam, the English and Dutch ports of the Malay archipelago and Australia," is, observes Jagor, "extremely favorable to the development of a world-wide trade." Some 7,000 miles distant from San Francisco, it is but 650 miles from Hongkong, while from the northern extremity of Luzon to the south cap of Formosa is little more than 200 miles.

The Town of Manila.

The site of Manila was selected chiefly on account of its fine harbor or bay, circular in form, and "capable of holding all the navies of the world." Into this gulf flows the river Pasig, which, with a breadth of about 350 feet, flows through the city, dividing it into Manila proper or old Manila, and new Manila or Binondo. The former, occupying the left or southern bank of the river, is the fortress or citadel. It contains, besides the principal fortifications, the palace and the cathedral, and is surrounded by old walls, bastioned and moated, and dating back in part to the sixteenth century. These walls have been crumbled by earthquakes, and could easily be breached by modern artillery. Jagor describes the old town as "a hot, dried-up place, full of monasteries, convents, barracks and government buildings." "It still preserves," says a later writer, "all the austere appearance of a city of the reign of Philip II." Upon the walls, however, and beneath them, have been arranged pleasant promenades, where the aristocracy stroll and drive and ride in the cool of the evening. The district of Binondo, on the right bank of the river, is the place of business, the real commercial capital; and here are the shops and warehouses and the movement of modern life. Here, also, and in the pleasant suburban villages or pueblos behind the city, live the foreigners and the wealthier class. Behind the city stretches a flat region rich in tropical vegetation, through which flows for some twenty miles the river Pasig which forms the outlet of a great fresh-water lake called the Laguna; the country around being known as the Laguna province. Beyond this region the land rises towards the irregular mountain chain or sierra which runs parallel with the east coast, and which, abounding in grand and picturesque scenery, is the home of the wilder native tribes. From this range ascends Mayon, an active volcano of conical form, about eight thousand feet in elevation, a conspicuous landmark from the sea. This height, with that of Banajao (6,590 feet), and San Cristobal (7,375 feet), are but little exceeded by Hala-bon in Mindoro (8,863 feet). Next in population to Manila is the town of Cavite, at the southern point of the bay, eight miles distant, where were the Spanish naval and quarantine station and arsenal, and the defenses so cleverly turned by Admiral Dewey in the dawn of that eventful first of May. Other ports in the Philippines which have been opened to general trade are Sual in Luzon, Iloilo in the island of Panay, and Zamboanga in Mindanao. Sual has probably the best harbor, but Iloilo is the more important point, its province being the most advanced after that of Manila. The pina fabrics made here are the most esteemed. Capiz, also in Panay, is another considerable town. Tacloban, the chief town of the island of Leyte, has an excellent harbor and is the emporium of trade between Manila and the islands of Leyte and Samar. Another trade station is Cebu, the principal town of the island of Sulu. From Manila to Iloilo it is 26 hours by steam and 18 hours further to Cebu. Other points in provinces or districts of Albay, Buayan, North and South Camarines, Batangas, Pagsanjan, and in the Cagayan Valley (rich in tobacco) might readily be developed into important centers by a growing commerce.

The Government—The Church.
The head of the government of the Philippines is a Governor or Captain General, a dignitary with half a page of

titles, appointed from Madrid, the incumbent frequently changed with the changes of ministry. These changes have been most prejudicial to the interests of the islands; some of the Governors have been provisional only, and the uncertainty of their tenure has very materially impaired their efficiency. Each province has a local governor of its own; each pueblo a gobernadorcillo, or captain, a species of alcalde who is commonly a mestizo or native Indian. The Governor General commands the army, but the fleet remains subject to the Ministry of Marine at Madrid, and is under the orders of the commandant of the station. The church is governed by a Metropolitan Archbishop at Manila, with bishops for the most populous provinces. The local ecclesiastical authority is mostly in the hands of the religious corporations of Augustine, Dominican and Franciscan monks and friars, whose members are legion. Some of the fraternities and of the individual monks have become most opulent; their landed possessions immense, their revenues enormous, the monasteries and convents almost palatial, their equipages even costly and elaborate. That they have been the chief civilizers of the Indians, that they have repeatedly intervened with good offices between the natives and their civil oppressors, is undeniable. At the same time the records of the church in the Philippines abound with evidences of hostile and protracted controversies with the authorities of the state, and of bitter contentions between the orders themselves.

