

the republic after its establishment. There were civil wars between the church and the liberal parties. The liberals secured the confiscation of much of the church property. The United States has never had a similar condition to deal with, and our government and politics are utterly unfitted to meet its requirements. We should shrink from such a problem. We should let the Filipinos work out that question for themselves—in their own way. It is alleged that one reason why they wish for independence is that they desire to gain control of the forfeited church property of the Spanish government (which is very valuable), and of all Spanish concessions, in order to dispose of them to their own advantage. By Spanish concessions I mean charters for waterworks, tramways, electric lighting, and other industrial interests and points of vantage of all kinds. The treaty with Spain compels our government to respect all corporate and treaty rights, under which rights all the desirable property of the islands is held, and leaves no booty for the United States to offset the expense of military control and administration.

#### An Official Report.

Moreover, in the Philippines, as in Formosa, Hainan, Saigon, Singapore, Ceylon, Java, Sumatra, etc., the best fields of enterprise are largely controlled by wealthy Chinese financiers, who besides their general interests, mining or agricultural, in a very clever way do an immense loan business. Mr. Edw. W. Harden, special commissioner of the United States, in his official report on the "Financial and Industrial Conditions of the Philippine Islands" says:

"The business of lending money to planters is largely in the hands of the mestizos or Chinese half castes, who exact interest of from 12 to 30 per cent, and even as high as 40 per cent for the use of their money."

Also, "The half-caste Chinese mestizos make a business of lending money on city and country property not generally acceptable as a guaranty by the banks."

They will make advances on security that an American banker would reject, and more often on no security at all. When certain conditions are present, liberal loans are made at the limit of peaceful endurance as to the interest rate, and so it comes to pass in those countries that Chinese practically hold thousands of people, of every station in life in a peculiar or financial form of bondage. This is in substance what a merchant at Manila has written. To it I may add (from reading and observation) that the Chinese are constantly emigrating to all other Oriental countries contiguous to the Flowery Kingdom and are even pressing upon the Hawaiian islands in large numbers, and where once these people obtain a foothold they never relinquish it. The well-known

business sagacity of the Chinese clearly demonstrates that it is futile for the white laborer, mechanic, merchant, or shop keeper to attempt to compete with them in Oriental lands.

#### The Labor Question.

Upon the question of labor in the Philippines, special commissioner Harden, already quoted, says:

"The question of labor is a serious one. The natives are not to be depended upon as laborers. They work only when they see fit, and their work is far from being satisfactory. The best workers in the Philippine islands are the Chinese coolies, most of them, however, are in and around Manila. The Spanish government had a law in force under which Chinese coolies were allowed to land on the payment of a tax of \$50 a head. Under the military occupation of Manila no more Chinese have been allowed to land at that port. Planters and business men believe the Chinese should be allowed to come in, under proper restrictions, as they make the best servants and in many ways the best laborers that can be obtained in the islands."

The Chinese are, in fact, the best laborers that can be obtained in the Orient, but are the masses of the American people ready to invite race troubles by an influx of Asiatics—either by unrestricted immigration or as citizens of the United States under the annexation of the Philippines?

As to retaining these islands, the whole scheme is one of forcible annexation, dictated by commercial greed. Commissioner Denby, who is popularly supposed to dominate the commission now in the Philippines, and doubtless does, after stating the proposition as a purely "business" one, has said:

"The cold, hard, practical question alone remains: Will the possession of these islands benefit us as a nation? If it will not, set them free tomorrow, and let their people, if they wish, cut each other's throats or play what pranks they please. To this complexion we must come at last, that, unless it is beneficial for us to hold these islands we should turn them loose."

If this does not dispose of the last semblance of altruism, the last vestige of benevolence, I do not know what further evidence is needed. We cannot assimilate alien races, and the invitation, however presented, to bring Oriental peoples under the government of the United States, with freedom to come and go as citizens, means more just such happenings as have disgraced this country in the brutal murders of Chinese on the Pacific coast, and of negroes in the western and southern states. It is impossible for the masses to overcome race antipathy. The history of the world shows that all branches of the Aryan race will assimilate with each other, but never with the Mongolian, African, etc. The Spanish have come nearer to it with

the Indians and Malays than any other race, but it is only partial with them and has resulted in the overthrow of Spain's sovereignty in every colony where it had taken place. JOHN J. VALENTINE.

#### NO TRANSMITTED ANTAGONISM.

The head of every family should impress it upon his descendants that all of his fights and contentions with individuals die when he dies; and must be buried in forgetfulness and the flowers of forgiveness grown upon their graves.

The contentions and wrangles which separate and aggravate some good men, ought never to be perpetuated. Anger and wrath which have fired one generation should be extinguished with the passing away of that generation.

THE CONSERVATIVE is against the conservation of the causes of personal bitterness and strife and there is nothing more lamentable than to bequeath a personal fight, quarrel or contention to one's own sons. Let each generation be satisfied to have its personal animosities die when it dies. Cumulative causes of trouble and unhappiness should not be transmitted or impressed upon posterity.

#### A VISIT TO AN OTOE COUNTY FARMER.

"I see him directly I come in sight of the place; it was corn-shuckin' time, and he was throwin' corn into his crib. Crib was, oh, I d'know, may be twelve foot high; he never had no boards knocked off the top, like the rest of us do, just pitched the corn clean over; looked like he done it easy, too. Soon's he see me, course, he came out to meet me; didn't say a blame word, just reached into the buggy an' picked me up, lifted me clean over the wheel, an' my feet never touched the ground till he set me down inside the house. I weigh about a hundred-n-seventy, but I was stockier in them days. Got into the parlor, an' he set me down in a chair, an' then what does he do but reach over and get the big Bible off the center-table and plank it down in my lap. 'There,' he says, 'there's a good book;' an' off he goes, 'thout another word, an' I never see him again till he'd put up my horse an' finished pitchin' in his corn. Course 'twas all in fun."

The county commissioners of Otoe county, in the state of Nebraska can beat the calendar. These three learned officers of the law can make two days labor out of the work done in one day and get paid for same. They make out and audit their own accounts. These commissioners average salaries of about eighty dollars each per month. They must work at the rate of about eight to ten dollars a day—two days in one. Their compensation per year is greater than that of the average clerk, accountant or book-keeper in Nebraska. When shall their salaries be increased? When will they make three days out of one?