

## Manila

Manila, P. I., Nov. 22, 1898.

My Dear Father:

incumbents of elective municipal offices are high school graduates or have passed through the grammar school grades. If the system of ethics taught in this most receptive and impressionable period of life were more carefully calculated to prepare the boys and girls for the performance of the duties which the community will certainly impose on some of them there would be fewer betrayals of the people's confidence and city, county and state treasurers would not find it so difficult to get signers for the bonds they are required to deposit. As it is, there is no time for ethics because all of it is occupied in teaching and studying reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, geography and the various occupations which should be studied in a school of technology or in an art school or musical conservatory. Not until a pupil reaches the university is he apt to know what ethics means. It is not so long a word as arithmetic nor so abstruse a subject. And because children are more teachable and docile than older students, because they believe in the inspiration of their teachers, because the public school teacher molds the clay, and life and the university merely harden and make permanent the form which the teacher and the school have moulded, ethics should be a part of the curriculum in all the grades from the primary through the high school. The example and occasional exhortations of the teacher are well enough but they do not provide principles and a scale by which a graduate can test conduct. There is the same reason for formally teaching ethics as there is for teaching grammar. Rules are founded on larger data than a child can collect. In later life when the grammar boy is writing a brief or an opinion, or when, as governor or president, he is writing a message to a people, he is frequently very thankful that usage has not affected his ability to express himself clearly, because of the rules which, when he learned them, were meaningless, but now operate to make his meaning explicit. In the same way custom obliterates rules of uprightness. It sometimes seems right to steal from a corporation or a people, because the definition of expediency and of right were not clearly taught with illustrations in youth.

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Theodore Roosevelt's story of the organization and experiences of the Rough Riders in the current number of McClures is one of the best war papers ever written. It has all the effect of war music. It puts one in perfect sympathy with the spirit which brought the cowboys and college boys together. Not least of the charm of Mr. Roosevelt's narrative are the glimpses he gives us into his character. Faithful to those he calls friends, and fair to all, he seems a just man, as well as a most enthusiastic patriot. It develops that Mr. Roosevelt's one idea was to get to the front, a tendency which has manifested itself on other occasions, and which makes itself felt to the degree, that his opponents have found a trifle distasteful in time of peace.

It is not every man, it is safe to say, who would make over to his friend the honors intended for himself because, being far sighted, modest, and just as well as generous, he could but feel that friend more capable than himself. He was willing to follow rather than lead, if by that means he could get to the spot where bullets flew.

No tribute to the men in the ranks of the Rough Riders will be of more weight than this narrative just begun which bears the thumb marks of

The "Senator" arrived today from "Frisco" with mail including yours of October 12th, which I proceed to answer. I get up between six and seven. Morning drill from seven until eight which I attend nearly every morning although not required to do so being on detached service. At eight, we breakfast in the same building in which we sleep. There are about twenty officers in our mess; at present they are Colonel Stetsburg, Major Mulford of Omaha, Major Snyder chief surgeon, Captain Hollingsworth, Lieutenant Archer and myself of company C; Adjutant Forby, Quartermaster McLaughlin, Captain Vischer, Lieutenant Gegner, Lieutenant Henderson of F company; Captain Stockham, Lieutenant Hansen, Lieutenant Smith of I company from Bennett; Lieutenant Yale, Lieutenant Corcoran of York; Lieutenant Jensen of Omaha; Chaplain Mailley and the chief clerk in the brigade quartermaster's department. We have beef, pork, mutton and salt fish which is purchased from the brigade commissary. Most of the meat comes from Australia. We also have chicken, turkeys and fresh fish but these are not so much of a success here as at home on account of the rapidity with which meat spoils in this climate. Fresh fish will spoil over night and chickens have to be eaten soon after they are killed. There is one ice machine in Manila but the ice is expensive. In the line of vegetables we have yams, cucumbers, onions, radishes and cabbage. Of fruits we have bananas and oranges. There are about sixteen different kinds of bananas grown on this island. The kind the Filipinos call "lacatan" is the best. This kind is sweeter than those we get at home; the meat is a brownish pink color. I have seen no bananas here such as we get at home. The oranges are different from the Florida or California fruit; the meat is light red, the skin green. They never become solid yellow and are greatly inferior to our oranges. We buy olives, pickles, cheese, etc., from the commissary for about the same price you pay. We pay, in American money, for turkeys, \$1.50 and for chickens 50 cents each; for best bananas ten cents and for oranges five cents per dozen; cabbage and cucumbers cost a little less than at home. The Spaniards, Filipinos and Chinese have put their prices up since the Americans came, so a respectable mess costs us much more than it would at home. I am treasurer of our mess; last month to run it cost about \$19 in gold per man, exclusive of what we paid for furniture; the entire cost including furniture and food was \$24 per man, for the month. At hotels and restaurants meals cost from fifty cents to a dollar in gold. The Filipinos as a rule are a lazy lot. Of course there are among them some very industrious people but the genuine full blooded Filipino prefers to do as little work as possible. The higher classes of Filipinos have Spanish and in some cases, Japanese blood in their veins and are not the full blooded "Indio." Nearly all the men who are leaders of the revolutionary forces are part Spanish. Aguinaldo is not a full-blooded Filipino. I would say that before the Americans came here there was very little chance for a native who was born poor to improve his condition; now the opportunity is good. The Spaniards have employed the Filipinos in nearly every kind of business. They drive street cars, collect fares, work on the streets, in the electric light plant, in telegraph offices, as salesmen in stores and in many places hold positions of responsibility, but this applies to those who have Spanish blood. The "Indio," who is the true Filipino, is an

