

THE LADRONES.

Capt. H. L. Heath, Co. A., 24 Oregon Infantry, writes an interesting letter to his paper, the McMinnville Telephone Register. After telling how the Ladrones were captured, which story does not materially differ from what the INDEPENDENT has already given to its readers, Captain Heath proceeds:

"The Spanish soldier is a hardy looking animal, by no means the nondescript described by the enthusiastic press. He lacks education, probably, but he is intelligent looking and is well set up. He is well equipped for service in this country, much better than our troops. His uniform is light blue stuff, about the weight of muslin. It is loose fitting and the trousers legs are worn in the tops of medium high brown canvas shoes. A two inch wide stripe of dark blue cloth runs down the trousers seam. The blouse is of the same color as the trousers, single breasted, with small shoulder straps. The hat is of cocoa nut fiber, white and finely woven with a wide brim. The belt of cartridges is a neat affair, with pockets for the Mauser clip holding five cartridges each. The rifle is undoubtedly the equal of the Krag-Jorgensen of our regulars and far superior to the Springfield of our volunteers."

The outfit of our boys in comparison is crude and heavy and not at all adapted to service in this climate. If the service is long in the Philippines, very many changes in the present equipment of our troops will have to be made before they can be serviceable in this hot and humid climate. To illustrate the heat and humidity, will say that the water of the sea since leaving Guam has not fallen below 84 degrees, and in some instances has been as high as 87, and the clothing is at all times damp with perspiration and the dampness of the air. Clothing washed and hung up to dry in the sun will still be damp and unfit for wear twenty-four hours after hanging up."

The Spanish official is very polite, and, like a Frenchman, is unable to talk with his hands tied. This affability is no doubt the cause of the many delays in our diplomatic dealings with them. The little affair at Guam has taught us all a lesson, and the next experience will no doubt have less delay in it."

The Chineros of the Ladrones despise the Spaniards and are tickled to death over the taking of the islands. They are intelligent, have schools and churches (all Catholic) and are energetic."

As soon after the return of the ship from the landing party escape as possible, Captains Gadsby, Prescott and myself obtained permission to leave the ship for a visit to the fort bombarded by the Charleston. It is an old fortification, and is constructed of cement and coral. It was built in 1801, and while it has been abandoned for thirty years, it is yet in a good state of preservation. With two 8-inch rifles it could prevent the landing of any ship except possibly a monitor armed with twelve or thirteen-inch guns. The damage done by the Charleston was very slight. After visiting the fort we concluded to visit a native village through the reef. While we did not know what we would strike, we concluded to chance a row, all being armed with six-shooters. Striking the reef, we found it impossible to pass owing to the shoal water; but, calling a native who was wading in the water some distance away, through signs we made known our desire for a boat of less draught. He returned to the village and soon with several other natives came out in dug outs into which we got and were pushed astern by the natives swimming and wading alongside. Upon reaching the landing we were met by the boss of the village, a native appointed by the Spaniards as head policeman. He had all the records of the town ready for delivery to us, thinking we were there to demand the surrender of the town. He could speak a little English, and when we quieted his fears, shook hands with him and said we wanted to purchase some fruit, his face lighted up and taking us to his home, entertained us in a royal manner, serving native fruits, drinks, cigars and cigarettes. Nothing was too good for us when we told him that the Chineros were now American citizens. He sent out to the boat at the reef a lot of fruit and coconuts and could not be induced to accept a cent in return. Under his guidance we rambled all over the village, entered the houses, the school, the church, and the distillery, where gin is made from cocoa milk."

The town of Suma has a population of about 570. All are natives, the Spanish population being at Agaña a town of 1500. The houses of Suma are largely built of palm matting with thatched roofs, although a number of the houses are of solid masonry. The natives are good looking, the women especially so, all having distinct Asiatic features. Their average color is but a little darker than that of a Chinaman, although some are nearly as dark as an Indian. The men were all neatly clothed in linen trousers and shirts, sandals and straw hats. The women wore neat, low cut waists and long skirts, with lace about their necks, and were modest and retiring in the presence of strangers."

SPAIN'S LOSSES ON THE SEA.

Now that Spain has definitely made overtures looking toward a cessation of hostilities and eventually peace, it is time to make an estimate of her losses at sea, which have been

severe. Some fifteen or twenty merchant vessels have been seized as prizes and eighteen war vessels have been destroyed or captured. It is probable that the total money loss inflicted by the sunk or captured vessels is not far from \$55,000,000, as the fleet of Admiral Cervera alone is estimated to have been worth \$20,000,000. The first merchant vessel which was captured was the "Buena Ventura," which was seized on April 22. Then followed the capture of the "Pedro," "Catalina," "Saturnina," "Panama," "Ambrasio," "Guido," "Bolivar," "Lopez," "Reina de los Angeles" besides a number of schooners, tugs, etc. It is impossible to get accurate figures as to the cost of the cruisers which were sunk in the battle of Manila. Many of them were practically worthless, although their cost may have been very great. The cost of Cervera's fleet is figured by "El Nacional"—and the value of the vessels certainly would not be overestimated by this paper—as follows:

Vizcaya.....	\$5,000,000
Oquendo.....	3,000,000
Maria Teresa.....	3,000,000
Cristobal Colon.....	4,000,000
Pluton.....	500,000
Euro.....	500,000
Artillery.....	3,800,000
Total.....	\$20,000,000

That is to say vessels whose value was \$20,000,000 were lost to Spain in less than four hours. These figures check fairly well with those given in Brassey's Naval Annual. To the loss of territory and indemnity which Spain will have to pay should be added the \$35,000,000 worth of vessels sunk or captured, and to this will also have to be added an immense sum for the loss of freight and passengers which would have been carried in Spanish bottoms had it not been for the war. All this is a part of Spain's punishment.—Scientific American.

