

which spies adopt. Though we as a nation never again admire and applaud the courage and devotion of a brave people fighting a foreign foe hopelessly but stubbornly for independence and their native land, may we not at any rate hope to recover so much of our former sanity as to distinguish a spy, even though he be our spy, from an officer and gentleman?

NEWS

Since our last issue the details of Gen. Funston's exploit in kidnaping Aguinaldo have been cabled from Manila. They were taken from the lips of Gen. Funston himself. On the 28th of February, Funston obtained from a treacherous confidential officer of Aguinaldo full information of the latter's retreat and several letters from him. The letters contained disclosures enabling Funston to forge deceptive replies from the Filipino general Lacuna, the mechanical part of the forgeries having been made possible by Funston's previous capture of Lacuna's camp, which put him in possession of that officer's seal and a quantity of his official papers and correspondence. With this material Funston caused two letters to Aguinaldo, purporting to be from Lacuna, to be forged. Having then outlined his plans and secured Gen. MacArthur's approval, he organized an expedition consisting of 78 Macabebes (native barbarians), 20 of whom he dressed as Filipino soldiers. The others wore the dress of Filipino laborers. They were officered by four ex-officers of Filipino troops, one of the four being a Spaniard. Funston took with him also four American officers. The expedition embarked March 8, on the gunboat Vicksburg, which landed them in the province of Principe, 25 miles south of Casiguran. Funston and the other American officers then assumed the role of prisoners of war of the rest of their party, who pretended to be Filipino troops. At Casiguran the Filipino officers, ostensibly in command, announced to the Filipino authorities there that they were on the way to join Aguinaldo, and were taking to him five American prisoners of importance whom they had captured after a fight in which they had killed a number of other Americans. In corroboration of their statement they exhibited Funston and his American com-

panions to the Casiguran officials, who were thereby completely deceived; and from this place the forged Lacuna letters were forwarded to Aguinaldo. On the 22d the party had come within a few miles of Aguinaldo's camp. They were then so weak from hardship and privation that they sent to his camp for food. In response, Aguinaldo furnished them supplies and directed that the American prisoners be treated kindly. It was on the next day, the 23d, that Funston accomplished his purpose. Having got safely into Aguinaldo's presence, his party attacked the small bodyguard, and after a brief fight, in which one of Aguinaldo's officers was killed, secured the famous Filipino and brought him a prisoner to Manila.

For this exploit of Funston's, Gen. MacArthur cabled to Washington on the 28th a glowing recommendation that Funston be rewarded with a brigadier generalship in the regular service under the army reorganization bill. President McKinley promptly responded. He cabled congratulations to Funston on the 3d, and later on the same day appointed him a brigadier general.

Aguinaldo is kept in close custody. Newspaper representatives are not allowed to interview him. But official cabling about him has been going on, and it has been evident that he was being officially pressed for some kind of decision. On the 2d a report leaked out from Washington that the cabinet had considered secret proposals from him regarding which Secretary Root had cabled instructions to Gen. MacArthur; and on the same day MacArthur reported officially that Aguinaldo, relying almost entirely upon the advice of Chief Justice Arellano, had sworn to the following declaration of allegiance:

I hereby renounce all allegiance to any and all so-called revolutionary governments in the Philippine islands, and recognize and accept the supreme authority of the United States of America therein; and I do solemnly swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to that government; that I will at all times conduct myself as a faithful and law-abiding citizen of said islands, and will not, either directly or indirectly, hold correspondence or give intelligence to any enemy of the United States; neither will I aid, abet, harbor or protect such enemy. That I impose upon myself this voluntary

obligation without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, so help me God.

As given out to the press by the war office, the copy of MacArthur's dispatch telling of Aguinaldo's having taken this oath of allegiance contained four asterisks, indicating information withheld by the department from publication. The war office officials refused any explanation.

Since the capture of Aguinaldo, Gen. Geronimo and other Filipino commanders are reported to have surrendered. But these indications of the collapse of the Filipino cause are not regarded as justifying a reduction of the American military force. According to a Washington dispatch of the 1st, it will be necessary to keep the army in the Philippines up to its present strength of 50,000 men for months to come.

The Chinese question arising out of the demands of Russia for a secret treaty giving her some sort of authority over Manchuria (page 810) is rapidly culminating. Assurances have been given by Russia to England, so said the British secretary for foreign affairs, speaking in the house of lords on the 28th, that the contemplated treaty is merely a temporary arrangement in the nature of a *modus vivendi*, intended to prevent disturbances in the vicinity of the Russian frontier; and that Russia is not seeking territory or any protectorate authority over Manchuria. Similar assurances were made by Russia on the same day to the United States. Japan, also, was assured by her to the same effect and with a promise that when signed the treaty will be communicated to the powers, and that if it does not prove acceptable to Japan Russia will discuss the matter in a friendly spirit. Meanwhile China again appealed to the powers to support her in refusing to sign the treaty. In making this appeal to the United States the Chinese minister informed the state department that he had received from the Chinese court several decrees directing him to request the United States to use its good offices to induce Russia to withdraw the treaty. But no positive action was taken by the powers, and on the 3d the Chinese government formally notified Russia that China declines to sign the treaty. In doing so it asserted the desire of China "to keep on friendly terms with all na-