FOUL LEPROSY'S LOATHSOME GRIP

Claims Fifty Thousand Victims in Uncle Sam's Philippine Possessions-Other Dreadful Scourges.

(Copyright, 1900, by Frank G. Carpenter.)
MANILA, March 14.—One of the serious problems which confronts the governit here is the selection of a leper island and the segregation of the lepers. There are lepers scattered throughout the archipelago. In many places they mix with the rest of the people. They may be seen begging at the doors of the churches, and It is hard to tell whether they are not in the markets handling the vegetables and meats which we eat on our tables. There are, it is said, 20,000 lepers in the Visayan Islands, and the number in the whole country must be upward of 50,000. Lepromy exists to an alarming extent in several of the provinces of Luzon, and Captain Lynch, one of the doctors of the health department, tells me that he saw several hundred cases during his stay in Negros The Spaniards paid but little attention to the prevention of the disease. They had only two hospitals, one in Cebu and one in Manila. In Cebu the disease is known to be spreading and in Manila there are undoubtedly many lepers at large, I took a carriage this afternoon and drove out into the country to the leper hospital. It is about three miles from the center of Manila and the form the

center of Manila and not far from the tskirts of the city. You pass by a market where hundreds of men, women and children are crowding and pushing one another in buying and selling, and think, as you look, how easily one leper could contaminate the whole. You go by thou-sands of the thatched huts of the laboring classes, each hut swarming with people, and at last come to a big white building which looks not unlike a peni-. It is surrounded by large and shut off from the road by a grounds and shut off from the road by a thick wall of stone. It has a barred gate, and as you look up you instinctively re-member the inscription over Dante's In-"All hope abandon ye who enter and wonder why it is not inscribed upon it. Like a Prison.

Entering by the gateway is like going into a prison. You are in a long passage between high walls of stone, and far down, at the end of this you see the barred doors of the hospital itself. There is a native at the entrance who looks ugly enough to be a patient himself. We ask for the lepers. He points across the court and tells us to enter. We do so, and within a few seconds are in the presence of two score horrid-looking objects, who have run to the doors to meet us. Some are young, some old—all are lepers. Here is a boy, brown-faced, bright-eyed, and as quick in his actions and joyful in his laugh as your own boy at home. But look! His hands and his breast are covered with white spots and one of his ears has already begun to decay. Next to him is a man whose nose has been eaten away and whose eyes are bleared with the disease Others have foreheads which are falling in, toes almost gone and their bodies covered with sores. It is so horrible, indeed, that words can hardly express it.
As we hesitate, the lepers gather around

us. I motion them off, but they point to my camera, and one says "retrata," the ish word for photograph, and holding out his mutilated hands, adds these two words, in English: "Give money." I take out a Mexican dollar and throw it to him. he gathers the horrid crowd in the sun to one side and poses them for me. As I snap the button, the native doctor

appears and we go together through the heels, with the ghoulish crowd at our seels. We pass upstairs through one long tall after another, each filled with beds, upon some of which lepers are lying. The halls are clean and well lighted. The walls are whitewashed, and the building is cool and well kept. The floor is of hard wood, polished so that our faces and those of these living dead men are reflected in Leaving the men's ward, we next go to

the women's ward. There are 81 men and 55 women and girls now in the hospital. The females are of all ages, from little y-haired horrible-look ing hags of 60. The most of them are idle, sitting about talking, smoking and chewing the betel. One woman has her mouth so eaten away that neither teeth nor lips are left to hold her cigarette. Her nose is almost gone, but she has put Her nose is almost gone, but she has put the cigarette in one of her nostrils and is puffing out the emoke through the hole where her mouth should have been. I take a photograph of five of the worse trembling as I do so for fear I may

Waiting to Die.

