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Carpenter's Letter

(Continued from Seventh Page.)

reply. "Take the case of a private at Tana-wan, in the country south of Laguna de Bay. You will find few more remarkable instances of continued bravery in the history of warfare than his. Ten men started out from the post on scouting duty. They were marching along the road through a dangerous country when two of the soldiers happened to straggle behind, and the officer, fearing they might be attacked, sent three men back to find them. They had just reached the stragglers when they were attacked by a large band of insurgents. They were in a ravine at the time. The insurgents, as I understand it, were on top and at both ends of the ravine, and to remain there meant death. Four of the men fought their way out. The fifth, for some reason, would not go, and was boled. The four, as soon as they had broken their way through the insurgent lines, ran, shooting as they did so, and three made their way back to camp.

"The other man ran so fast that he distanced the other three and ran right into a party of insurgents. There was a ravine or gorge at that point, and to escape them he jumped into it and took his position in a hollow in the rocks where they could reach him only from the front and that only by climbing up over a little hill. The insurgents charged at him again and again, but he kept them off by shooting them as they reached the top of the hill. He had 100

There is already a big trade here and this will greatly increase."

"How about the natural resources of the islands, general? You have been over a great part of them?"

"They are very rich agriculturally and will produce far more than they are now doing. It is wonderful how many well-to-do Filipinos there are and what rich farms they have. In the Camarines of eastern Luzon I saw vast tracts of hemp and rice. The provinces south of Manila are wonderfully fertile and so are the large valleys of the north."

"How about the timber resources?" "They are of great value and of enormous extent. There are many large tracts of virgin forest and some of the islands are almost entirely covered with trees."

"Have you seen any gold?" "I know there is gold on many of the islands," was the reply, "but whether it exists in paying quantities I very much doubt. The Spaniards were gold hunters and the country has been in their hands for over 300 years. It hardly stands to reason that they did not prospect it. But you know the old saying among the miners is that gold is where you find it and that you never know till you do find it. Cripple Creek was traveled over for years by some of the most expert gold miners of the United States and they never realized the fortunes beneath their feet. Still it is now one of the richest gold camps of the world."

Mindanao and the Moros. "Which is the richest of all the islands, general?" I asked.

"I cannot say. But one of the very



FILIPINO SCHOOL CHILDREN.

rounds of ammunition and fired off ninety-two, hitting his enemies forty times and killing thirty of them. The insurgents acknowledged that he killed eighteen, and his figures are probably correct. At their first charge he killed five. This made them halt and he had a chance to reload. At their second charge he again killed five, and after that they were more careful. He shot, however, whenever a head appeared, and kept them at bay for two days and nights.

Kept the Filipinos at Bay.

"Then the smell of the bodies of the men he had killed became so offensive that he determined to fight his way out. He made a rush and was chased for some distance, but finally jumped into a shelter much like the one from which he had been driven. There he remained two days, keeping the Filipinos at bay and killing such as approached.

"All this time he had nothing to eat or drink and at last he could stand it no longer. He had but eight rounds of ammunition left and he determined to fight his way to death or to drink and food. If to death he determined to kill as many as he could on the way. He succeeded in breaking through and ran into a cornfield, where he quenched his thirst by sucking the water which had collected in the joints of the corn. The corn was high and the insurgents lost him. He had come out upon the road again when he saw what he thought was another party of insurgents and was preparing to shoot at them when he saw that they were Americans.

"The three men who had fought their way back to camp had reported the two lost and this was a party which had come out to search for them. They had found the man who was boled in the ravine and had been hunting for the other man for five days and had about given up the search. The man was almost dead from hunger and thirst. His mind was affected by his terrible experience. He could hardly talk, but throughout it all he had held to the determination to fight to the death and to not give up until every round of ammunition was spent.

"That," concluded General Bates, "was one case of individual heroism. There have been scores of others, not the same, but equally praiseworthy."

The Philippines Will Pay.

The conversation here turned to the material prospects of the islands and I asked General Bates if he thought they would ever be a profitable investment for the United States. The general replied:

"I think so. These people are a hard-working and an accumulating people, but they have had no chance in the past. Under our rule they will be able to make more and they will be much larger consumers.

richest is Mindanao, and it is perhaps the least developed of all. It is about as big as Kentucky, and is so shaped that most of it is accessible by water. The ocean about its coasts is very deep and it has numerous bays and several quite large rivers. Its soil will raise almost anything. Coffee grows well, there are large fields of rice about Cottabato and hemp is found on the eastern coast. It is a rich grazing country and is said to have valuable deposits of coal and also mines of gold."

"How about the Moros?" I asked. "Will we ever be able to make Americans out of them?"

"I doubt it," replied General Bates. "The Moros are of their own kind, and they will probably remain much as they are for many years."

"How about the slavery question, general?" I asked.

"That is a serious matter," replied the general. "When I was sent there to negotiate the treaty I was told that I could assure the Moros that they should not be affected in any way as to their social or religious customs, and that we would protect them in their liberties and allow them to judge for themselves among themselves. "When I came to the negotiations I feared there might be some trouble about slavery, and of my own volition I inserted a clause in the treaty stating that slavery might have to be given up, but if so the Moros would be paid market value for their slaves. I wanted to put the price at 50 pesos each, but for some reason the Moros preferred the words 'market value,' although the average price of a slave is not over 40 pesos.

"Now it is said that congress wants the slaves freed without payment. This seems to me manifestly unjust. The slaves are the property of these people. They have regarded them so for ages, and have paid for them. I do not think they should be taken away without pay, and don't see how you can well explain such a proposition to the sultan. I fear that it may cause trouble."

"What kind of slavery is it, general?" "It is genuine slavery, in that the slave is the property of his master, and can be made to work by him without pay, but as a general thing the slaves work very little. They are treated rather as feudal retainers than as slaves in our sense of the word. I don't think there is much cruelty practiced, and the slave driver is unknown."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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