

PROFESSOR HALE OPPOSES WAR-FARE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

[From the Chicago Times-Herald of May 25, 1899.]

The great news published yesterday morning that, "The president believes it quite as necessary to display a spirit of conciliation to the Filipinos as to convince them of our superior force" (a view of things which was treason when spoken the other day in Central Music Hall, but is, of course, patriotism and statesmanship when coming from Mr. McKinley), makes other issues for the moment seem unimportant. A constant reader of your paper, such as I have been, could let past matters go for a while, if you yourself would let them go. But you do not.

It used to be thought the function of the newspaper to give the news. Grave charges, almost too horrible to be credited have been made by privates and lower officers in our army with regard to the methods by which we are spreading the blessings of civilization in the Philippines. It has not been vouchsafed to your readers, and, in general, it has not been vouchsafed to the readers of other Chicago papers, to see those charges with the attendant particulars of authorship and place of publication, which alone could give them weight.

The Times-Herald was for a long time silent about them. Then, on a certain Sunday, perhaps two weeks back, it gave, in an editorial, a few brief extracts from them, speaking of them in tones of ridicule as indefinite, which, if it means anything, ought to mean anonymous. Various ridiculing references have since that time been made to the same evidence. Your latest mention is in the issue of Monday morning, May 22, in which you say: "Now that the anti-imperialists have exhausted the three home-sick letters from Manila, furnished by a newspaper clipping bureau, the other side of the situation as is told by the correspondence of soldier boys—officers and privates—is finding its way into print." I wish very much that you might give us these more cheering letters. The more light that we have upon this struggle the better. The American people have a right to know how the "war for humanity," begun in Cuba, has been carried on in the Philippines.

I beg you, therefore, for the sake of a large class of readers, who, I believe, do not like to have their news censored for them, to print brief extracts from such letters of what you call the "home-sick" class as have come under my observation. Let me preface them, however, by saying that if we are to have our thinking done for us (it is this, apparently, that constitutes the up-to-date patriot), we should like it done with a little more arrangement and consistency. I might be able to accept the theory offered by many of the newspapers some time ago, that these letters were written

by Filipino emissaries in order to work upon the feelings of the citizens of the United States. I could accept a second theory that they are written by irresponsible Americans, who want to call attention to themselves.

I could conceivably accept the theory that they are the product of "home sickness." I could even more easily accept a theory which I believe I have the honor myself to present, although it is surprising that no "loyalist" has yet thought of it, that the author is that wicked Edward Atkinson of Boston, who actually sent perverting documents to Dewey, Otis, our commissioners at the Philippines, and a newspaper correspondent. But I am absolutely incapable of accepting all of these explanations or of shifting with sufficient rapidity from one of them to another. As for the numeral "three" which you apply to the letters I am forced to suppose that that is a printer's error.

The charges which, if true, have degraded us for a generation from the rank of a civilized nation, are that, at one period of the war, orders were given at several different places to take no prisoners, or, as the orders were interpreted, to have no prisoners after taking prisoners. I take from the letters only such sentences as touch most directly on this point. Let me note that all the letters are from republican papers.

Charles N. Brenner, Company M, Twentieth Kansas regiment, to his father, residing at Bennington, Kan., twelve miles from Minneapolis, Kan. Letter printed in April, in the Minneapolis Messenger:

"Then occurred the hardest sight I ever saw. They had four prisoners and didn't know what to do with them. They asked Captain Bishop what to do and he said, 'You know the orders,' and four natives fell dead."

Compare the letter of this same Captain (now Major) W. H. Bishop to his wife, dated Caloocan battlefield, March 1, 1899, published in The Republican Journal of Salina, Kan.:

"The insurgents have not fired on us since last night, and I understand an attempt is being made to patch things up—my idea of the way is to kill the whole outfit and blow the islands out of existence."

F. L. Poindexter of the Second Oregon, Portland Oregonian, May 4. The letter is dated March 20:

"About dark, before Company D's return, Colonel Summers rode over to General Wheaton's headquarters. Shortly after reaching there reports, which afterward proved to be somewhat exaggerated, came in that two companies of the Twenty-second infantry had been literally cut to pieces, having fallen into an ambush. After a hasty consultation it was decided to proceed at once to kill or drive into the lake every native pos-

sible to be found in the half-moon shaped district lying between the mouth of the Mateo river and the farther end of the lake, a distance of twelve miles."

Harry P. Todd, a trumpeter in Brenner's company (M, twentieth Kansas), writing to his father on February 24 from Caloocan:

"There were 150 of them, and they captured our short line train and depot and drove the guards back. That was at 4 o'clock yesterday morning, and by daylight the inside, or town guard, marched straight along, killing every insurgent that poked his head in view. At one place they killed fifty, and in all 180."

Rev. Charles F. Dole of Jamaica Plain, Mass., published in The Boston Transcript of April 15, a letter without names from a soldier in Luzon to his father. Mr. Dole has been personally known to me for many years and is a man of highest character. The letter said:

"The longer I stay here and the more I see and think of the matter the more fully convinced I am that the American nation was and is making a blunder.

\* \* \* I don't think I would miss the truth much if I said more non-combatants have been killed than native soldiers. I don't believe the people in the United States understand the question or condition of things here, or the inhuman warfare now being carried on. Talk about Spanish cruelty! They are not in it with the Yank. Even the Spanish are shocked. Of course I don't expect to have war without death and destruction, but I do expect that when an enemy gets down on his knees and begs for his life that he won't be shot in cold blood. But it is a fact that the order was not to take any prisoners, and I have seen enough to almost make me ashamed to call myself an American."

Lieutenant Barnes, Battery G, Third United States artillery (in the regular army, be it observed), writes on the 20th of March a letter to his brother, which was published in the Greensburg (Ind.) Standard of May 5, a copy of which is in my hands. The passage bearing on our question is as follows:

"The town of Titatia was surrendered to us a few days ago, and two companies occupy the same. Last night one of our boys was found shot and his stomach cut open. Immediately orders were received from General Wheaton to burn the town and kill every native in sight, which was done to a finish. About 1,000 men, women and children were reported killed. I am probably growing hard-hearted, for I am in my glory when I can sight my gun on some dark skin and pull the trigger."

In these cases there seems to have been no provocation. In others there doubtless was. I add the two extracts