Carpenter in the Orient

(Copyright, 1900, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

MANILA, June 12.—I have just had a chat with an Army officer who thoroughly understands the Philippine Islands and their people. He has traveled over the country from north to south, has been one of the chief participants and counsellors in the war with the Tagalos, has seen something of the Visayans in the middle part of the archipelago and has performed the delicate diplomatic service of making a treaty with more than 200,000 Moros and thereby bringing to the United States the archipelago of Sulu and the great island of Mindanoa without firing a gun. I refee to eGeral J. C. Bates, soldier and diplomatist, one of the shrewdest and most practical observers of our officials in the Philippines.

I met the General at his headquarters in Manila, a splendid house belonging to a rich insurrecto. The room we sat in was as big as any in the White House, except the East Room. It had a ceiling 21 feet high and beautifully frescoed. Fine paintings in oil hung upon its walls and great pier-glass mirrors, half an inch thick, looked at us from the four sides of the room. The floor was of Filipino mahogany, with boards a foot and a half wide and 20 feet long, and the furniture was massive and elegant. The house is lighted by incandescent electric lamps, and the rays of electricity fall upon the soldiers on guard at the front door.

The General had just come in from one of his campaigns, where he had been sleeping in the field and fighting insurrectos, and I could see he was enjoying the change. He looks remarkably well, and, notwithstanding his beard and hair are gray, he seems as active as when, 35 odd years ago, he was on General Meade's staff in our Civil War.

In beginning our conversation I referred to General Bates' service during that war and asked him how this war compared with it. The General replied:

"The fighting we have had here is nothing in comparison with that of the Civil War. We had more men killed in a single battle then than have been killed in the whole of the Filipino contest."

"But how about the guerrillas, General?" said I. "Take Mosby, for instance, does not the Filipino fight as he did?"

"Yes, Mosby carried on warfare something after the style of these people, but you must remember he knew how to shoot."

"How about the Tagalo as a fighter, General? Has he any natural bravery in his makeup?"

Heap Big Talk.

"Yes, I think so. We have had many instances of their courage. In the Camarines our soldiers found the people at one of their towns lined up ready to oppose us. We sent word to them that we did not want to fight them without they intended to fight us. They at once sent back the reply:

"'Combate! combate! Quiere mucho combate!' or fight! fight! We desire much to fight!

"There was a wide road at that point leading into the town, and they evidently thought our troops would march up it and so be to some extent at their mercy. Our troops deployed, however, into the rice fields. We surrounded them and attacked them on all sides at once. They were soon fleeing in every direction, and we had to bury 64 of them. From that time on we had no trouble in that vicinity.

"As to the bravery of the Filipino," continued General Bates, "I have seen numerous instances of it. In that same campaign a Filipino rushed up to an American officer and attacked him with a bolo, although the officer had a revolver in his hand. The officer shot the Filipino, but this did not stop him. He rushed on and gave the officer a cut across the arm before he fell.

"Another of our officers was attacked in the same way, and was cut in the right arm so that he could not use his revolver. He changed it into his left hand and shot the Filipino dead."

"Suppose the Filipinos had good leaders, General, do you think they would make efficient soldiers?"

"I do not see why not. As it is, they are badly led. Their Generals have relays of horses ready to carry them away from the field when the battle goes against them. The men have not been drilled, and they known nothing about firearms. They do not know how to shoot and cannot handle their guns to any effect."

"How about their present method of fighting, General?" I asked.

"They have already forfeited all right to be treated as belligerents," replied General Bates. "And we should be justified in regarding them as outside the pale of civilized warfare and as robbers and bandits. Their plan of campaign is the same everywhere, and it undoubtedly emanates from headquarters. They have been directed to attack only stragglers and small bodies of troops and have general instructions to rob and murder. They pretend to have an organized Government and are oppressing the natives under the pretense of collecting taxes. We shall have to protect the people from them and shall need a large force for some time yet to do that."

War Practically Over.

"Then you regard the war as practically over?"

"Yes," was General Bates' reply. "The war is over so far as any organized resistance to our troops is concerned. A company of our soldiers can now safely march from one end of Luzon to the other. It is not yet safe for men to go alone, or in parties of five or ten."

"Speaking of brigandage, General," I asked, "would it not be a good idea to hang or shoot an insurrecto whenever he attempts to ambush or rob, or, indeed, whenever he is caught with a gun in his hand? That would put a quick stop to the murders."