The Climate.

There are two seasons at Manila, the wet and the dry, or the seasons of the southwest and northeast monsoons. Broadly speaking, the wet, or rainy season, ushered in by the southwest monsoon, is from June to November; the dry season, when the northeast monsoon prevails, is from November to June.

In the wet season the country is inundated, the roads become impassable, and bridges disappear. The annual rainfall at Manila is variously reported at from 75 to 91 inches. The hottest months are April and May; the driest, the months of January and February, are then long continued, and accidents from fires are to be guarded against; it is then that the mosquitoes

October 30, 1875, killed 250 persons and destroyed 3,800 houses. One of 1882 is also memorable; and that of September 23, 1890, demolished the seawall that protected the inner harbor. The hurricanes at these times often sweep away crops and destroy plantations. The roadstead, with a violent southwest wind is unsafe, and sailing vessels take refuge in the port of Cavite.

Earthquakes.

Of the earthquakes Sir John Bowring writes that "the destructive ravages and changes produced by them are nowhere more remarkable than in the Philippines." * * * They have produced great changes in the geography of the islands. * * * They have overturned mountains, filled up valleys, desolated extensive plains, and opened passages from the sea into the interior and from the lakes into the sea. He mentions as especially "calamitous" the earthquakes of 1796, 1824 and 1825. In the more recent instance of June, 1863, the old town of Manila was rendered a mass of ruins, and many persons were buried alive. Four hundred are reported to have been killed and two thousand injured, and the loss of property is estimated at eight million dollars. This earthquake was also very destructive at Cavite. The many volcanoes, some of which have been named showing as they do, signs of constant activity in the throwing up of clouds of smoke with frequent flame, are a perpetual menace. Subject to such vicissitudes and portents, the climate of Manila is, for the tropics, a not unhealthy one. It may be noted on the east coasts of the islands the order of the seasons, as above given, is reversed.

Products.

The Philippines possess a very fertile soil, though their capacities have been but imperfectly developed. In many localities the soil must be quite or nearly virgin. Where cultivated the products are sugar, hemp, tobacco, rice, coffee, cacao, guano, arrowroot, indigo, cotton, hides, peppers, cochineal, gutta serena, sesame betel root, arecanut, coconut, cocconut oil, pinaacloth, tortoise shell, birds' nests and trepan; also bamboo and rattans, with logwood, ebony and other hardwood timber. The material known as "Manila hemp" is not produced from the plant of hemp with which we are familiar (*Cannabis sativa*), but from the fiber of a species of banana (*Musa textilis*). The rice of the islands is the staple food of the natives. The cultivation of sugar is jeopardized by the terrible plague of locusts, to which this crop is subject; these insects arrive in "swarms of millions." The manufacture of cigars, etc., was for a long period the monopoly of the government, and extensive cigar factories were established in Manila and Cavite, but the monopoly induced a universal contraband traffic, and was discontinued in 1882. The entire trade of the islands with other countries in the year 1894 (the last

extraction has not been extensively prosecuted. Mines exist of lead, copper, iron and sulphur. The island of Cebu contains considerable beds of coal, which, though not of the first quality, is preferable to that of Australia.

Population.

