# PRESIDENT M'KINLEY'S LETTER ACCEPTING THE

PRESIDENT M'KINLEY'S letter important unofficial document is-

seed in this country in a quarter of a century. The President takes the country into his confidence and throws a new light upon the history of the past two wears. Irrespective of its caustic arraignent of the critics of the administration and its forceful clinching of the fact that Bryanism means the "immediate" destruction of the gold standard and substitution therefor of free silver coinnge at the ratio of 16 to 1, the letter is important in the historic sense because it gives the American people their first knowledge of the statesmanship and conditions connected with recent epoch-making events.

The President, although by nature a mild and conciliatory man, can be aroused to a point of dangerous combativeness, and when the mood is on him he becomes one of the most effective debaters we have had in this country for many years. In his letter he wastes no time in what might be called preliminary sparring, but, having definitely located the enemy's vital spot, which is the free silver heresy, he strikes at it with force and precision. The financial question, he says, may not be the paramount issue, but it is the immediate issue. "It will admit of no delay and will suffer no postponement." For has not the Democratic party declared for the "immediate" coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1? And is there any doubt that Mr. Bryan, who insisted upon the insertion of the silver plank in the platform, against the advice of the best men in the party, will use every means, M he is elected, to carry his principles into practice?

After paying the tribute of his regret that the Democratic party by its nominee and its reiteration of the free silver plank of 1896 has made it necessary for the voters to reaffirm their decision of four years ago in favor of the existing gold standard, President McKinley boldly picks up the gage of battle on the issue of imperialism. What that issue is he states most happily in a single paragraph near the end of his letter. After he has marshaled the facts which place the whole controversy in the clearest possible historical light before the reader, he

The American question is between duty and desertion-the American verdict will be for duty and against desertion, for the Republic against both anarchy and imperialism.

As a campaign document the letter is regarded as phenomenally strong. But It is more than a campaign document. It is a contribution to history. The Presi-Sent deals candidly with the American ople. He is not afraid to tell them what he has done or why he did it. He

## TEXT OF THE LETTER.

President's Views on Free Silver and the Philippine Question.

Executive Mansion, Washington, D. C., Sept. 8 .- To the Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge, Chairman Notification Committee-My Dear Sir: The nomination of the Republican naoffice of President of the United States. which, as the official representative of the convention, you have conveyed to me, is accepted. I have carefully examined the platform adopted and give it my hearty

Upon the great issue of the last national lection it is clear. It upholds the gold standard and indorses the legislation of the resent Congress by which that standard as been effectively strengthened. The stability of our national currency is, therefore, secure so long as those who adhere to this platform are kept in control of the govern-

#### Same Issues Involved. In the first battle, that of 1896, the friends

of the gold standard and of sound currency vere triumphant and the country is enjoying the fruits of that victory. Our antagonists, however, are not satisfied. They com pel us to a second battle upon the same lines on which the first was fought and won.

While regretting the reopening of this question, which can only disturb the present entisfactory financial condition of the gov erament and visit uncertainty upon our great business enterprises, we accept the forces to join in winning another and we hope a permanent triumph for an honest financial system which will continue invio

#### lable the public faith. All Loyal to Silver.

As in 1896, the three silver parties are united under the same leader, who, immediately after the election of that year, in an ddress to the bimetallists, said:

"The friends of bimetallism have not been vanquished; they have simply been over me. They believe that the gold standard a conspiracy of the money changers against the welfare of the human race-and they will continue the warfare against it."

The policy thus proclaimed has been accepted and confirmed by these parties. The aliver Democratic platform of 1900 continues the warfare against the so-called gold conspiracy when it expressly says:

'We relterate the demand of that (the Chicago) platform of 1896 for an American system made by the American peo ple for themselves, which shall restore and maintain a bimetallic price level; and as part of such system the immediate restoration of the free and unlimited colunge of sliver and gold at the present ratio of 16 to d, without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation."

The Paramount Issue. So the issue is presented. It will be noted that the demand is for the immediate restorstion of the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1. If another issue is paramount, this is value. immediate. It will admit of no delay and Our foreign trade shows a satisfactory and will suffer no postponement.

