

THE REAL ENEMY IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Hordes of naked semi-savages, brave, cunning, half-armed and undisciplined, under cover of jungle, and never fighting in the open, whose numbers have never been counted, are not the real enemy which it is to be costly in life and treasure to conquer in the Philippines. The sacrifices which war is certain to demand, if it is to be prosecuted for any length of time, in killing what are now flippantly called "rebels" by the oscillating genius which presides over the daily destinies of The Brooklyn Eagle, for instance, are sure to be large enough to satisfy in moderation the ravings and cravings of even the most advanced of our Christian statesmen. But the cost in American lives promises to be far greater from the ravages of those well-known diseases of the tropics from which the fighting heroes under Shafter at Santiago, escaped by the skin of their teeth. Other and nameless forms of disease, deadly in a double sense, will contribute, with assured certainty if the war is prolonged for the subjugation of the natives, which will multiply sufferings and slaughter to an incalculable degree. It is not Filipinos whom our gallant armies are to fight or fear in a conflict of arms. It would seem, even if this were otherwise, that the methods of modern warfare are impracticable in these islands in the absence of roadways upon which modern armies can move; and the jungle is everywhere, into which the natives can hide, and from which, with the cunning in a savage warfare is peculiarly their own, they can, as they surely will, inflict continuous losses upon our troops.

The \$20,000,000 which our government stipulated to pay for the purchase of the Philippine rebellion against Spanish rule is not worth mentioning as a burden to our people compared to what is sure to come in countless more millions in suppressing it, and should not be mentioned at all in comparison with the certain loss of life and health to thousands of Americans from the death-breeding climate in which the war is to be prosecuted. All for the uncertain and shamefully ignoble purpose of extending the trade of the United States that thrift may follow blood and slaughter upon a people whose sole offense is that they are struggling to be free.

PACIFIC COAST SENTIMENT.

Regardless of party ties the people of the Pacific coast are swiftly getting together in solid antagonism to the "beneficent assimilation" of the Filipinos and other heathen exotics, by means of those Christian civilizers, fire and sword.

The enormous cost which the maintenance of an army and navy in the Pacific Archipelago will saddle upon the people of the United States is more readily estimated and appreciated by

Californians than by New Englanders and New Yorkers. Relatively the people of the Pacific coast are much more enlightened upon the Philippine question, the character of the islanders themselves, the products of the soil and the sanitary conditions than are citizens east of the Rocky mountains. And the terrible loss of American lives which must come upon our army like an avalanche of death in the hot weather now drawing near, looms up to the eyes of these people in dreadful proportions. They know how deadly the fevers are and how impossible it will be to save soldiers, in the Philippines, who have been stricken unless permanent and wholesome hospitals are established at once. Even then under the best care and management the death rate will be appalling. The sons of this country who have been sacrificed and those who are yet to be offered up in behalf of "beneficent assimilation" were and are worth more to the world than all the eleven million Filipinos together. The tropics never did and the tropics never will contribute those physical and intellectual forces which exalt and advance mankind. The races of humanity are largely reflexes of soil and climate. The climate of the Northern countries compels efforts. Life can only be sustained against the rigors of winter by active, persistent labor.

The overcoats in Nebraska and the Dakotas cost more work, more mental and manual effort, than all the clothing of all the islanders over whom we are now trying to extend a system of civilization and government entirely unadapted to them and the climate and soil of their latitudes.

There Nature with generous spontaneity furnishes foods without effort upon the part of the consumers; and clothing is made of warm air and sunshine, which need no running of looms and shuttles other than those which are moved by the viewless fingers of the wind. The islanders are as different from Americans as are palms from oaks, and palms die if given the soil and climate which make the oak strong and hardy, durable and valuable. And the oak cannot be grafted onto the palm. But the two trees could be hybridized just as successfully as can be the two races or the two forms of civilization and government.

The American people will be taxed two hundred to three hundred millions of dollars each year for the purpose of Christianizing, by gunpowder, and compelling "the consent of the governed" at the point of the bayonet in those far-away abodes of the heathen. And there may come corruption of the blood from this military invasion and occupation which will put a pagan assimilation by the conquered upon the victors and make generations yet to come curse the stupidity of that statesman-

ship which was too vain to stay at home, and too weak, insincere and near-sighted for invasion. The Anglo-Saxons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, who have experienced the evils of corruption of the blood, which has come to them from insular and other dependencies in the tropics, are amazed at the temerity with which Americans seem willing to let go of the safe doctrines and traditions received from their forbears and to make political and social contacts which are poisonous and revolting—filled with loathsomeness.

The financial fallacy of expansion and annexation—of powder-and-ball-civilization and smokeless gunpowder philanthropy—is rectitude, economy and wisdom compared to the reckless chances for the corruption of the blood which the McKinley and Algerine style of public functionaries now delight in defying. The future of these pseudo philanthropists ought to be, and will be, no doubt, badly pitted with the pustular marks of the era of philo-Philippineism.

The expenses in wealth will be fabulous, if the United States holds and governs for a term of years. But the expenses in national health will be beyond estimation. Money thrown away may be recovered but health destroyed by corruption of the blood is an irretrievable, irreparable and eternal loss.

AN UNKNOWN LONGITUDINAL LINE.

In the benighted times when the first settlement of this trans-Missouri country by white men began, the line of its successful occupation was laid down by their incredulity along a strip of land not much wider than that which comprises the river tier of counties. In fact, uplands were generally excluded as being the next thing to barrens, and it was mainly to bench lands and bottom lands along small streams and rivers that the soil for successful cultivation was restricted, in the public opinion of four and forty years ago. The longitudinal line underwent a gradual march to the westward by the agency of individual enterprise until the grazing-lands were encountered and invaded, followed by a reaction, abandonment, and much loss and suffering to the reputation of the state at large as an agricultural region, and to the resolute men who undertook the conquest.

THE CONSERVATIVE was recently asked by a prominent citizen of Hastings at what point it would now draw the line of longitude beyond which agricultural industry could not be profitably prosecuted. Its momentary representative declined to attempt to locate that absolutely unknown line of longitude. If Dawson, Adams, Buffalo and other counties, can beat the world on wheat independently of irrigation, who would venture to locate it on this side of the foothills of the Rocky mountains?