I can imagine nothing more horrible than the condition of these people here. They have no amusements and no work. They are just waiting to die and watching themselves, knowing that they must die I understand that the health officers are

considering the matter of a leper island, and that at the earliest possible moment the lepers will be gathered together and carried there. This has been done in Porto Rico, and there is no doubt but that it should be done in the Philippines This part of the world seems to breed lepers. There are said to be more than a million in India, China and Chpan, and in this estimate half a million is assigned to Hindoostan. No accurate statistics have been taken for China, for lepers are to be nd in all the cities in the southern part of that empire. They mix about with the rest of the people, and you see leper beg-gars everywhere. On many of the rivets they go about in boats asking for alms, thrusting out bags attached to long poles at every boat and ship which goes by. They blackmail the funeral procession and levy tribute on the mourners, threat-ening to touch them if they do not give There is a leper asylum in Canton has 500 inmates. There both sexes live together, and many of them marry and have children. I saw no Chinese lepers in the Manila hospital, but there is a large Chinese population here, and withut doubt some of the Chinese are lepers. Leprosy is usually caused by contact, but it is the more prevalent wherever the people are overcrowded, dirty and poorly fed. A hot, mois climate, such as we have here, is conductive to it, and the gov-

town in a better sanitary condition, our soldlers have been very so far our soldiers have been very healthy here in Manila, and also in all parts of the Philippines. I have no doubt but that these islands are among the most healthful of all tropical countries, and for people who live well and take care of themselves, there is but little danger. The heat is no greater than that of the United States in the summer. The natives, how-ever, have no health regulations and a to-house visitation which the sanitary officials are now making shows that the city is in a very bad condition.

ernment is using every effort to put the

Manila's Death Rate.

The death rate for the last six months of 1899 was about 41 per 1000, estimating the population at 300,000, or, if estimated at \$00,000, about 31 per 1000. These figures are exceedingly high. Hong Kong, which is in the same latitude as Manlia, and which has about the same climate, has a death rate only half as large, and it is death rate only half as large, and it is next door to China, with all the plagues that that country so regularly produces. Here we had practically no plagues during

the time above mentioned. Within the past few weeks, however, there have been a number of cases of the black death or bubenic plague. This plague has broken out at several of the ports of Japan and China, and there have been a number of deaths from it here. I found it at Kobe, Japan, when I passed through on my way to the Philippines, All sengers taken on there were ex-

they were permitted to come on board the ship, the captain of the steamer requiring a doctor's certificate from each.

The black pingue has, in the past, been very prevalent in China, especially in Can-ton and Hong Kong. It also exists in India, and there are now a large number of cases in Bombay and Calcutta. The doctors here tell me that it is often

communicated by rats, and, within the past few weeks, they have sent out an order that all rats are to be killed. It is charged that the Filipinos and the Chinese will not co-operate with the Health Details part of the body, and it was upon letter from the Cuban Isle intimates that

scratched up by the doctors.

Nevertheless, the doctors are making many vaccinations. They have established a vaccine farm here, at which they use young caraboas, or water buffaloes, to furnish the virus, instead of cows, as with us. Ten thousand points so treated were sent out in response to one order yesterday, and carabao vaccine is being distributed through all the Army posts. I went out to the vaccine farm this morning, and watched the mode of treating the animals. A carabao calf about a ing the animais. A carabao calf about a year old was lying strapped down upon a table as I entered the operating hall. The head and three legs of the beast were strapped to the table. The animal lay upon its side, its head and three legs so fastened that it could not move; and its fourth leg, one of the hind ones, so tied to a post that the belly was plainly exposed. The hair had been shaved from the sent of the body and it was upon

Cuban merchant here, who, being unable to read English, brought it to me for iranslation. I would be very glad to have you answer this letter, as I am curious to know the one who adopted so novel a method of correspondence. I have a camera and have had a snap shot taken of myself with the egg in my hand. If you care for one of the pictures let ma hear from you. Very traly, CHARLES PERCY H. SMITH.

CHARLES PERCY H. SMITH.

This letter was promptly answered, with a request for the picture, which arrived in due time, with another letter, in which Mr. Smith gave a more detailed personal account of himself.