Turning to the other associated parties, we find in the Populist national platform adopted at Sloux Falls, S. D., May 10, 1900,

the following declaration:

"We pledge anew the People's party never to cease the agitation until this financial conspiracy is blotted from the statute book, the Lincoln greenback restored, the bonds all paid and all corporation money forever retired. We reaffirm the demand for the reopening of the mints of the United States for the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1, the immediate increase in the volume of silver coins and certificates thus created to be substituted, dollar for dollar, for the bank notes issued by private corporations under special privilege, granted by law of March 14, 1900, and prior national banking

#### Declare Their Hostility.

The platform of the silver party adopted at Kansas City, July 6, 1900, makes the fol-

"We declare it to be our intention to lend our efforts to the repeal of this currency law, which not only repudiates the ancient and time-honored principles of the American people before the Constitution was adopted, but is violative of the principles of the Constitution itself; and we shall not cease our efforts until there has been established in its place a monetary system based upon the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold into money at the present legal of 16 to 1 by the independent action of the United States, under which system all paper money shall be issued by the government, and all such money coined or issued shall be a full legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private, without excep-

#### Combine Against Gold.

In all three platforms these parties annonnce that their efforts shall be unceasing until the gold act shall be blotted from the statute books and the free and unlimited columns of silver at 16 to 1, shall take its

The relative importance of the issues I do not stop to discuss. All of them are important. Whichever party is successful will be bound in conscience to carry into administration and legislation its several declarations and doctrines. One declaration will be as obligatory as another, but all are not im

It is not possible that these parties would treat the doctrine of 16 to 1, the immediate realization of which is demanded by their several platforms, as void and inoperative in the event that they should be clothed with power. Otherwise their profession of faith is insincere. It is therefore the im-perative business of those opposed to this inaucial heresy to prevent the triumph of the parties whose union is only assured by adherence to the silver issue.

### Facing Grave Peril.

Will the American people, through indifference or fancled security, hazard the over-throw of the wise financial legislation of the last year and revive the danger of the silver standard, with all of the inevitable evils of shattered confidence and general disaster which justly alarmed and aroused them is

The Chicago platform of 1896 is reaffirmed in its entirety by the Kansas City convention. Nothing has been omitted or recalled: so that all the perils then threatened are resented anew with the added force of a deliberate reaffirmation. Four years ago the people refused to place the seal of their approval upon these dangerous and revolutionary policies, and this year they will not fall to record again their earnest dissent.

## Faithful to Pledge

The Republican party remains faithful to its principle of a tariff which supplies sufficient revenues for the government and adequate protection to our enterprises and pro ducers, and of reciprocity, which opens foreign markets to the fruits of American labor and furnishes new channels through which to market the surplus of American farms. The time-honored principles of protection and reciprocity were the first pledges of Republican victory to be written into public

The present Congress has given to Alaska a territorial government for which it had waited more than a quarter of a century; has established a representative government in Hawaii; has enacted bills for the most liberal treatment of the pensioners and their widows: has revived the free homestead

In its great financial law it provided for the establishment of banks of issue with a capital of \$25,000 for the benefit of village and rural communities, bringing the oppor tunity for profitable business in banking within the reach of moderate capital. Many are already availing themselves of this priv

## Some Convincing Figures.

During the past year more than \$19,000,000 of United States bonds have been paid from the surplus revenues of the treasury, and in addition \$25,000,000 of 2 per cents matured, called by the government, are in process of payment. Pacific Rallroad bonds issued by the government in aid of the roads in the sum of nearly \$44,000,000 have been paid since Dec. 31, 1897. The treasury balance is in satisfactory condition, showing on Sept. 1 \$135,419,000, in addition to the \$150,000,000 gold reserve in the treasury. The government relations with the Pacific railroad have been substantially closed, \$124,421,000 being received from these roads, the greater part in cash and the remainder with ample

ecurities for payments deferred. Instead of diminishing, as was predicted four years ago, the volume of our currency is greater per capita than it has ever been. It was \$21.10 in 1896. It had increased to \$26.50 on July 1, 1900, and \$26.85 on Sept. 1. 1900. Our total money on July 1, 1896, was \$1,506,484,966; on July 1, 1900, it was \$2,-062,425,400, and \$2,096,683,042 on Sept. 1, 1900.

## Prosperity in General.

Our industrial and agricultural conditions are more promising than they have been for many years; probably more so than they have ever been. Prosperity abounds everywhere throughout the republic. I rejoice that the Southern as well as the Northern States are enjoying a full share of these im proved national conditions and that all are contributing so largely to our remarkable industrial development.

