

## DIE PHILIPPINER.

Eine übersichtliche Darstellung der ethnographischen und historisch-politischen Verhältnisse des Archipels. Von Ferdinand Blumentritt. Mit einem Anhang: Die wichtigsten paragraphen der Verfassung der Philippinischen Republik. Hamburg: Actien-Gesellschaft, 1900, pp. 77.

The author of this very timely brochure who is universally recognized as one of the best authorities on the subject begins with a condensed, but exceedingly interesting and instructive description of the geography, ethnography, climate, mineral resources, fauna and flora, agricultural products, industrial activity and commercial relations of the archipelago, the area of which is somewhat larger than that of the Kingdom of Italy.

The Spaniards, who discovered the islands in 1521, divided the population into three classes: Negrillos (Negritos), Indios and Moros, or the black, woolly-haired aborigines, the pagan Malays and the Mohammedan Malays. The Negritos, of whom scarcely more than 20,000 remain, still lead the life of nomadic hunters in the highlands of the interior, use bows and arrows as weapons of warfare and the chase, and practice the crudest fetishism. It is as difficult, however, to get any clear conception of their religion as of their language, which seems to have been entirely lost and given place to a rude Malay gibberish. Like all primitive peoples they offer an extremely interesting study to the ethnologist, and have therefore been frequently described and portrayed in illustrated journals, thus giving rise to the notion generally prevailing in our country, and sedulously propagated by strenuous imperialists, that the Filipinos are savages, whom it is our "plain duty" to civilize. In reality the Negritos no more represent the population of the Philippines than the Sioux do that of the United States. Like our red men they belong to a decaying race doomed to extinction, and are not of the slightest significance in determining the future development and political destiny of the country.

There are now three classes of Malays: Heathen, Mohammedan and Christian. The first of these original conquerors and colonists are a strong and stalwart race of mountaineers and head-hunters, who, like their kinsmen the Dayaks, of Borneo, cut off and keep as trophies the heads, as the American Indians take the scalps, of their foes. This barbarous custom proves that they are still in a state of primeval savagery, and in their religious ideas they have not advanced beyond the rudest form of ancestor worship. They fight with bows and arrows, knives and spears, and a peculiar battle-axe with which they behead the slain. They are divided into many petty tribes, and do not number altogether more

than 600,000 persons, including women and children.

As a factor in the industrial, mercantile and political evolution of the Philippines they are scarcely more to be considered than the Negritos. The same is true also to a considerable extent of the Mohammedan Malays (Moros), who are not more than half a million in number, and inhabit for the most part the islands of Sulu and Mindanao. Formerly they were enterprising and energetic as slave traders and pirates, but during the last forty years this lucrative free bootery has been in a great measure suppressed by European gunboats, and the consequent loss of prestige and revenue has been attended by a steady and serious decline in wealth and power.

The Christian Malays, numbering about 8,000,000, of whom nearly seven-eighths belong to the three leading tribes, Tagals, Bisayas and Dokans, constitute virtually the Filipino's since it is with them that foreign powers have to deal in their commercial and diplomatic relations with the archipelago, and with them that the Americans will have to solve and settle the burning Philippine question. Blumentritt characterizes them as a highly gifted and progressive people, worthy of the sympathy and esteem of all civilized nations. He instances some jurists like Marcelo H. del Pilar and Mariano Ponce, scientist, like Dr. Jose Rival, journalist, like Graciano Lopez Jaena, artist, like the painter, Juan Luna, whose picture "Spoliarium" took the first prize at a Paris exhibition. If the Filipinos under Spanish domination could produce such eminent men, what may they not be able to accomplish when they enjoy the advantages of a free government with a career open to every talent?

In a succinct, but remarkably vivid historical survey of the Philippine Islands since their discovery by Magellan in 1521, or rather since their subjugation and occupancy by Don Miguel Lopez de Legazpi and Don Juan Salcedo in 1565, the lamentable effects of Spanish misrule are clearly brought to light. The real sovereigns of the archipelago were the Augustines, Dominicans, Franciscans and Jesuits, who soon became in many provinces the great landowners, and reduced the natives to a state of vassalage and practical serfdom. They did nothing to promote, and everything to prevent, the education of the natives. Even the law prescribing that Spanish should be taught in the common schools was easily evaded, because the persons who acted as school inspectors belonged to the monastic orders. The ground of this strange opposition to instruction in Spanish was that the monks might keep the control of affairs in their own hands by acting as interpreters between the Filipinos and the civil and military

authorities fresh from Madrid and frequently changed in consequence of ministerial crises and shifts in the colonial office. With the collapse of Spanish supremacy the detested friars fled from the country, but Archbishop Chappelle, of Manila is now endeavoring to have them recalled and restored to their former privileges.

An admirable account is given of the repeated attempt of the Filipinos to throw off the Spanish yoke and especially of the recent insurrections under the direction of Emilio Aguinaldo. Professor Blumentritt being in constant communication with the principal members of "La Junta Patriotica" was kept well informed of their purposes and prospects. He warned them to be wary and expressed the fear lest the Americans should make use of their services to expel the Spaniards and then take possession of the Archipelago themselves. In reply to this earnest admonition he received several copies of the agreement entered into with the consul-general Pratt on April 25, 1898, and known as the treaty of Singapore, which virtually promised the political independence of the Philippines. This document was published in French, Spanish and English without being repudiated by the American government. It is true that McKinley did not formally confirm it, nor did he disavow it, but preserved a discreet silence until the Spaniards had surrendered and the Philippine army was no longer needed. Even the proclamation of their independence by the Filipinos on June 12, 1898, and the founding of the Philippine Republic on August 1, of the same year, did not call forth any protest from the cabinet at Washington. This policy of shifts and subterfuges, of trickery and tergiversation is unworthy of a great nation and deserves the condemnation and contempt of the civilized world. The plea that the Filipinos are not fit for self government is a poor palliation of breach of faith and easily disproved by facts. Not only is the proportion of learned men larger than in Servia, Bulgaria and Montenegro, but also the persons unable to read or write is less than in the Balkan Peninsula, Russia, many provinces of Italy, Spain and Portugal, the South American Republics and some of our own Southern States. Indeed great care is bestowed upon elementary education and as a rule common schools for boys and girls are well organized and efficiently conducted. That they could be greatly improved is undeniable, but their deficiencies are due not to the indifference of the Filipinos, but to the interference of the monks.

Blumentritt is convinced that the prompt recognition of the political independence of the Philippines under the protectorate of the United States would be for the best interests of both countries. Such an arrangement would