Needless to say, this letter was answered as the first. Uncle Sam's excellent mall facilities assisted the young people in overcoming the obstacles of time and space. Letters followed fast if not furious, but the communications were of such nature



FILIPINO WASHERWOMAN.

the peole. It is also carried by the fleas here and there upon it. which live on the rats and carry the dis-ease to the human beings whose bodies

may form the next feeding ground, ...So far, nearly every one who has caught the black plague here has died. The disease comes upon one without warning, in the shape of a fever, which in a short time raises the temperature of the patient to 105 degrees and upward. There is no chili. but the patient has a severe headache and shows signs of stupor. After 12 hours the glands of the neck, the armpits, or the groin, begin to swell and soon become as large as hens' eggs. In some cases the patient vomits blood, and within a few hours he dies. Some few recover. And if one can keep himself alive for six days after exposure he is probably safe.

Kills Bats.

The plague kils rats as well as human beings. Dead rats are found in the drains in the infected portions of China, and the hind him. They believe in charms and rats ran from such places almost as fast as the men.

The doctors here have had considerable trouble about disposing of the bodies. They at first insisted that all should be burned, but the Chinese and Filipinos made such an outcry over this that General Otis has countermanded the order. When the plague was so bad in Canton, many of the pall-bearers who were paid to carry the pall-bearers who were paid to carry the frequented by thousands of pilgrims in coffins to the graves were stricken with it, the month of May, and it is said that and when four men would go out for that the village there relies almost entirely purpose, often but two would return. The Chinese here are very anxious to have the bodies of the deceased sent back to China. They put them in immense wooden coffins which are hermetically sealed by varnish-ing them again and again with a sort of a lacquer, but which are, nevertheless, unsafe in the case of the plague. During the prevalence of the disease at Canton, there were a numer of Chinese coffin associations of men who clubbed together to furnish coffins for the poor. In one such club 2000 coffins were given away, and altogether more than 60,000 coffins were fur-

nished for plague patients. said that 50 per cent of the people of the Philippines are suffering from skin diseases, and, from the amount of scratch-ing I see going on, I judge that the figures are not overdrawn. Every second person you meet, whether man, woman, or child. jerks his clothes this way and that, apparently hunting for fleas. The diseases are largely caused by eating fish, which forms the chief diet of the native Filipino. It brings about a fish eczema, in which the skin scales off, making the patient look at times not unlike a leper. Then there is the dobe itch, which is so common that at least one-third of the foreigners have had it. This is supposed to be caused by a parasite which comes in the water in which the clothes are cleaned by the Filipino washerwomen. It usually attacks the toes, the armpits and the parts of the body which perspire most profusely, causing a rash. It sets one almost crazy, but it is easily cured and is not at all day The natives themselves pay but little athave numerous medicinal plants, and the mineral springs, hot and cold, which are found in different parts of the Islands are very well patronized.

Smallpox, of Course.

The most dangerous of all skin diseases is, of course, the smallpox, which has lately broken out in a number of places. It exists along the line of the railway in Luzon, and at several of the ports, and is said to be spreading in Panay and Cebu. Several officers of the army have had it, but as yet, it has not affected the foreigners to any extent. The Spring months are the most dangerous times of the year for this disease. The weather is hot and dry, and the heat from noon until

not and dry, and the heat from noon unto about 4 P. M. is often oppressive. I called at the Health Department today and made some inquiries of the doctors. They are not alarmed at the situation, but say that they are vaccinating as many people as possible. A wholesale vaccin-ation of all the people would be a good thing if it could be carried out. It must be remembered, however, that there are ,000,000 of them, and that at least 7,000,000, I should say, need such treatment. Prac-tically no vaccination had been attempted tically no vaccination had been attempted among the lower classes up to the time of our taking possession of the islands. The people do not look upon smallpox as we do. They are like the Chinese in that many of them pay no more attention to it than they do to a bad cold. They do not care to be vaccinated, and the Chinese

many among them who eat rats as food. I ing made. The skin of a carabao is of have bought dried rats which were offered a delicate pink, and that of a calf has for sale as eatable articles in the cities of the peachy tint of a maiden's cheek. It China, and I see them for sale in the Chi- was upon this tinted background that nese stores here. The rats communicate the scratching was done, evident by a the plague by contact, or by running over dozen bloody spots which could be seen

A native Filipino doctor was performing the work of inoculation, the poor carabao now and then uttering a cry which was almost human as the lance cut through his hide. The doctor told me that the scab formed very quickly, and that a scab formed very quickly, and that a large number of points can be dipped in one scab. The carabaos are thoroughly examined to see that they are healthy before they are vaccinated. Their sorres last but a short time, and within a week or so they are as well as ever.