The money lender receives lower rewards for his capital than if it were invested in active business. The rates of interest are lower than they have ever been in this coun try, while those things which are produced on the farm and in the workshop, and the labor producing them, have advanced in

increasing growth. The amount of our ex- ports are now carried by foreign ships. For

ceptionally prosperous year of 1899 was about half a million dollars for every day of the year, and these sums have gone into the homes and enterprises of the people. There has been an increase of over \$50,000,-000 in the exports of agricultural products \$92,692,220 in manufactures and in the products of the mines of over \$10,000,000.

#### Big Gains in Trade.

Our trade balances cannot fall to give sat Isfaction to the people of the country. In 1898 we sold abroad \$615,432,676 of products more than we bought abroad, in 1899 \$529, 874,813 and in 1900 \$544,471,701, making during the three years a total balance in our favor of \$1,689,779,190-nearly five times the balance of trade in our favor for the whole period of 108 years from 1790 to June 30, 1897 inclusive.

Four hundred and thirty-six million dollars of gold have been added to the gold stock of the United States since July 1, 1896. The law of March 14, 1900, authorized the refunding into 2 per cent bonds of that part of the public debt represented by the 3 per cents due in 1908, the 4 per cents due in 1907 and the 5 per cents due in 1904, aggregating \$840,000,000. More than one-third of the sum of these bonds was refunded in the first three months after the passage of the act. and on Sept. 1 the sum had been increased more than \$33,000,000, making in all \$330,-578,050, resulting in a net saving of over \$8. 379,520.

#### Government Saving Money.

The ordinary receipts of the government for the fiscal year 1900 were \$79,527,060 in excess of its expenditures.

While our receipts both from customs and Internal revenue bave been greatly increased, our expenditures have been decreasing. Civil and miscellaneous expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900, were nearly \$14,000,000 less than in 1800, while on the war account there is a decrease of more

eign ship owners over \$185,000,000. We ought to own the ships for our carrying trade with the world, and we ought to build them in American shippards and man them with American sallors. Our own citizens should receive the transportation charges now paid to foreigners.

I have called the attention of Congress to this subject in my several annual messages. In that of Dec. 6, 1897, I said:

"Most desirable from every standpoint of national interest and patriotism is the effort to extend our foreign commerce. To this end our merchant marine should be improved and enlarged. We should do our full share of the carrying trade of the world. We do not do it now. We should be the laggard no longer."

In my message of Dec. 5, 1899, I said: 'Our national development will be one-sided and unsatisfactory so long as the remarkable growth of our inland industries remains unaccompanied by progress on the seas. for legislation which shall give to the country maritime strength commensurate with its industrial achievements and with its rank among the nations of the earth.

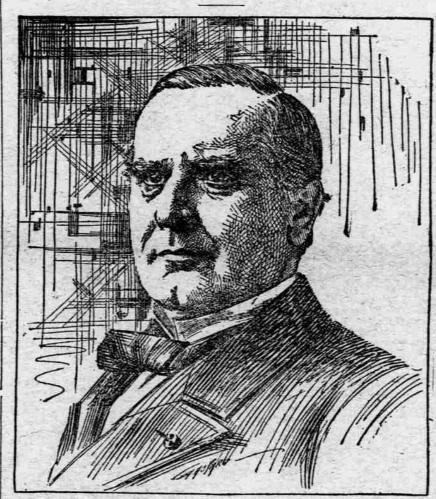
"The past year has recorded exceptional activity in our shippards, and the promises of continual prosperity in shipbuilding are abundant. Advanced legislation for the protection of our seamen has been enacted. Our coast trade, under regulations wisely framed at the beginning of the government and since, shows its results for the past fiscal year unequaled in our records or those of any other power.

#### Need of the Canal.

"We shall fall to realize our opportuni ties, however, if we complacently regard only matters at home and blind ourselves to the necessity of securing our share in the valuable carrying trade of the world.

"I now reiterate these views,

#### PRESIDENT M'KINLEY.



than \$95,000,000. There was required \$8.-000,000 less to support the mayy this year than last, and the expenditures on account of Indians were nearly two and three-quarters million dollars less than in 1899.

The only two items of increase in the pub lic expenses of 1900 over 1899 are for pensions and interest on the public debt. For 1809 we expended for pensions \$139,394,929. and for the fiscal year 1900 our payments on this account amounted to \$140.877,316. The net increase of interest on the public debt of 1900 over 1899 required by the war loan was \$263,408.25.