The population of all the Islands is probably between seven and eight millions, but the estimates are necessarily somewhat conjectural in view of the difficulty in computing the inhabitants of the remoter localities. Of this total not over 10,000 are Spaniards. In a few days hence the American population will number 25,000 men. The population of Manila in 1896 is stated by Wakefield at 220,000, including 16,600 "pure Celestials," 48,000 "Chinese mestizos" (offspring of a Chinese father and an Indian mother), 4,300 "pure Spaniards" and about the same number of Spanish mestizos—of whom he says "not more than 250 settlers are of European origin apart from Spaniards, and the remaining 147,000 or thereabouts, are all natives of the Philippines." Of Cavite (Old and New Cavite) the population is said to be upwards of 60,000; of Iloilo some 30,000; of Cebu, 40,000. Of the constituents of the population in general, the Chinese and Chinese mestizos are the most valuable. The Chinese, many of whom have acquired wealth, are the retail snookkeepers, and the greater part of the local trade is in their hands. Their arrival in the islands is said to have anticipated even the coming of Magellan. The mestizos "furnish the educated and professional class," hold most of the minor offices and with Indians compose the army. The Indian of Manila is an indolent creature, given up to gambling and cock fighting. The Spaniards taught him gambling as we taught our Indians the taste of whisky. Of the forms of gambling, cock-fighting is the most popular—is, indeed, almost universal throughout the islands. The Philippine Indian, it is said, is as much attached to his gallo "as is a Bedouin Arab to his horse." An early Spanish writer characterizes the Indians as "perpetual idlers, who go from cockpit to cockpit, those universities of every vice." Investing in lottery tickets sold on the streets is also much favored, and the government adds materially to its revenues by taking advantage of these practices in exacting license fees for the maintenance of places of gaming.

The Insurrection of 1896.

The characteristics and present attitude of the Indians of the Philippines are illustrated by the insurrection which was initiated in August, 1896, and has since continued. There had been previous similar risings, notably one in 1872, but none where the insurgents were so numerous or formidable. The moving causes of this outbreak are to be found in the oppressive taxes, excises, license fees, and other burdens

great power in the hands of unscrupulous officials, who used it corruptly against the more prosperous for the purpose of extorting money. These grievances became so general that a secret Revolutionary Society or League was formed, which by August, 1896, rose to the proportions of an army of 50,000 men, Cavite being the center of the revolt. The original rebels were jagabonds and escaped criminals. In the course of their conflicts with the forces of the government, which was instructed from Madrid to show no mercy, a spirit of atrocious inhumanity was developed on both sides, and a savage destruction of life ensued. The killing of prisoners captured or surrendered, smothering of captives in dungeons, burning alive, mutilation and disemboweling were practiced by both, without any regard to the usages of civilized warfare. The Spaniards, to extort confessions, resorted to the thumbcrew and revived the tortures of the Inquisition. Their proceedings were claimed to be justified by the plea of retaliation, but no law or exigency could justify retaliation pushed to a point so malignant and brutal. And its fatal impulsion is shown by the fact that the insurrection has not been suppressed, but is suspended only.

GOOD DONE BY WESLEY.

He Gave Both His Heart and His Money to His Work.
Wesley, during his life, gave to the poor \$200,000, although always on a meager salary, says the Boston Transcript. Wesley started in England an organization similar to the associated charities of today, and also inaugurated an enterprise for loaning poor people small sums of money, whereby they could be tied over business difficulties, and there is on record a case where he loaned a cobbler \$20 to enlarge his business, and he lived to see the cobbler doing a business of \$150,000 a year. He believed the scheme a good one for helping not only financially, but in helping manhood. A picture of Wesley might be made as a student leaving Lincoln college with a basket of provisions in one hand and a Bible in the other. Wesley was the first to start medical dispensaries in England and, in a letter to Wilberforce, implored him to do all he could to stop slavery in the British empire, while, on the other hand, Whitfield was a slaveholder, just before his death, bequeathed his slaves to Lady Huntingdon.

Making Money.