ignorant man and the Spaniards have done but little to educate him. The "Indios" mostly live on small farms. They have been oppressed and robbed by the priests and very few of them make more than a bare living. Now that the U. S. has taken possession of the Islands the robbing and oppression will cease and the condition of the natives will greatly improve. It has been several times proven in our court that the poorer classes of Filipinos never marry; the priests charge so high a price for performing the ceremony that the natives cannot afford the luxury. Heretofore protestant ministers of the gospel have not been allowed to preach here. There are very few wealthy Filipinos in Manila. Several who were wealthy were robbed of their wealth by Spanish officials. There are quite a number of Englishmen engaged in business here. Warner, Barnes & Co., and Smith, Bell & Co., do a great deal of business; in fact most of the commerce is carried on by Englishmen. There are two English banks, I believe the electric light plant is owned by an English corporation. Very little manufacturing is done here. The natives manufacture cigars and cigarettes, also hemp rope, bamboo baskets and sugar, but little else. The people engage in fishing to some extent but it is not carried on on a large scale. The common people live mostly on rice. The fruit they raise is sold. Those living near the coast have fish; they have very little meat. We had a case in our court the other day in which two Filipinos were tried for bringing into town meat taken from the carcasses of dead horses which had been shot by our soldiers (the horses had the glanders.) The prisoners said they were bringing in the meat for their own use. The climate here is not what you would call hot but it is disagreeable. When the thermometer shows eighty one suffers as much from heat if moving about as we do at home when it is ninety. In the morning when we go out to drill it is nice and cool, but after nine o'clock the less one moves about the better. I have just returned from a walk over to the prison which is about six blocks from here and feel pretty well worn, still the sun is not shining and the thermometer does not register eighty. One perspires continually. The trouble with this place is that it is very low and swampy. There is always an oppressive dampness in the air. Leather turns green in a very short time if laid away; it is impossible to keep my sword from rusting. Clothing hung up in a closet for any length of time acquires a damp and musty smell. The greatest nuisance here is the mosquitoes. Nebraska mosquitoes don't bite until evening or during the night, but these beasts will torture a fellow in the middle of the day when the sun is hottest. Carriages are used here much more than in the U. S. A little closed two wheeled carriage called "carrimeta" or "callise" is in general use. You can hire one of these almost anywhere on the main street for ten cents an hour. The horses are about the size of a Shetland pony. I don't believe there are more than a dozen large horses in Manila. Say:--stop the boat here a minute—I forgot to answer your question about the rain. Does it rain in Manila? No, it just pours and it pours every day and I guess every night, and sometimes for forty eight hours in succession. You ask if the rainy season is over? As well ask if the world has come to an end in Manila. Whenever there is a typhoon in the China sea it rains here until the typhoon is over. By the way, there is an earthquake due here next Friday. I am glad Thanksgiving is tomorrow as I may not have so much to be thankful for after the quake. There is much wind here during typhoons. My duties as marshal of the Provost Court are such that I travel about the city a great deal. During the day from

nine until five I am engaged in rustling witnesses or prisoners. After five I sometimes attend parade but generally go home, (listen to that, who ever thought of calling this place home) and rest until supper time which is six o'clock. There are not very many places of amusement in Manila. I believe there is a Filipino theatre but it is no good. I spend most of my evenings at home. We have been practicing for the minstrel show lately and this has served for amusement. We play cards or read and I also get considerable amusement out of an old Filipino guitar which I purchased. We can travel about the city in the daytime with as much safety as you can at home, but at night it is somewhat dangerous to travel about in the outskirts of the city. This district called "Birando" is the toughest of them all. Two soldiers have been found floating in the river near here who had evidently been killed for their money and their bodies thrown into the stream. It is supposed they were intoxicated when the robbery occurred. The streets in the business part of Manila are well paved with granite blocks. The streets are narrow and laid out with no regularity. A garbage wagon goes out twice a day and takes up the dirt so the streets are kept quite clean. Notwithstanding the attempts at cleanliness this city has more and a greater variety of bad odors than any place I ever ran up against. There is a system of water works the water being brought from the mountains through pipes laid on top of the ground. There is no sewerage, the city being but one foot above level of high tide. The city is lighted by electricity and has a system of all night lights; incandescent lights are used in alleys and small streets. The principal business houses on the "Escoto" are on an average about the size of Harley's drug store, perhaps a little smaller. The Chinese shops are most of them very small, what you would call a "hole in the wall." The merchants as a rule keep what you would call special lines such as shoes, dry goods, groceries, etc. There are the usual number of drinking places; the number has increased since the Americans arrived. As to the country outside the city I know very little about it. In the immediate vicinity of the city are rice swamps. On the land side we are surrounded by mountains the nearest of which are about twenty miles away. There is considerable crime in the city. The courts are in session all the time. The Inferior Provost Court, the Provost Court and the Military Commission, the highest. Our court the Provost Court of Manila, has tried about 180 cases since it was opened soon after our arrival. Its jurisdiction is limited to a sentence of one year imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000. Most of the crimes are committed by the lower class of Filipinos. The Chinese who compose about one half the population of Manila are very peaceable citizens. Later: Today is Thanksgiving and all the men have had a very fair dinner. Wish I was home to eat dinner with you. It is being away from home on these occasions that makes a fellow homesick; he gets to thinking of the good times they are having at home and you can't blame him if he uses an expression which is current here, "damn the war."

Your Obedient Son,  
Burt D. Whedon.

If you lend your money you may lose your friend, but he is generally cheap at the price.

There is a fish found in Hudson bay which absolutely builds a nest. This it does by picking up pebbles in its mouth and placing them in a regular way on a selected spot on the bottom of the bay where the water is not too deep.