## Bonda Speedily Taken.

While Congress authorized the govern nent to make a war loan of \$400,000,000 at the beginning of the war with Spain, only \$200,000,000 of bonds was Issued, hearing per cent interest, which were promptly and natriotically taken by our citizens.

Unless something unforeseen occurs to duce our revenues or increase our expendi tures, the Congress at its next session should reduce taxation very materially.

Fifty years ago we were selling govern ment bonds bearing as bigh as 5 per cent interest. Now we are redeeming them with a bond at par bearing 2 per cent interest. We are selling our surplus products and lending

our surplus money to Europe. Europe Is Our Debtor.

One result of our selling to other nation to much more than we have bought from them during the past three years is a radical improvement of our financial relations. The great amounts of capital which have been porrowed of Europe for our rapid, material development have remained a constant drain upon our resources for interest and dividends and made our money markets liable to constant disturbances by calls for pay ment or heavy sales of our securities when ever money stringency or panic occurred abroad. We have now been paying these debts and bringing home many of our se curities and establishing countervailing redits abroad by our loans and placing ourselves upon a sure foundation of financial independence.

In the unfortunate contest between Great Britain and the Boer states of South Africa the United States has maintained an attltude of neutrality in accordance with its well-known traditional policy. It did not hesitate, however, when requested by the governments of the South African republics, to exercise its good offices for a cessation of

#### bostlittles. Did What We Could.

It is to be observed that while the South African republics made like request of other powers, the United States is the only one which compiled. The British government declined to accept the intervention of any

Ninety-one per cent of our exports and im

"A subject of immediate importance to our country is the completion of a great waterway of commerce between the Atlantic and Pacific. The construction of a maritime canal is now more than ever indispensable to that intimate and ready communi cation between our eastern and western sea ports, demanded by the annexation of the Hawallan Islands and the expansion of our influence and trade in the Pacific.

"Our national policy more imperatively than ever calls for its completion and control by this government, and it is believed that the next session of Congress, after receiving the full report of the commission appointed under the act approved March 3, 1899, will make provisions for the sure accomplishment of this great work.

## Would Restrict Trusts,

Combinations of capital which control the market in commodities necessary to the general use of the people by suppressing natural and ordinary competition, thus enhancing prices to the general consumer, are welfare. They are dangerous conspiracies against the public good, and should be made the subject of prohibitory or penal legisla-

Publicity will be a helpful influence to check this evil. Uniformity of legislation in the different States should be secured. Discrimination between what is injurious and what is useful and necessary in business operations is essential to the wise and effectve treatment of this subject.

Honest co-operation of capital is necessary to meet new business conditions and extend our rapidly increasing foreign trade, but conspiracies and combinations intended to restrict business, create monopolies and con trol prices should be effectively restrained.

Best Friends of Labor. The best service which can be rendered to abor is to afford it an opportunity for steady and remunerative employment and give it every encouragement for advancement. The policy that subserves this end is the true American policy. The past three years have been more satisfactory to American workingmen than many preceding years. Any change of the present industrial or financial policy of the government would be disastrous to their highest interests.

With prosperity at home and an increasing foreign market for American products employment should continue, to wait upon labor, and with the present gold standard the workingman is secured against payment for his labor in a depreciated currency. For labor a short day is better than a sho lar. One will lighten the burdens, the other lessens the rewards of toil. The one will promote contentment and independence, the

#### other penury and want. Speaks for Good Wages

The wages of labor should be adequate to keep the home in comfort, educate the chli- of the realisation of these ends.

something by for the days of infirmity and old age.

Practical civil service reform has always had the support and encouragement of the Republican party. The future of the merit system is safe in its hands.

During the present administration as occasions have arisen for modification or amendment in the existing civil service law and rules, they have been made. Important amendments were promulgated by executive order under date of May 29, 1899, having for their principal purpose the exception from competitive examination of certain places involving fiduciary responsibilities or duties of a strictly confidential, scientific or execu tive character, which it was thought might better be filled by noncompetitive examinacretion of the appointing officer.

#### Value of Merit System.

It is gratifying that the experience of more than a year has vindicated these changes in the marked improvement of the public ser

The merit system, as far as practicable is made the basis for appointments to of fice in our new territory.

