

**THE PRESIDENT'S PHILIPPINE  
PROCLAMATION.**

[General Otis agrees with the anti-imperialists that the president's proclamation of December 21, 1898, ordering extension of military government over the whole of the ceded territory before the treaty with Spain was ratified was a cause of the subsequent trouble. He censures the proclamation but General Miller without orders publishes it as the president wrote it.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT PACIFIC  
& EIGHTH ARMY CORPS.  
MANILA, P. I., Dec. 29, 1898.

Brig. Gen. Marcus P. Miller, U. S. V.,  
Commanding First Separate Brigade,  
Eighth Army Corps, Iloilo, Panay.

Sir: This will be delivered to you by  
Captain Montgomery, of the British  
navy, who leaves for Iloilo in the morn-  
ing. I inclose copy of our translation of  
a cablegram received today in cipher,  
from which you will understand the  
position and policy of our government  
toward these islands. \* \* \*

E. S. OTIS,  
Major-General, U. S. V., Com.

"The cablegram referred to in the  
above letter to General Miller was the  
proclamation of the president received  
in cipher. The translation was com-  
pleted about an hour before the letter  
was written, and was transmitted to  
General Miller to inform him of the  
policy which the government intended  
to pursue. Neither its contents nor  
feasibility of immediate issue had been  
carefully considered. No direction for  
its publication had been given and it  
was not supposed that it would be pro-  
claimed at Iloilo. The general, how-  
ever, under the impression that it had  
been transmitted for publication, issued  
it very soon after it was received.

"After fully considering the presi-  
dent's proclamation and the temper of  
the Tagalos with whom I was daily dis-  
cussing political problems and the  
friendly intentions of the United States  
government toward them, I concluded  
that there were certain words and ex-  
pressions therein, such as 'sovereignty,'  
'right of cession,' and those which  
directed immediate occupation, etc.,  
though most admirably employed and  
tersely expressive of actual conditions,  
might be advantageously used by the  
Tagale war party to incite widespread  
hostilities among the natives. The  
ignorant classes had been taught to  
believe that certain words, as 'sover-  
eignty,' 'protection,' etc., had peculiar  
meaning disastrous to their welfare and  
significant of future political domination,  
like that from which they had recently  
been freed. It was my opinion, there-  
fore, that I would be justified in so  
amending the paper that the beneficent  
object of the United States government  
would be brought clearly within the  
comprehension of the people, and this  
conclusion was the more readily reached  
because of the radical change of the past  
few days in the constitution of  
Aguinaldo's government, which could  
not have been understood at Washing-

ton at the time the proclamation was  
prepared. It was also believed that the  
proclamation had been induced partially  
by the suggestions of the naval authori-  
ties here, which three weeks previous,  
and while affairs were in a specific and  
comparatively quiet state, had recom-  
mended "that the president issue a  
proclamation defining the policy of the  
United States government in the Philip-  
pine Islands and assuring the inhabitants  
that it is our intention to interfere as  
little as possible in the internal affairs  
of the islands. That as soon as they  
developed their capability for self-  
government their powers and privileges  
will be increased. That will allay the  
spirit of unrest. These authorities at  
that time recommended the government  
of the islands as a territory with a  
civilian as a governor, to be followed  
later by a naval and military com-  
mission to determine questions of a  
naval and military character.

"The amended proclamation was  
thereupon prepared, and fearing that  
General Miller would give publicity to  
the former, copies of which, if issued,  
would be circulated soon in Luzon, I  
again dispatched Lieutenant Colonel  
Potter to Iloilo, both to ascertain the  
course of events there and to advise the  
commanding general of the dangers  
threatening in Luzon, and which might  
be augmented if any action was taken  
which the insurgents could make use of  
in furtherance of their unfriendly de-  
signs. General Miller thought his  
action in making publication of the  
proclamation on January 3d correct, as  
he had not been instructed to the con-  
trary, and his opinion, he contended,  
was confirmed by a war department  
dispatch which I had directed Colonel  
Potter to deliver to him, and which he  
had received on January 6. He was  
satisfied that the use he had made of the  
proclamation was that contemplated by  
the war department authorities, but it  
was not long before it was delivered at  
Malolos and was the object of venomous  
attack."

Report of Major-General E. S. Otis,  
U. S. Volunteers, on military operations  
and civil affairs in the Philippine  
Islands, August 31, 1899.

**THAT GRIND-  
STONE.**

THE CONSERVA-  
TIVE possessed at  
Arbor Lodge in  
early 1855 a pioneer grindstone. It was  
a rare and useful thing in the neighbor-  
hood. Everybody knew where it could  
be found and that all were welcome to  
sharpen their blades and other imple-  
ments, of one sort and another, there-  
upon. It was a large and rather  
superior stone and its fame went out  
even to the aborigines. So in the spring  
of 1856 when Dave Kennison and John  
Hughes were breaking prairie with six  
yoke of oxen and a twenty-four inch  
plow, just south of the cottage, and

there was no one in the house except a  
young mother and her baby boy, a big  
Otoe Indian stalked up. His coming  
was discovered afar off across the  
prairie and the east door was quickly  
locked; he tried to open it and started  
around to the west door. But the  
mother, animated by love and fear for  
her child, had locked that also. Look-  
ing out of a window, after she had thus  
prevented ingress, she saw to her horror  
the big Indian aforesaid sharpening a  
butcher knife upon that grindstone. He  
was giving it a peculiarly wicked shine  
and an edge of cruel keenness. It wore  
a scalp-taking expression; and in terror,  
with that intense solicitude of affection  
which only mothers experience, she  
rushed out of the east door and down  
onto the prairie, where the men were  
plowing—the baby in her arms mean-  
while howling lustily—for safety.

The plowmen, Kennison and Hughes,  
who were frontiersmen without fear,  
suggested that the Otoe had been in-  
formed of that grindstone and its knife-  
sharpening qualities. And returning to  
the domicile with the mother and child,  
soon, by conversation with the Indian,  
demonstrated the correctness of their  
theory. However, a dispute arose as to  
how long and how often knife-sharpen-  
ing Indians might use that stone, which  
resulted in the application of the ox-whip  
upon the aboriginal tramp until he fled  
from the premises. And from that day  
on no Indian ever came to Arbor Lodge  
to sharpen a knife.

Forty-five years have converted that  
patch of prairie into orchards, groves  
and tree-shaded avenues. That baby  
boy, who proved a joy to his parents  
and all whom he loved, has grown to  
manage large affairs in manufacture and  
commerce. The place that raised him  
is better for his having been there.  
Nebraska City had an interest under  
the scalp which his competent and  
beautiful mother thought the Indian  
sought. Such women, such mothers  
give the world strong men and in them  
live again, for the good of all.

\$160,000,000. The St. Joseph  
News shows that

city to have "cleared" more than one  
hundred and sixty millions during the  
year 1899. It is not probable that  
another city of similar size in the United  
States can equal that showing. In this  
connection THE CONSERVATIVE recalls a  
time when St. Joseph, Mo., held the  
second place in the list of American  
cities for her per capita wealth and  
Hartford, Conn., the first. St. Joseph  
has been always distinguished for its  
permanency in richness. It has never  
splurged nor boomed. It is solid and  
sedate. The estates of decedents in St.  
Joe generally over-run public estimates  
and opinions about thirty-three per cent  
and dead millionaires in that town gener-  
ally pan out three millions of dollars.