

line democracy," which consists in having cast a vote for James Buchanan. But that democracy which along down the centuries has been fighting great battles. That democracy which believes that powers of government are rightfully inherent in the people governed; that they do not require the giving and they should not be subject to the taking away; that the functions of government are not to be exploited for the interest of the few, but are to be exercised for the conservation of the interests of the many. It is opposed to that abuse of government which consists in the creation and maintenance of special privileges.

Now this democracy is very old. It is only the reiteration of it that is new. Jefferson was not its originator, nor did he borrow it from Rousseau, for it was enunciated a hundred years before Rousseau by Locke, and the century before Locke by Hooker. Indeed more than 23 centuries ago it was asserted by Aristotle that the only legitimate government is one based on the consent of the governed, and acting in the interest of the whole; that that is not legitimate which is based on the authority of a class and exercised in the interests of that class.

Under varying circumstances and changing environments the eternal struggle has proceeded. In England the king would never have voluntarily yielded Magna Charta. The spirit of democracy plucked it from the king. In France through terrible revolutions it has procured for the burdened people the relief which the royal court would have granted never. In Russia and in Germany it stands as a continual menace to despotism.

But in this country of ours democracy finds itself engaged in a different field. Here arbitrary power never has been enthroned. Our form of government began its existence with an explicit statement, made as strong as words could express, that sovereign powers rest rightfully, and inherently, and only, in the possession of the people. The declaration of independence is a document vitalized by this principle.

Thus democracy in America stands for the preservation of old institutions rather than the inauguration of new. It has been forced to admit by the political phases of the closing days of the century, that the establishment of a government of the people in America is not yet an assured fact, however fondly it has been

dreamed to be, but is yet really in an experimental stage. It is still possible for it to meet the fate which has terminated every similar attempt since governments began on earth.—Dr. J. A. DuBois, in Sauk Center (Minn.) Herald.

#### A CHRISTMAS LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

Reprinted from City and State, Philadelphia.

"When the heart is broken, God enters and truth is realized; when peace reigns in the heart, truth is also perceived."

These are the two conditions under which man is permitted to touch the hem of the garment of that which no one can define. Under the commonplace conditions of daily life, when passion and petty ambition distort the mental view, the mind can reach only commonplace truths. The finer moral distinctions can only be realized under the strain and stress of profound sorrow, or else at the opposite pole of human emotion, when the heart and mind are at peace with God and the world.

It was not merely as a dramatic incident that the advent of the Greatest Embodiment of Truth was heralded by a message of peace and good will to man. The scene chosen for the announcement had also a meaning. It was to the shepherds "neath the stars and the silvery arc of the moon," enswathed in the peace-speaking night of the east, that the celestial messengers came. And it is at this same season of peace and good will, when the hearts of men, freed from the sterner things of daily life, are softened and drawn together, when all mankind is under the influence of the Prince of Peace—that I wish to make an appeal on behalf of our sorely stricken people.

I am convinced that if the American people only knew what is happening in the Philippines, the flag of truce would wave over every blood-stained field in our loved island home. But the martial spirit, as well as considerations of national pride and prestige, have dulled the ear of pity and compassion.

In this great land, wherein are enjoyed the blessings of liberty and abundance, there are those who would shrink from the mere idea of killing a fellow-being, yet who, under the influence of martial glory, do not realize that thousands of brave men and equally brave women are being slain by sword and starvation, in a conflict

which can only result in death to one people and withered laurels to the other.

Will we not do well to ask ourselves what is the cause of all this strife and suffering? What is the stumbling-block in the way of peace and reconciliation? I only know that the Filipino people are asking for that which the American people have enjoyed for more than a hundred years. What, then, are our differences? May it not be that "the all-transmuting truth may find affinities in things which are to us the very elements of war?"

At this season of peace I plead for peace. I plead on behalf of the wife and mother down whose cheeks are coursing the silent tears; on behalf of the maiden who has met with her first great sorrow; on behalf of the sad little faces, too young to realize what has happened, but who know that the one who occupied that vacant chair will never more return; on behalf of the patriots who, for good or ill, have laid down their lives for their country's cause; on behalf of the brave soldiers marching under both flags, and in the name and for the sake of Him, the Friend of the oppressed, who suffered unjust condemnation as a rebel against the Lord of Hosts, I plead for peace.

May this plea, written with the blood and tears of our people, reach the hearts of all who share the peace and good will of the Herald Angels' song on this last Christmas of the century.

SIXTO LOPEZ.

Bingham House, Philadelphia, 20th December.

#### WHY A MILITARY POST IS TO BE ESTABLISHED AT DES MOINES.

In the Chicago Chronicle of December 21 appeared the following special telegram from Des Moines, Ia., under date of December 20:

"Chairman Hull, of the house military affairs committee, wired the local committee to-day that Secretary Root has approved the selection of the Brisco-Denny farms, four miles from Des Moines, as the site for the new army post. The selection of this site is the result of a resolution by congress providing for a gift by the city of 400 acres of land."

What lies back of the establishment of a military post at Des Moines was well set forth by Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson in an article published last spring in the Des Moines Leader, which we here reproduce in large part.

Just now, as Capt. J. A. T. Hull is wearing a nimbus of glory on account of the plum he has secured for Des Moines from the big military plum pudding in process of distribution, his communications to the press are of peculiar interest. The interview in the Leader of April 10 is especially remark-