The American people are profoundly grate ful to the soldlers, sallors and marines who have in every time of conflict fought their country's battles and defended its honor. The survivors and the widows and orphans of those who have fallen are justly entitled to receive the generous and considerate care

of the nation. Few are now left of those who fought in the Mexican war, and while many of the veterans of the Civil War are still spared to us their numbers are rapidly diminishing and age and infirmity are increasing their dependence. These, with the soldiers of the Spanish war, will not be neglected by their grateful countryment. The pension laws have been liberal. They should be justly administered, and will be. Preference should be given to the soldiers, sallors and marines, their widows and orphans, with respect to employment in the public ser-

#### Kept Faith with Cuba.

We have been in possession of Cuba since the first of January, 1899. We have re-stored order and established domestic tranquillity. We have fed the starving, clothed the naked, and ministered to the sick. We have improved the sanitary condition of the We have stimulated industry, introduced public education, and taken a full and comprehensive enumeration of the in-

The qualification of electors has been settled and under it officers have been chosen for all the municipalities of Cuba. These local governments are now in operation, administered by the people. Our military establishment has been reduced from 43,000

to less than 6,000.

An election has been ordered to be held on the 15th of September under a fair election law already tried in the municipal elections, to choose members of a constitutional conorder, is to assemble on the first Monday of November to frame a constitution upor which an independent government for the island will rest. All this is a long step in the fulfillment of our sacred guarantees to the people of Cuba.

## Plans for Porto Rico.

hold Porto Rico by the same title as the Philippines. The treaty of peace which ceded us the one conveyed to us the other. Congress has given to this Island a govern ment in which the inhabitants participate, elect their own legislature, enact their own power and privileges enjoyed by other territories belonging to the United States and a much larger measure of self-governmen than was given to the inhabitants of Louisiana under Jefferson. A district court of the United States for Porto Rico has been estab lished and local courts have been inaugursted, all of which are in operation.

The generous treatment of the Porice Ricans accords with the most liberal thought of our own country and encourages the best aspirations of the people of the Island. While they do not have instant free com nercial intercourse with the United States, Congress complled with my recommendation by removing, on the 1st day of May last, 85 per cent of the duties and providing for the removal of the remaining 15 per cent on the 1st of March, 1902, or earlier if the legislature of Porto Rico shall provide local revenues for the expenses of conducting the government.

## Island Is Profited.

During this intermediate period Porto Rican products coming into the United States pay a tariff of 15 per cent of the rates under the Dingley act and our goods going to Porto Rico pay a like rate. The duties thus paid and collected both in Porto Ricc and the United States are paid to the government of Porto Rico and no part thereof is taken by the national government.

All of the duties from Nov. 1, 1898, to Jun 30, 1900, aggregating the sum of \$2,250, 523.21, paid at the custom houses in the United States upon Porto Rican products, under the laws existing prior to the above mentioned act of Congress, have gone into the treasury of Porto Rico to relieve the destitute and for schools and other public purposes. In addition to this, we have expended for relief, education and improvenent of roads the sum of \$1,513,084.95.

Military Force Cut Down, The United States military force in the islands has been reduced from 11,000 to 1,500, and native Porto Ricans constitute for the most part the local constabulary.

Under the new law and the inauguration of civil government there has been a gratifying revival of business. The manufactures of Porto Rico are developing; her imports are increasing; her tariff is yielding increased returns; her fields are being cultivated; free schools are being established. Notwithstanding the many embarrassments incident to a change of national conditions, she is rapidly showing the good effects of her new relations to this nation

For the sake of full and intelligent under standing of the Philippine question and to division of the archipelago can bring us any give to the people authentic information of the acts and aims of the administration, I trade and commercial side, as well as the present at some length the events of importance leading up to the present situation. realed and can best be judged by what be has done and is doing.

Every Move for Peace. It will be seen that the power of the gov ernment has been used for the liberty, the esce and the prosperity of the Philippine peoples, and that force has been employed only against force which stood in the way

On the 25th day of April, 1898, Congress declared that a state of war existed between Spain and the United States. On May 1 1898, Admiral Dewey destroyed the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay. On May 19, 1898, Maj. Gen. Merritt, U. S. A., was placed in comnand of the military expedition to Manila and directed among other things to immedi ately "publish a proclamation declaring that we come not to make war upon the people of the Philippines nor upon any part or faction among them, but to protect them in their homes, in their employments, and in their personal and religious rights. All persons who, either by active aid or by honest submission, co-operate with the United States in its efforts to give effect to this eneticent purpose will receive the reward of its support and protection."

