

THE FILIPINOS. Fighting in the Philippines continues. Information from reliable sources indicates that it will probably go on for many years or until congress does its duty. To stop the war a guarantee by congress of ultimate independence is essential. Confident that only in this way can hostilities be brought to a close, a movement was recently started, by men who supported Mr. McKinley, to petition congress to declare its purpose toward the Filipinos and give to them the same assurances that were given to the Cubans. A large majority of the American people are opposed to our permanent retention of the Philippines and justify our occupation of the islands only so long as is necessary to establish a stable government. If this is the intention of congress no harm could result from saying so and if it is not, honesty to the Filipino demands a frank acknowledgment of the fact. The petition that is now being circulated among those who were friendly to Mr. McKinley during the recent campaign reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, who voted for the reelection of President McKinley, hereby urge upon congress the adoption of a policy towards the Philippine islands in accordance with the principles declared in the following paragraphs of the joint resolution of congress regarding Cuba, passed April 18, 1898:

"Resolved; That the people of the island of Cuba are, and of right ought to be, free and independent.

"That the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction, or control over said island, except for the pacification thereof, and asserts its determination, when that is accomplished, to leave the government and control of the island to its people."

OSWALD OTTENDORFER.

Oswald Ottendorfer, editor and publisher of the New York Staats Zeitung, died on December 15, 1900, after a long illness, which became acute about eight weeks ago. He was born on February 26, 1826, in Zwittau, Austria, near the Bohemian border. His father, a well-to-do manufacturer, sent him to the University of Vienna in 1846, where he applied himself with characteristic diligence to the study of philosophy. He remained there for one year, and there identified himself with all the revolutionary movements with which he came in touch. Then he went to Prague to take up the study of law.

In the winter of that year Mr. Ottendorfer's interest in the organization of "student legions," and his part in the clamor against the Metternich government attracted official attention to him; then he went to Schleswig-Holstein to participate in the fight for its freedom from Danish rule. Upon his return to

Prague, he found the revolution there suppressed; so he made his way to Vienna, where there was good prospect of active work with the revolutionists. Consequently, he was concerned in the street riots of October 6 and October 31; he was roughly handled and bruised, but he escaped serious injury. On the latter day the barricades, which Mr. Ottendorfer had helped to throw up, were carried by the military, and he narrowly escaped arrest and death. As it was, he was hidden in the chimney of a book store which a kind hearted man kept and there he remained for three days and nights, within hearing of a sentry's footsteps. Meantime, a comrade had been caught and was soon sentenced and shot.

Sentenced.

At this time sentence of death was passed upon Ottendorfer for high treason; it continued against him for twenty years, when a general pardon was granted. He escaped from Vienna to Saxony. Once there he dared not take up his studies at the University of Leipsic—as he had intended—for fear of extradition; so he cast in his lot with other revolutionists and set out for Bohemia to provoke an uprising there. This effort failed. The party was soon under suspicion, and driven from the country. In the spring of 1849 he was in Dresden, there leading a revolutionary outbreak; and so he went from city to city, provoking outbreaks as best he could, until, in the summer of 1849, he was stricken with typhoid fever. The revolutionary spirit had subsided when he recovered. He was concerned in the rescue of a revolutionary leader (Steck) from life imprisonment, and led the escaping party to Switzerland. Thence he reached the seacoast and came by schooner to New York. He arrived here on April 1, 1850.

Career Began.

He was penniless and friendless. His first employment was as a laborer in a factory; then he found work in a soda-water factory. In 1851 he was given a position in the office of the Staats Zeitung. In the following year the proprietor, Jacob Uhl, died, and his widow took charge of the paper, and afterwards Mr. Ottendorfer married Mrs. Uhl. In 1858 Mr. Ottendorfer was made editor-in-chief.

Mr. Ottendorfer was a democrat. He was a Douglas delegate to the national convention in Charleston; was founder of the German Democratic Union party which elected Godfrey Gunther mayor in 1863; and was for many years a bitter opponent of Tammany Hall. In 1872 he was elected an alderman, but he never drew the salary of the office, which is still on deposit in the comptroller's office.

Mr. Ottendorfer was the personal and the political friend of the editor of THE

CONSERVATIVE for many years. His genial manners, his kind heart and his rugged honesty were phenomenally prominent in the make-up of his strong and masterful personality. His influence was always for the useful, the beautiful and the elevating things in American life and politics.

BRYAN FOR GOVERNOR.

William J. Bryan for governor of Nebraska and Senator W. V. Allen for member of the supreme court is said to be the ticket by which the democrats hope to again wrest the state from the republicans. Depending on Mr. Bryan's strong personality and the reaction that generally follows a landslide, the political friends of the late candidate for the presidency hope to elect him by so large a majority that his prestige as a national leader will be at once reestablished.

The election for governor occurs in 1902, while a member of the supreme court will be elected in 1901.

Mr. Bryan's announcement that he will soon begin the publication of a weekly political journal has set the politicians guessing. Republican politicians had hoped that Mr. Bryan upon his defeat for the presidency and loss of his own state would emigrate to Texas.

Mr. Bryan, however, has chosen another course. He will not only remain and lend his personality to the next state campaigns, but he will put his newspaper into every village and hamlet of this state, enabling him to preach his doctrines every week, and he will not be hereafter circumscribed to speeches from the rear end of a passenger coach. It is stated by his friends with great emphasis that Mr. Bryan is determined to wrest Nebraska from republican domination.

The friends of Mr. Bryan figure that the republicans, having reinstated themselves in power politically, will repeat the blunders of the past and will permit the great corporations to name their candidates and control the official actions of the state officers from the governor down to custodian of the state house. They look to see the corporations name two men for the United States senate. They point to the certainty of the election of D. E. Thompson, of Lincoln, a man who was in the employ of the Burlington railroad for a quarter of a century and made his first money in land deals in new territory traversed by that road. Politically he has always been the agent of the Burlington. The fact is also pointed out that the decision of the supreme court knocking out the state board of transportation leaves the state without any law regulating railroads or the tariff rates, which are constantly increasing, nor is there a commission having authority to curb the greed of the railroads.

Mr. Bryan and his party workers anticipate that the new regime is in a fair way to make so many mistakes that it will be an easy matter to displace republicans in the state elections of 1901-2. —Special Omaha Dispatch, in Chicago Record, Dec. 20, 1900.