"It might, and it might not," said General Bates. "These people do not care for life as we do. They kill without remorse, and see the lives of their comrades taken without apparent regret. You can hardly judge them by our standards. You know the English found that they could not affect the East Indians in the ordinary way. Then they struck at them through their religion. After the horrible sepoy massacres they tied some of them to the mouths of their cannon and blew them into such small pieces that their friends could never collect them together to bury them in the Ganges. That fixed the business. It was a matter of superstitious faith rather than the fear of death that influenced them."

"But, General, have these people any religious prejudices that you can appeal to?"

"No, not that I know of," replied General Bates. "They are largely fatalists."

"How do you find the people of the Camarines Provinces, General? Are they Tagalos?"

"No," was the reply. "They are not Tagalos, but the Tagalos caused them to rebel. They are a different people, and speak a different language. I think it is the Vicol dialect. They are a very decent people, and if they had been left alone, there would have been no trouble with them.

"Is not that the case with most of the people of Luzon and the other islands outside the Tagalo Provinces?"

"Yes. It is the Tagalos who cause all the uprisings, insurrections and fighting. They are natural revolutionists and have always been so. They rebelled against the Spaniards and are now doing the same against the Americans. I believe the trouble comes chiefly from the leaders, a few half-breeds, who want to make all that they can for themselves out of the war. If we could kill a half-dozen or so of their leading spirits, we should have no further trouble."

"Give me an estimate of the Tagalo, General. What kind of man is he?"

The Tagalo.

"He is the strongest man of these islands," replied General Bates. "I am told he is the most vicious. He is utterly untrustworthy and treacherous. He may serve you well for 20 years and will then rob or murder you without a twinge of remorse. He will pretend to be your friend and at the same time work against you behind your back. He seems to be a man of considerable natural ability and intelligence and at times of industry. The different methods of making ammunition and guns which he has used during the present war show that he possesses ingenuity."

"What should be our policy as to the people of the Philippines?"

"We must show them that we mean to rule, but we must temper justice with mercy. We must protect them on their farms, in their homes and in their business. Many of them are property-owners. They are naturally a working people and a business people, and the masses are tired of war. As soon as they see that we really mean to stay, and that we will protect them, I don't believe we shall have anw further trouble. As they find times growing better and their opportunities of amassing wealth increasing, they will become enthusiastic supporters of the government and may be Americanized. They are already asking for schools, and want their children to learn English."

"English should be taught in the schools, General, should it not?"

"Yes, but not, perhaps, to the exclusion of Spanish. There are many people who understand Spanish. The teaching them English will give them English ideas, and we shall breed up a new race with new ideas of morality and political honor. Our hope, I think, is in the children."

"How about the little Filipino, General; is he bright, or on the contrary?"

"He is exceptionally bright for an Asiatic," said General Bates. "I believe the Filipinos are naturally more intelligent than our colored people. The children learn quickly. Why, within a few days after the soldiers take possession of a town, they pick up some English and after a few weeks begin to jabber in it."

"I notice, General, that many of the soldiers commonly speak of the Filipinos as 'niggers,'" said I.

"Yes, some of them do," replied General Bates, "but we try to prevent everything of that sort. The Filipinos resent being treated as inferiors. They object to being called offensive names and to being knocked about. The men who do this are merely aping the English. Why should we call them niggers? They are no blacker than our Indians, and we do not call them so."

"As to the treatment which the natives receive from the soldiers," General Bates went on, "it is usually good. They do not fire upon them unless they are attacked, and when the natives are in retreat they often let them go. We always tell the people not to run, but to remain in their towns. They are afraid of us at first, but they are now getting over that. One day not long ago a party of our soldiers were pursuing some insurrectos when they saw a man jump from his horse and plunge into the woods. He was not shot at, but when he came to the horse we found in the saddelbags papers showing that the man was one of the insurgent leaders, Colonel Legaspi."

"How about the conduct of the American troops, General—are there many instances of individual heroism?"

"Yes, lots of them," was General Bates' reply. "Take the case of a private at Tanawan in the country south of Laguna de Bay. You will find few more remarkable instances of continued bravery in the history of warfare than his. Ten men started out from the post on scouting duty. They were marching along the road through a dangerous country, when two of the soldiers happened to straggle behind, and the officer, fearing they might be attacked, sent three men back to find them. They had just reached the stragglers, when they were attacked by a large band of insurrectos. They were in a ravine at the time. The insurrectos, as I understand it, were on top and at both ends of the ravine, and to remain there meant death. Four of the men fought their way out. The fifth for some reason would not go, and was boloed. The four, as soon as they had broken their way through the insurgent lines, ran shooting as they did so, and three made their way back to camp.