IT WILL BE A SURPRISE.

With the Americans in possession of Santiago and administering the Government, the Cubans will be treated to a genuine novelty. The government has for years been administered by Spanish officials with whom the acquisition of wealth has been the primary object, and the interest of the government or the people entirely out of sight. It has been a government of robbery, extortion, corruption, bribery, fraud, favoritism and all-around dishonesty, and of the money paid in taxes and tariffs, a large proportion has ever clung to the fingers of the venile office holders sent over from the old country. The American methods are different, and the difference will be startling to those who have endured the Spanish system."

Under the Spanish reign two tariff schedules were enforced, one for trading with Spain and the other for other countries. Spain had a preferential tariff that gave her a tremendous advantage over all other countries in doing business. The tariff on flour imported from Spain, for instance, was \$1.3 and from other countries \$3.52. The rate on lard was 2.5 cents per pound from Spain and 4.9 from other countries; on pork, \$6.30 and \$10.80, and on butter \$4.40 and \$13.20. Under the provisional government established by President McKinley's proclamation, the Spanish tariff will be adopted, and it will apply to all countries alike. It may not be scientific or desirable tariff, but it will answer for the present, and not on the relief from vexatious burdens by the methods of administering the law will be a happy novelty which will least the intelligent Cubans will appreciate.—Grand Rapids "Herald."

POINTS FROM PARAGRAPHS.

After the American flag march, bathtub and a bar of soap.—Syracuse Standard.

You can never tell what a dug will do till he gets down in Cuba.—Denver Republican.

Let me eat a country's rations and I care not who fights its wars.—The Cuban insurgent.—Philadelphia Times

The mollifying influence of the 2 cent revenue stamp will be tried on the Cubans if they try to be unruly.—Chicago Record.

Before Admiral Dieckrichs insist on getting in the game he might take a look at Dewey's base-hit and error columns.—Richmond Times.

The war, after all, has dealt pretty evenly. Those of us who are no licking Spaniards have the privilege of licking revenue stamps.—Richmond Dispatch.

Missouri, first in iron ore, first in zinc, first in Sunday schools, first in mules and among the first in filling its quota of soldiers for the war with Spain.—Kansas City Star.

Facts About Warships.

A fleet is composed of twelve battleships. A mosquito fleet is composed of twelve or more small boats. A squadron is composed of less than twelve battleships, and is often a part of a fleet, such as the van, center or rear squadron.

A flotilla is composed of twelve or more men of war, some of which may be battleships. Hence the United States has no fleet; neither has Spain.

Admiral Dewey commands a squadron. Acting Admiral Sampson commands a flotilla. Almirante Cervera and Almirante Camara are each commanding a squadron.

STORYETTES.

A certain narrow minded man of note was very bitter against the Jews. He lost no opportunity to deride and abuse them. One day a friend said to him: "You shouldn't bear down on Jews the way you do. You ought to remember they are God's chosen people." "Yes," said the other man "I know that. But tastes differ."

A young girl from the far South, who was making her first visit to Washington, was on the street alone, says the New York Sun, trying to find the house of a friend. Just then she met a middle-aged, very respectable looking colored woman, well dressed, but carrying a basket of clothes. The sight cheered her; colored people were always so kind to her down home, and she hurried to the woman and said, most sweetly: "Oh, Auntie, I have lost my way. Won't you please tell me how to get to K street?" Instead of the expected "Yass, indeed, chile," the colored woman glared at her and said in rasping tones, as she stalked haughtily away: "I ain't yo' auntie—I'm yo' equal."

Lord Lytton, when Viceroy of India, was seated one day at dinner next to a lady whose name was Birch, and who, though very good looking, was not overintelligent. She said to his excellency: "Are you acquainted with any of the Birches?" "Oh yes," replied Lord Lytton, "I knew several of them most intimately while at Eton—indeed, more intimately than I cared to." "My lord," replied the lady, "you forget that the Birches are relatives of mine." "And they cut me," said the Viceroy; "but," and she smiled his wonted smile, "I have never felt more inclined to kiss the rod than I do now." Said to say, Mrs. Birch did not see the point, and told her husband his excellency had insulted her.

The Atlanta Constitution prints the following letter, recently written by a new recruit: "Dear Jane—Jane I'm in trouble. I've done enlisted in the army and I'm sorry for it. I wish I was home. Jane, will you do me this one favor? Write to the War Department and tell the President the children is down with measles, and your old rheumatism is broke out again and you need me at home. Will you do this much for me Jane?"

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