

the newspapers a long telegram on the situation in the archipelago.

According to that information the greatest disorder reigns in Manila, and the commander in chief of the American forces, not being able to conquer the resisting Filipinos, employs the same processes of coercion which the English are using in the Transvaal.

The natives who refuse to comply with the municipal decrees, which require that they should recognize the American sovereignty, are imprisoned. At Cebu, 411 Filipinos have thus been incarcerated, and there only remain 71 electors to constitute the municipality.

All attacks of Filipino troops upon American detachments are immediately punished by the pillage and burning of the villages and the imprisonment of the inhabitants without defense, including women and children. The prisoners are employed upon public works.

At Mongondo, in the province of Cavite, the Americans forcibly entered the house of the Filipino Gen. Riego de Dios, and carried off all articles of value, after having ill-treated the aunt and the sister of the insurgent chief.

The American prisoners who were in the hands of the Filipinos at Mindoro. Arayat and Abra, have been set at liberty. Twenty of them have requested to be allowed to enter the ranks of the Filipino army.

In spite of all the violence which has been brought to bear not more than 1,000 Filipinos out of 10,000,000 have taken the oath of allegiance to the United States.

A manifesto signed by 2,000 inhabitants of Manila has just been addressed to the American congress, asking for the independence of the islands.

The Filipino representative in Paris, Mr. Agoncillo, is also addressing the American people on the eve of the presidential election, requesting them to apply to the Philippines the principles of their own declaration of independence. He declares that the insurgents will persevere without ceasing in their struggle for liberty—a struggle which it would have been impossible to sustain until now, had they not had the support of the whole Filipino people.

In his capacity of president of the Philippine republic, Aguinaldo signed last August a decree in which, inspired by the most liberal considerations, he ordered all the American prisoners to be put at liberty, only requiring that they should deliver up their arms, and furnishing to them the necessary means to reach such destination as they should fix upon. The American

soldiers who should give themselves up were to receive 80 pesos for each rifle, and might, if they wished, establish themselves in the country under the protection of the Filipino authorities; they would not be admitted into the ranks of the native army.

#### A PETITION FOR A PETITION AGAINST AMERICAN ATROCITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES.

For The Public.

For the sake of humanity, let us do something to stop this horror. Innocent multitudes are made homeless and are even murdered by American soldiers in our imperial colonies.

No, I do not refer to the war of subjugation in the Philippines. I refer to what no civilized man calls war, but looting and massacre. If we can trust reports in republican papers, this devastation has already begun; but it is as yet as nothing compared with what it soon will be if the "feelers" in the shape of propositions of "military experts" for "sterner" measures in suppressing the rebellion should meet with approval from the American public.

It is of no use to protest against the war itself. Our last election proved that we stand on too low a level of civilization yet to repudiate the basest war of subjugation in history. But I do hope that we have yet enough manhood left to demand that in this war our soldiers obey the rules of civilized warfare.

The following barbarity is proposed, and it seems already sporadically practiced: Wherever the American soldiers are shot at, the whole neighborhood is to be devastated, and the destitute inhabitants—women and children among them—driven into the woods to perish by hunger and exposure. Prisoners of war, especially if caught singly, are to be executed for murder and arson.

If every man in the Philippines were a rebel, this would still mean the murder of countless innocent women and children who never have lifted their hands against the august power of the American empire. And one must go back to the darkest days of the Thirty Years' War to find another instance in history where nations calling themselves civilized executed prisoners of war.

And if our college presidents, professors and bishops, in and out of the Philippine commissions, have not lied to us in their very expensive reports, the majority, the vast majority of the natives want American rule. The rebels are only a small minority of des-

perate adventurers. Then how enormous is not the crime of destroying a whole loyal village just because a band of robbers happen to invest the neighboring jungle!

Fellow citizens, can we stand this?

No! Every civilized person rightly outside of prison and madhouse can have but one opinion on this subject. **THESE ATROCITIES MUST STOP.**

Could not the "Public," the "Nation," and, for that matter, every paper that claims to stand for civilization, start a crusade against this the deepest disgrace of the American name? Could not petitions be started by these papers; and could we not thus exert a sufficient pressure on congress to have this "crowning" shame of the nineteenth century stopped before the beginning of the twentieth?

All decent people would sign such a petition. Only thugs and human hyenas would think of refusing. I have many republican friends and acquaintances, and though they voted to continue the war, not one would want to authorize a massacre. Most of them voted for the war on the impression that thus would peace and quiet be most quickly restored in the unhappy islands. So I feel confident that I voice the sentiment of every respectable American when I propose that we demand **THAT THE AMERICANS MUST BEHAVE AS CIVILIZED BEINGS, EVEN IN THE PHILIPPINES.**

P. M. MAGNUSSON.

St. Cloud, Minn.  
Dec. 4, 1900.

#### WHAT THE SHIP FELLOWS SAY.

"I don't know very much about legislation," remarked the shoe clerk, "but I can't see any great benefit the people will derive by the passage of the ship subsidy bill."

"Mr. Shoe Clerk, your ignorance is appalling," said the inspired idiot. "It is a sad commentary on the boasted intelligence of the American people when a man with your sized head can't see the common advantages coming from a ship subsidy law. In the first place, it is a practical demonstration of the truth that it is a heap better to give than to receive. The revenue stamp act did a little along this line, but the ship subsidy law will bring it home to you in an express wagon.

"The ship companies go down to Washington and say to congress:

"Gentlemen, the American people are paying foreign ship owners more than \$100,000,000 a year for carrying our freight. This vast sum rightfully belongs to American ship owners, whom we are proud to represent. We build the best vessels in the world and