Some Filipino Superstitions. One trouble about vaccinating both .Filipinos and Chinese lies in their superstitions. Many of the Filipinos are fatalists. They think they are fated to die or get well, and if so vaccination will not help them. One belief is that cholera is Truth is his council wife, his high concern truth is his council wife, his high concern truth is his council wife, his high concern truth is his council wife. in prayers as preventives of disease, the priests have encouraged them in this, Some years ago cholera morbus was com-mon, and some of the friars advised the people to pray to St. Roque. The disease kept on for some time, but when it stopped that saint got the credit for it. The Filipinos have numerous shrines scattered over the country which are supposed to be especially holy. One is at Anti Polo, not far from Manila. It is

upon such pilgrims for its living. It is a town of about 4000 people. There is a famous shrine in the Island of Cebu, whose patron is known as the Holy Child of Cebu. This child is an ebony image of Jesus, which is said to have been found on the seashore more than 200 years ago by one of the Spanish order of friars and a church was built for it. This church was burned, but the image was saved and another was erected, in which it is still kept. The image is about 15 inches high, and is loaded with silver trinkets. It is carried about in a cession on certain days of the year.

There are plenty of relics of saints in the churches here in Manila, and scat-tered over the Philippines are virgins, saints and relics which are supposed to have special virtues in the healing of I find the people here very religious; every woman, and almost every man, wears a scapulary. Some of the people have what is called "Angting-angting" charms of paper, silver or lyory, upon their breasts under their clothes. These are drawings of the saints and special words or texts which are supposed to not only ward off disease, but to preven the wearer being killed in battle. Many have been found upon the bodies of the Filipinos killed by our soldiers, the charms having for some reason failed to protect the wearers from our Krag-Jorgense bullets. FRANK G. CARPENTER.

IOWA GIRL'S ROMANCE. Wrote Name on Eggshell and Met

Fort Dodge, Ia., has become one of the centers of the egg and poultry business for the West. During the shipping season in the Summer months large forces of girls are employed handling eggs taken from pickling vats in the egghouse, pre-paratory to shipment. One of the girls selected a large, smooth egg, and, in a moment of day-dreaming, wrote her name and address upon it with an indelible pencil. It was placed in a case with 277 others and shipped to New York, where it found its way to the warehouse of an exporter and was one of the first shipments of American eggs made to Cuba. Weeks slipped into months and the young woman forgot her romantic dreams of Summer days and eggshelis, but the maiden's message was working out her destiny. Early last December, says the St. Paul Globe, in telling the story, she received a letter which bore the postmark of Guines, Cuba. On the upper right-hand corner of the available serves corner of the envelope were the words "official business." These were carefully cancelled and in the regulation place was a msroon-colored stamp. On opening it she found the following letter inclosed:

United States Signal Corps, Telegraph Office, Guines, Cuba, Dec. 14, 1898.—Miss Léxie Gil-day. Fort Dodge, Ia.: I am sure you had no

partment in this matter, because there are it that the vaccination wounds were be- Mr. Smith will soon secure a leave of ab sence from his Governmental duties and his vacation will be spent in lowa.

THE POTENT MAN.

Crowned with the grace of fruited years, he Within the forum where are waiting crowds, The light of generations in his face, And on his lips the voicing of events. Fully forty years are his, with strength ma-

ture, Whose brow is chiseled by the hand of thought; And his, the ardent, thought-compelling eye. Whose azure seems as vocal as his speech.