#### Some Fortunes of War.

On July 3, 1898, the Spanish fleet in at empting to escape from Santiago harbon was destroyed by the American fleet, and on July 17, 1898, the Spanish garrison in the city of Santiago surrendered to the comander of the American forces.

Following these brilliant victories, on the 12th day of August, 1898, upon the initiative of Spain, hostilities were suspended, and protocol was signed with a view to arrang ing terms of peace between the two govern ments. In pursuance thereof I appointed a unmissioners the following distinguished citizers to conduct the negotiations on the part of the United States: Hon. William I Day of Ohio, Hon. William P. Frye of Minnesota, Hon. George Gray of Delawar and Hon. Whitelaw Reid of New York.

### Forced Into Conflict.

In addressing the peace commission befor ts departure for Paris, I said:

"It is my wish that throughout the negtiations intrusted to the commission the pur ose and spirit with which the United States accepted the unwelcome necessity of was took up arms only in obedience to the dietates of humanity and the fulfillment of high public and meral obligations. We had no design of aggrandizement and no ambition

of conquest. "Through the long course of repeated repesentations which preceded and almed avert the struggle and in the final arbitrament of force this country was impelled sole ly by the purpose of relieving grievou wrongs and removing long existing conditions which disturbed its tranquillity, which shocked the moral sense of mankind and which could no longer be endured.

High Sense of Duty. "It is my earnest wish that the United States in making peace should follow the same high rule of conduct which guided to in facing war. It should be as scrupuloud and magnanimous in the concluding sattlement as it was just and humane in its orig-inal action. • • Our aim in the adjustment of peace should be directed to lasting results and to the achievement of the common good under the demands of civilization

rather than to ambitious designs. . . "Without any original thought of complete or even partial acquisition, the presence and necess of our arms at Manila Impose apo us obligations which we cannot disregard. The march of events rules and overrules human action. Avowing unreservedly the purpose which has animated all our efforts. and still solicitous to adhere to it, we cannot be unmindful that without any desire or design on our part the war has brought us new duties and responsibilities which we must meet and discharge as becomes a great nation on whose growth and career, from the beginning, the Ruler of Nations has plainly written the high command

## Shirked No Responsibility.

On Oct. 28, 1800, while the peace commission was continuing its negotiations in Paris the following additional instruction was

"It is imperative upon us that as victors should be governed only by motives which will exalt our nation. Territorial expansion should be our least concern; that we shall not shirk the moral obligations of

our victory is of the greatest. "It is undisputed that Spain's authority is permanently destroyed in every part of the Philippines. To leave any part in her feeble control now would increase our difficulties and be opposed to the interests of humanity. . . Nor can we permit Spain to transfer any of the islands to another power. Nor can we invite another power or powers to join the United States in sovereignty over them. We must either bold them or turn them back to Spain.

Only One Honorable Course. "Consequently, grave as are the responsi bilities and unforeseen as are the difficultles which are before us, the President can see but one plain path of duty, the acceptance of the archipelago. Greater difficulties and more serious complications-administrative and international-would follow and other course.

"The President has given to the views of the commissioners the fullest consideration, and in reaching the conclusion above anounced, in the light of information con municated to the commission and to the President since your departure, be has been influenced by the single consideration of duty and humanity. The President is not unmindful of the distressed financial condi tion of Spain, and whatever consideration the United States may show must come from its sense of generosity and benevolence rather than from any real or technical obligation.'

#### Could Not Abandon Them. Again, on Nov. 13, I instructed the com-

"From the standpoint of indemnity, both the archipelagoes (Porto Rico and the Philippines) are insufficient to pay our war expenses, but aside from this, do we not owe an obligation to the people of the Philippines which will not permit us to return them to the sovereignty of Spain? Could we justify ourselves in such a course, or could we permit their barter to some other power! "Willingly or not, we have the responsi-

bility of duty which we cannot escape. . . The President cannot believe any thing but embarrassment in the future. The indemnity for the cost of the war, are questions we might yield. They might be walved or compromised, but the questions of duty and humanity appeal to the President so trongly that he can find no appropriate anwer but the one he has here marked out."

#### Terms of the Treaty. The treaty of peace was concluded on Dec.

10. 1898. By its terms the archipelago known as the Philippine Islands, was ceded by Spain to the United States. It was also provided that "the civil rights and politica