"In war time," said a man of mature years, "there are always unusual chances that are taken advantage of by men of foresight to make money. This reminds me of what Josh Billings said, that 'if our foresight was as good as our hindsight we'd all be rich,' or words to that effect. At the outbreak of the civil war in this country there were long-headed men who stored away manufactured cotton goods, bleached and unbleached cottons, sheetings, and so on. As the war went on, what with the curtailment of production, the price of cotton soared skyward and manufactured cotton goods increased in value correspondingly. Most men peddled out their holdings as the price rose, but some held on and got for their goods six or eight or ten times what they had paid for them. There has been no such money as that made in this war yet, and I don't suppose there's likely to be, but it would be easy to pick out things that have risen in value and that a man might easily have made a fortune on if he'd known what was going to happen. Suppose he'd have bought all the bunting there was, for instance, or taken a fall out of sulphur, or put away a few hundred cases of Spanish olives. He'd have found money in all these things, and in various others. But then a man can find money in time of peace, too, if he knows how to look."

Coughs.

Every person who coughs should not alarm himself with the idea that he is in a bad way. Experience has convinced us of a fact that there are two distinct kinds of coughs—one proceeding from an affection of the lungs and air-tubes, as in a cold, the other proceeding from effervescence in the stomach. The lungs cough is a symptom which all know to require attention, lest serious consequences ensue. The stomach cough is a much more simple matter, and may easily be got quit of. It is caused by the food and drink which are put into the stomach effervescing, and producing an irritation. A knowledge of this fact ought to lead persons so affected to ponder a little on the nature of their ailments and the tone of their digestive powers.

Napoleon's Table Manners.

It is said that the table manners of Napoleon Bonaparte were very bad, and that he was so fast an eater that he had invariably finished his dinner before those who dined with him had got half through. In fact, those who had the honor of dining with the emperor were wont to remain after his majesty's departure. Upon one occasion Eugene de Beauharnais, the stepson of Napoleon, rose from the table immediately after the emperor. "But you haven't had time to finish your dinner," said Napoleon. "Parlez-moi, sire," said the prince. "I have profited by experience; I dined before I came."

An Interesting Japanese Custom.

At the birth of a Japanese baby a tree is planted, which must remain untouched until the marriage day of the child. When the nuptial hour arrives, the tree is cut down, and a skillful cabinetmaker transforms the wood into furniture, which is considered by the young couple as the most beautiful of all ornaments of the house.