His deeds are braver than his words— Deep-rooted as the haughty hills his hope; Nor shall despair find nesting in his heart, Whose faith-crown'd summits are soft laugh

Whose faith-crown d summins are not laugh-ter-zones.

Mild-mannered be, as best ordains his hope,
Whose strength finds ample source, and food
Where Love is king at th' heart of universe,
And links, and holds the vibrant suns is

Adviser at the center of four empires g Whose boundaries curve around two

Who made him so alive to giory and to biles. Who made him so alive to giory and to biles. To all that most recruits the soul of man? Who made this commoner a king, and gave Into his hand the rule of commonwealths?

Nor meager chance could make him what he is Whose finger holds the page of destiny On which is marked the orbital of many states A representative and composite man, He comprehends communities and growle. The upward trend of slow-evolving states, The grinding of the mills of wealth and pow'r; And grieves for men who walk in sin—and

What name he bears is that of fame and worth.

Not easily achieved, nor won of fate,
Till will and purpose high combine to wrest
All counter-shapes to his concern and good.
From menial race he sprang and birthes

mean;
Nor time nor flood could bar his progress sure
Where once he willed to force a passage wide
Through wall of rock or tumbled stone unhewn.

His principles are fixed as rocky ribs That half-boop, and forfend, the heaving Of many-zoned and throbbing altitudes. When youth him crown'd, he sought the throi And knew, by choice unfelgned, the voice of

In every vernal, rapturing forest shade Where, for a time, imagination wrought Each bough into a golden temple arch Forth then to marts of trade, to court a him

Forth then to marks of trade, to court a hire, He goes; concerned to gather in a proper wage. Nor haits he here—nor seeks the dens of vice Where lurks the evil hand that slants the brow And sags the youthful, plastic, untrained jaw. Than this he climbs by other way and best—Yeat on to grammar school, and school of thought the goes—fast led by aspiration on—Till wisdom-hunger tends him to the stream Of ancient lore and art and verse and song.

Fien every harnessed star, obedient, Yields up its secrets to his question-glass, The radiant moon for him a mantle wears. The searons and the suns are his and God's: The swing of mighty spheres concerns h

mind.

Thus is his soul attuned to music-zones;
In him the sense of truth and love incorporate
And his the passion of the endless age.

Events in crowas press thro his audencerooms;
His forum is the center of world storms
Where wrongs are righted and where truth
is named;
All questions of concern and moment great,
Requiring high deliverance and just,
Find swift resolvings in his senate hall.
The populations vow his rule appropriate,
And mark his judgments higher than their
codes.

Events in crowds press thro' his audience

God's promises are in his upward look; How can you chain him, glerified, to earth Whose wish is stamped with immortality? Thro' his bright dream the reeling nations Gaze upon the splendor of the Newer Time; The worked-out problems of Christ's vital hope Within his ideal state no chasms yawn por tentous; Between him and the angel choir small guifs divide.

This is the Being the Almight, made and gave To marshal nations and correct their laws; To rectify the waste of abortive streams, And huri their force against huge factory wheels:

wheels;
To bridge the continents with spans of iron,
And climb Panamaian hills with ships of
steel;
And curb the sullen sea from shore to shore.
This is the breath he breathed who thought the stars Out of the shoreless, or the azure, main. Up through the halls of heaven, whose

Roofs recede into the golden palaces of God. There is no stronger wing of power than this, None that bears up the world with sweeter love. —LEOSTINE. Ashland, Or.,

WASHINGTON & ALASKA

STEAMSHIP CO. United States Signal Corps, Telegraph Office, Guines, Cuba, Dec. 14, 1898.—Miss Lizzie Gilday, Fort Dodge, Ia.: I am sure you had no idea into whose hands and to what distant lands the egg upon which you wrote your name would go. It came with a large shipment from the United States, and was purchased by a DODWELL & CO., LIMITED, AGENTA.

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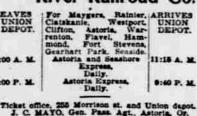
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