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## From Manila.

Extracts from a recent letter received from a University boy in the Philippines.

I have a great deal of time between duties, but army duties, as you know, do not leave a man in shape to do any very vigorous mental work. Night work, broken sleep, and the extreme exertions required part of the time in campaigning, have dulled my keenness for reading and study, or at least have made it more difficult, for I have kept at it nevertheless. These things, together with the climate, tax a man's vigor. A man starts out well but in a short time is ready to quit. Ambition seems to shorten a good deal.

Personally I have been opposed to the United States entering upon a policy that would bring subject territory under its control. From what I have seen here among the natives, as well as from my beliefs and settled ideas, I have felt that we ought not to assume more than a protectorate of sufficient duration to insure good stable self-government among the natives. We have been shut off from the world's current events, save as we get a faint idea now and then over the cable. But we feel that in many respects we here in Manila ought to know more about the advisability of keeping these islands than others. One thing however works against the impartial judging of this question from the ranks of the army, viz: the anxiety of the men to set foot on United States soil again, and that right soon.

Three things I have feared on our assuming control over these islands as subject territory: First, a leap into that wild whirl known as Impetialism; second, the distraction of our statesmen from internal needs and problems by these outside burdens of responsibility; and third, that the natives might resist and cause us a war for the suppression which I should look upon as a great misfortune, for we did not enlist to subjugate a foreign people, but rather to free the oppressed and vindicate the principles we have so proudly stood for throughout our national life.

I believe we need men as citizens, citizens working and even fighting for the true interests of our country, as much as we needed soldiers for this war. I believe I did only my duty in coming into the army, but I am equally certain that I have as great a call to be an active American citizen with all that that means. I ought to make a better citizen for my experience in the army and I know I shall. I would not take a good deal

for the experience even if it has already lost me one year in the old University.

I have enjoyed studying the natives here at odd times. They are a peculiar people, but capable of rapid development. They are low in morals and religious ideals as we would expect from their past condition. But they are eager and apt at learning. The leaders are politicians of little dependence, but I believe the country can be brought to a stable condition in twenty-five years; not to a high state of civilization, but to a good firm basis.

Life in the Philippines has been interesting although not always a scene of comfort. In regard to climate, it was hot when we got here in July, a humid suffocating steam heat. But the excessive heat was greatly reduced by the flooding rain storms which made our little dog tents seem like sieves. It was drier in September, and hot, especially in these narrow streets. October and November were more rainy; December brought in relief from the heat and very little rain. January is warming up in rapid jumps and rain storms are also occasional.

During the past ten days we have had considerable interest aroused over a possible fight with the natives. But they are far from wanting to fight us. The only trouble resulting in shots was about a week ago. Two natives tried to knife a sentry and he killed both of them. We have slept on our arms some nights all ready to spring into line, but we have been saved the disagreeable experience. Personally, I have heard all the bullets whiz past my head that I care to; in fact I would like to return to the good old United States and end my days there. But above and beyond mere personal safety, I long to have the natives helped to a higher plane, not killed on the plane where they are.

## The Delian Oratorical Contest.

The Delians held their annual oratorical contest in the chapel last Friday evening and it was well attended. There were four contestants, C. F. Horner, C. W. Jones, F. E. Edgerton and F. A. Bartos. By the decision of the judges Mr. Edgerton was awarded first place and Mr. Jones, second place.

Mr. Horner's oration was an elegant description of the "Battle of Queenstown." He has been over that memorable battle-field and was able to portray it vividly. He has a very graceful and easy delivery.

Mr. Jones spoke on "The Hour and the Man." His oration