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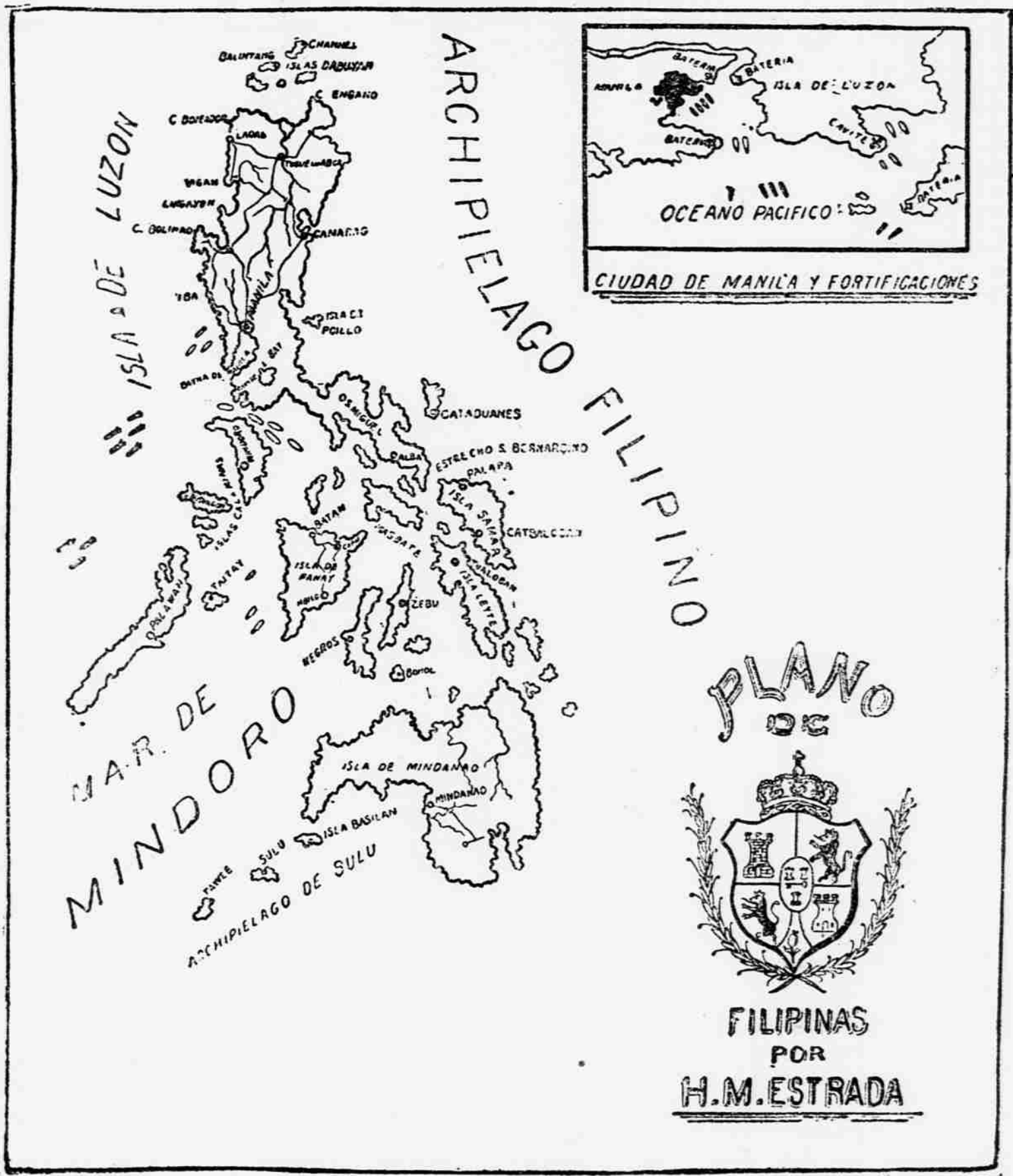
Bentley & Olmsted, wholesale boot and shoe dealers of Des Moines, recently received a request from the United States army officials at Chicago for 50,000 pairs of shoes. The same firm recently furnished 5,000 pairs of shoes to the army, and they were so satisfactory that the request was made for a bid on the larger order, which is in all probability the largest order ever bid on by an Iowa firm.

A cynic doesn't want other people to be happy, because they know he is a failure.

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If men had the gift of second sight, there would be fewer cases of love at first sight.



MAP OF PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.
(Drawn by a Spanish Artist Now at Manila in the Service of the United States.)

and white ants are most troublesome. The coolest months are December and February, when the freshness is grateful at night. The average temperature of the year is about 80 degrees. The periods of the changes of the monsoons, in May to June, and in September to October, are marked by the heaviest blows and thunderstorms. Cyclones, typhoons and hurricanes then visit the coast. A typhoon on September 27, 1865, drove some twenty vessels ashore, and did great damage in the city. A typhoon or hurricane on

fully reported) was valued at the following totals: Exports, \$33,149,984; imports, \$28,529,777. The revenues of the Spanish government from the islands in 1895 were estimated at some thirteen and a half millions; the expenditures at but little less. Besides, the products above specified, the yield is abundant of fruits, grown spontaneously—such as the orange, banana, mango, pineapple, roseapple, mangosteen, guava, tamarind and chico. Of minerals, gold has been found in small quantities in divers localities, but its

imposed by the government and enforced by extortionate officials, among which, besides the grievous and unreasonable pecuniary mulcts, was the corvée of forty days' labor for public purposes which every man was compelled annually to furnish. The grievance of the taxes was aggravated by the usurious loans to which the natives were compelled to submit to raise money, and especially by the confiscations of property which were resorted to where the dues claimed were not satisfied. The authority to confiscate placed a



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