

## A CHARMING HOSTESS.

Our Grandmamma gave luncheons  
In dear old days of yore,  
She served them in her kitchen,  
Where shone a yellow floor.  
A useful, quaint collection  
Of bric-a-brac was there;  
An antique churn stood open  
With most inviting air.

The hostess, dear, kind Lady,  
Received with gracious ease  
And smiled when children's children  
Came near and murmured, "Please."  
The guests all wore checked aprons  
And shoes adorned with dust,  
And earnest tongues were pleading,  
And eyes were full of trust.

For Grandmamma, wise woman,  
Knew such a charming way  
Of helping little mortals  
Who toiled long hours at play.  
She filled her shining glasses  
For eager hands to hold  
With buttermilk made tempting  
With specks of creamy gold.

From an alluring pantry  
That hid nice things away,  
Such queerly twisted crullers  
Were brought out on a tray;  
And caraway seed cookies  
With scallops on the rim  
On plates that had for borders  
Blue roses round the brim.

For floral decorations,  
An open window's screen  
Was woven by the roses,  
With twining leaves of green.  
Long wreaths of honey-suckle  
Held blossoms by the score,  
That swung and shed their fragrance  
Around the shaded door.

And strains of joyous music  
Among the trees were heard,  
While tones of gleeful laughter  
Chimed in with song of bird.  
The little winds came wafting  
Soft puffs of garden air—  
O, ne'er was breeze more balmy!  
And ne'er was scene more fair!

Far down the years' long vista  
Where childhood lies in view  
The simple, sweet old fashions  
Seem touched with grace anew.  
Still o'er those summer mornings  
Blend all the charms they wore  
When Grandmamma gave luncheons  
In dear old days of yore.

—MARY FRENCH MORTON.

## BENEVOLENT ASSIMILATION.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., }  
May 27, 1899. }

EDITOR THE CONSERVATIVE,  
Nebraska City, Neb.

Viewed from the standpoint of democracy, the movement for retaining the Philippine islands—"imperialism," "forcible annexation," "benevolent assimilation," or by whatever name it may be called, is one of the most delusive propositions that ever perplexed the American people. To cite but one of the many phases of the folly: Think of talking about opportunities for our laboring people in tropical Oriental lands—some 1,400 islands, comprising, all told, about 100,000 square miles of terra firma—which lie on the sea level in the torrid zone between the 6th and 17th degrees of north latitude, and have a native

population of ten millions of people, or one hundred to the square mile.

Per contra, let us consider the vast territory embraced in the Louisiana purchase, the cession of the Floridas, the Texas annexation, the Mexican and Gadsden purchases, Alaska, etc., in round figures some 2,500,000 square miles, in which the census of 1890 showed only six people to the square mile. If we assume that our population has increased fifteen per cent since the last Federal census, the present population of this immense territory would not be seven people to the square mile.

Yet with an area of 2,500,000 square miles acquired in the last ninety-five years, we, in quest of additional territory, are butchering on their native islands in the tropical seas the Filipinos who have nearly fifteen times as many people to the square mile as we have in the extensive acquisitions mentioned above. Even with the present population of the region constituting the original thirteen states, the inhabitants of the Philippines are more than three times as many to the square mile as those of the United States. In other words, we must have 250 millions of people before our country will be as thickly settled as Luzon, and 500 millions before it will be as populous as Cebu. This alone should deter us from further pursuing the course marked out by the present administration, to say nothing of the self-evident fallacy of thinking that people of the temperate zones could long thrive in the deadly tropics of an Oriental, sea-level country. These reasons are overwhelmingly conclusive argument against the wisdom of the present policy of expansion, unless, indeed, it is the deliberate purpose of our administration to exploit Asiatic labor by compulsion.

## A Dutch Letter.

For its relevance to this point I append the following letter just received from a Hollander. It is the third communication of similar tenor that I have received from natives of that country:

"Your pamphlet, 'Imperial democracy,' has attracted a great deal of attention. The United States certainly will have a great task before it to develop the Philippines as Holland developed Java, and your question as to how this can be accomplished by annexation and bringing the islands under United States laws is one that cannot be easily answered. The labor question will, I think, be the hardest problem for the government of the Philippines to solve. 'I have worked in the tropics of Africa, Surinam, and British Honduras, and conducted the most productive and valuable sugar estates in Surinam. After the emancipation of laborers to freedom in the tropics, agricultural enterprises were ruined.

"Calcutta and Madras labor imported into the British West Indies has brought

relief to England's possessions there, but bring even negroes from Barbadoes and Jamaica to the mainland, Guiana, and one will see the failure.

"While in Surinam we tried to get consent from the European powers to import negroes from Africa under the same conditions as coolies are imported from Calcutta and Madras, to save our large agricultural interests there. Our petitions were endorsed by the most prominent public men in England and Holland, but we failed, and we had to see our sugar estates go to ruin. We also tried white labor from Holland, Belgium, France, and Portugal, but met with such disastrous sickness among our men that our labor accounts were more than tripled.

"The contract labor for Surinam under government supervision brought some relief, especially to the small coffee and cocoa planters, but sugar suffered, and how the United States will make the Philippines produce regular labor under American laws is a question which will take some time before it is answered. I do not think that the Americans who may embark upon agricultural enterprises in the Philippines will have the natural patience of the Hollander, which is always essential in dealing with the laboring classes of the tropics to make a success there.

"As you justly say in your paper, tropical climates, no matter where, are demoralizing. I remember well the first day I set foot in the tropics, being then very young, and how much I deplored the lack of wisdom displayed by my family in sending me to such a zone. It is not only what a man suffers physically in the tropics, but the severe moral deterioration which is sustained, and how disgusted he feels in his surroundings. Anyone who has not been there and whose higher feelings are not developed cannot understand it. All the tropics are described as luxuriant as a paradise, but I wish many times I had never been in such paradises—they are a real hell on earth.

"I could go on speaking about this subject, as I have had years of experience in the tropics, but I will not take up more of your time. Excuse me for having intruded upon you, but I have at least had the satisfaction of expressing my opinions to somebody who can understand them."

J. H. VAN ENSCHUT.

Another delusion entertained is that Americans going to the Philippines will be able to get lands, etc., in those islands. Now the very formidable obstacle in the way of so doing, free of cost, is that a very large portion, perhaps the major part of the arable land down there is owned by the religious orders. The insurgents rebelled against this feature of the Spanish system. In Mexico the same condition confronted