

lives cheerfully risked that other lives may be saved.—Chicago Tribune, of August 10.

#### JUDGE TAFT'S TESTIMONY.

One of the main contentions of the president and his imperialistic supporters regarding the Philippines has been that our arms were defending the "loyal millions" in the islands against the "disloyal thousands" who, under the guidance of a few wicked and ambitious leaders, were seeking their own advancement and the overthrow of law and order. It was further claimed that the educated and solid classes were generally in favor of American rule. Mr. McKinley did not explain how it came about that "loyal millions," anxious for the protection and advantages of United States authority, permitted an insignificant minority of their race to continue a struggle which meant famine and disease, destruction of property, slaughter of men, and all the well-known miseries of war, when it was at any moment within their power, cooperating with the American army of 60,000 men, to bring it to a speedy close. Then they might at once enjoy all the blessings of peace and the fruits of our superior civilization. The administration's claim was absurd to anyone who gave a moment's thought to the essential facts of the case; but it seemed to be easily accepted by the general public. A people will not suffer approximately 50,000 of their number to perish in a war for independence, or endure such losses to their country as the Filipinos had done, if the great majority of them welcome the rule of a foreign conqueror. If they did so they would be acting directly contrary to the conception of their own interests and wishes which was attributed to them.

The view which we have always maintained, on the other hand, in common with all anti-imperialists, was that the great mass of the Filipino people were hostile to the domination of the United States; that they were fired with a strong and growing sentiment of nationality, and that this had been naturally born of the conditions of their past history, the misrule and oppression of Spain. Such a sentiment was not only natural and honorable to all men under like conditions, but it had been guided and nourished, so far as they were concerned, by the past and recent history of the United States itself. This fact was proved by the public expressions of leading Filipinos and by many of the pronouncements and other public documents issued by

their government. The former breathed the American spirit of free and constitutional government, the latter were closely modeled upon American political patterns. On the promises made by the president and congress to Cuba these Filipino strugglers for liberty naturally based the hope that our government would adopt a similar policy toward them. The logical guarantee for such a hope was certainly strong. The United States was for humanity's sake freeing Cuba from Spain; in doing so she promised this island, so near her own shores, all the essentials of American constitutional liberty. In freeing distant islands—the Philippines—at the same moment, could America do less than grant them the same boon? Surely even on general principles it was not to the discredit of Aguinaldo and his associates that they should reason thus about us, and that they should attribute to "the great North American nation" that honesty of purpose and disinterestedness which we claimed for ourselves, and which such a representative religious leader as Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott had asserted gave us a glory beyond all other nations. This may have shown that the Filipinos were unsophisticated in not suspecting the sincerity of these promises to Cuba. How could they foresee that we would quickly break them? Some of us were simple-minded enough not to foresee it.

To one who studied this subject more deeply than "the man on the street" can be expected to do, there was additional evidence that this view was correct. Whoever has read the remarkable novel of Jose Rizal, patriot and martyr, called "Noli me Tangere," which vividly portrays the social, religious and political conditions in the islands immediately preceding the downfall of Spanish power, the truth in this regard is made still more clear. Rizal's story deals with a people passing through the pain and travail of nationality. To its birth in freedom and independence they were being led by their patriotic educated men—that small but potent minority, which had received its education in modern science and modern political ideas in the universities of Europe. Of this class Jose Rizal was the most illustrious, the most talented, and the most unfortunate. Scholar, physician, poet, artist, he was above all the patriot who willingly sacrificed himself for the good of his unhappy country. In depicting the deep wrongs of his compatriots, and in laying the responsibility

for those wrongs directly at the door of those who maintained them and profited by them, he was well aware that he courted the fate that eventually overtook him. But he made the sacrifice willingly. He struck his blow from a distance, but he returned to the spot where he would suffer its recoil. President McKinley and the imperialists either have never read this history, so pathetic and so illuminating, or they rely on the world's ignorance of its real facts to give credence to their version of it.

But now another witness out of Mr. McKinley's own administrative household comes forward to support the view which we have presented, and to contradict that which is the mainstay of the imperialist position. This witness, whom we quote in conclusion, is Judge Taft, the chairman of the president's Philippine commission. We quote from Judge Taft's decision in regard to making Spanish the official language of the courts of the islands, as follows:

With deference to the memorialists of the American bar, I differ utterly from their conclusion that there is any antagonism between the Filipino lawyers, or the educated classes, and the masses. Deeply as the masses felt upon some features of the Spanish regime, it seems to me clear that there would have been no public expression of their feelings and no revolution had it not been for the educated class of the Filipinos. It was their guidance, their bravery, and their sacrifices of life and property which developed the silent protest of the people into forcible resistance. It seems to me to be blind to the most evident feature of the situation here, not to see that the masses of the people are largely controlled by the educated classes—indeed, I think, too much so.

We hope the imperialists will reflect upon these words and upon the fact that such patriotic members of this educated class of Filipinos as Mabini have been sent into exile by the president of the American republic because they claim that their country should enjoy that constitutional freedom by which it used to be our boast that we enlightened the world. A shameful and withering anomaly surely we are here guilty of! But the great practical question remains, and sooner or later the American people must meet it: Shall we permanently crush the Filipino sentiment of nationality, or shall we aid it to work itself out in accordance with the dictates of moral right and American traditions?—City and State, of Philadelphia.

#### MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY.

During the past few days all the big police officials have been visiting the city hall singly and in twos and threes, and numerous conferences