"The other man ran so fast that he distanced the other three and ran right into a party of insurgents. There was a ravine or gorge at that point, and to escape them he jumped into it and took his position in a hollow in the rocks, where they could reach him only from the front, and that only by climbing up over a little hill. The insurgents charged at him again and again, but he kept them off by shooting them as they reached the top of the hill.

Killed Thirty of Them.

"He had 100 rounds of ammunition, and fired off 92, hitting his enemies 40 times and killing 30 of them. The insurrectos acknowledged that he killed 18, and his figures are probably correct. At their first charge he killed five. This made them halt, and he had a chance to reload. At their second charge he again killed five, and after that they were more careful. He shot, however, when a head appeared, and kept them at bay for two days and nights.

"Then the smell of the bodies of the men he had killed became so offensive that he determined to fight his way out. He made a rush and was chased for some distance, but finally jumped into a shelter much like the one from which he had been driven. There he remained two days, keeping the Filipinos at bay and killing such as approached.

"All this time he had nothing to eat or drink, and at last he could stand it no longer. He had but eight rounds of ammunition left, and he determined to fight his way to death or to drink and food. If to death, he determined to kill as many as he could on the way. He succeeded in breaking through and ran into a corn field, where he quenched his thirst by sucking the water which had collected in the joints of the corn. The corn was high, and the insurrectos lost him. He had come out upon the road again when he saw what he thought was another party of insurrectos, and was preparing to shoot at them when he saw that they were Americans.

"The three men who had fought their way back to camp had reported the two lost, and this was a party which had come out to search for them. They had found the man who was boloed in the ravine, and had been hunting for the other man for five days, and had about given up the search. The man was almost dead from hunger and thirst. His mind was affected by his terrible experience. He could hardly talk, but throughout it all he had held to the determination to fight to the death and to not give up until every round of ammunition was spent.

"That," concluded General Bates, "was one case of individual heroism. There have been scores of others, not the same, but equally praiseworthy."

The conversation here turned to the material prospects of the islands, and I asked General Bates if he thought they would ever be a profitable investment for the United States. The General replied:

Philippines Will Pay.

"I think so. These people are a hard-working and an accumulating people, but they have had no chance in the past. Under our rule they will be able to make more, and they will be much larger consumers. There is already a big trade here, and this will greatly increase."

"How about the natural resources of the islands, General? You have been over a great part of them."

"They are very rich agriculturally, and will produce far more than they are now doing. It is wonderful how many well-to-do Filipinos there are, and what rich farms they have. In the Camarines of Eastern Luzon I saw vast tracts of hemp and rice. The provinces south of Manila are wonderfully fertile, and so are the large valleys of the north."

"How about the timber resources?"

"They are of great value and of enormous extent. There are many large tracts of virgin forest, and some of the islands are almost entirely covered with trees."

"Have you seen any gold?" I asked.

"I know there is gold on many of the islands," was the reply, "but whether it exists in paying quantities I very much doubt. The Spaniards were gold-hunters and the country has been in their hands for over 300 years. It hardly stands to reason that they did not prospect it. But you know the old saying among the miners is that gold is where you find it, and that you never know till you do find it. Cripple Creek was traveled over for years by some of the most expert gold miners of the United States, and they never realized the fortunes beneath their feet. Still, it is now one of the richest gold camps of the world."

"Which is the richest of all the islands, General?" I asked.

"I cannot say. But one of the very richest is Mindanao, and it is perhaps the least developed of all. It is about as big as Kentucky, and is so shaped that most of it is accessible by water. The ocean about its coasts is very deep, and it has numerous bays and several quite large rivers. Its soil will raise almost anything. Coffee grows well, there are large fields of rice about Cottabato and hemp is found on the eastern coast. It is a rich grazing country and is said to have valuable deposits of coal and also mines of gold."

"How about the Moros?" I asked. "Will we ever be able to make Americans out of them?"

"I doubt it," replied General Bates. "The Moros are of their own kind, and they will probably remain much as they are for many years."

Slavery Question.

"How about the slavery question, General?" I asked.

"That is a serious matter," replied the General. "When I was sent to negotiate the treaty I was told that I could assure the Moros that they should not be affected in any way as to their social or religious customs, and that we would protect them in their liberties and allow them to judge for themselves among themselves.

"When I came to the negotiations I feared there might be some trouble about slavery, and of my own volition I inserted a clause in the treaty stating that slavery might have to be given up, but if so the Moros would be paid market value for their slaves. I wanted to put the price at 50 pesos each, but for some reason the Moros preferred the words 'market value,' although the average price of a slave is not over 40 pesos.

"Now it is said that Congress wants the slaves freed without payment. This seems to me manifestly unjust. The slaves are the property of these people. They have regarded them so for ages, and have paid for them. I do not think they should be taken away without pay, and don't see how you can well explain such a proposition to the Sultan. I fear that it may cause trouble."

"What kind of slavery is it, General?"

"It is genuine slavery, in that the slave is the property of his master, and can be made to work by him without pay, but as a general thing the slaves work very little. They are treated rather as feudal retainers than as slaves in our sense of the word. I don't think there is much cruelty practiced, and the slave driver is unknown."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

GROUP OF FILIPINO SCHOOL CHILDREN.

J. C. BATES, MAJOR-GENERAL VOLUNTEERS, A. D. 1900.

TYPICAL FILIPINO FACES, INCLUDING TWO CHINESE.

CALVE VISITS THE QUEEN.

Restful Atmosphere of Windsor Pleases the Tired Singer.

Calve, tired, but happy by reason of many honors, has just visited Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle, and on the whole she found it a more pleasant abiding-place than Fanchon Thompson did; but perhaps that was because she had greater opportunity to judge of its attractiveness, for she stayed there over night.

"If I had been dying," she said when she was telling of her experiences at Windsor, "I should have come over from Paris all the same to sing to her Majesty, for I had promised, and I kept my word, as you see; but I am very tired after my long American season. To my great regret, I shall be obliged to give up the rest of my London engagements. I must have perfect rest, and I think I shall go to Scotland. Now we will talk about the visit to Windsor, which again this time was so delightful." Mme. Calve has a deep admiration for the Queen. She has been several times to Windsor, where she is a great favorite; but she is always struck by the charming simplicity and comfort of the royal household.

Her dressing-room was close to the Waterloo chamber, which had been transformed for the occasion into a theater. The royal dais, immediately facing the stage, was provided with chairs for the Queen and royal family.

Not the First Time.

"The Queen looked remarkably well," said Mme. Calve, "and seemed to enjoy the music thoroughly. She is a wonderful woman, your Queen, and she understands and loves good music."

To the remark that this was not the first time Mme. Calve had sung in "Carmen" by royal command at Windsor, the prima donna replied that the opera was evidently a favorite with her Majesty, who, on a former occasion, was so delighted with the realism of her impersonation that she requested Countess Valda Gleichen to make a bust of Calve in that particular role. The singer herself, however, will not own to any favorite role. "I love them all," she exclaimed. "You see, I always first study the character of the heroine I impersonate. I spent two months in Seville when I was studying Carmen, for instance, and devoted much time to watching the factory girls with their lovers, and I tried to take in their view of love, with all its southern fierceness, jealousy, sorrow and brutality. And, as for Santuzza, I studied that character during the five years I spent in Italy."

At the end of the performance, which went without a hitch, the Lord Chamberlain came to request Mme. Calve's presence. The Queen, in her own gracious manner, thanked the queen of song for the great pleasure she had given her. "In fact, her Majesty said many kind things to me as she gave me this portrait, adorned with her autograph" and Mme. Calve led me to the piano where it stood framed handsomely in a folding screen of purple velvet and gold.

Gift of Sapphire and Diamonds.

"But that is not all, for the Queen also placed in my hand this pendant. Is it not lovely?" holding it up for me to admire, as it hung from a slender chain at her neck—a fine very large sapphire, surrounded by diamonds. "When we reached our apartments, a maid of honor appeared with a message from her Majesty, who hoped that we were not too tired and that we should sleep well.

"Her Majesty requested me to remain her guest until the next afternoon, as she wished to see me again with my two friends at 1 o'clock. In the morning a royal carriage was placed at my disposal and we went for a lovely drive in the park and to see some friends of mine who live near Windsor." At 1 o'clock the three ladies were ushered into the Queen's drawing-room, where sat her Majesty, Princess Christian and Princess Victoria Eugenie, of Battenberg. Mme. Calve sang several of the quaint folk songs of her native Aveyron, which her Majesty very much enjoyed. These were followed by a pretty song by Gaston de Foix and then Mme. Calve sang "L'Invocation," by Guy d'Hardelot, in which she was accompanied by the composer.

"The Queen said the song was very pretty, and asked me to present the composer to her. After thus spending a delightful half hour or more, we took leave of her Majesty, who said she hoped to hear me in 'Faust' next time. A maid of honor came once more on behalf of her royal mistress to thank me again for the pleasure I had given her, and to hear whether there was any other part of the castle we should like to see. Refreshments were ordered for us, and then we were driven to the station."

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