



SPANISH WAR VESSEL SUNK IN MANILA BAY.

away, and husbands banished by these professed representatives of Christianity.

"5. Because of the despotism exercised over all classes of people." Civil and religious power was in the hands of these men. No man could move from one parish to another without a permit. No enterprise could be carried out unless they approved. They were "shepherds of Israel" that fed themselves.

So deep was the hatred against them that in the various insurrections one of the first things asked for was the removal of the friars, and when some of them fell into the hands of the insurgents they were literally hacked to pieces, a sad comment on that old law, "With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

It would be manifestly unfair to make the Roman Catholic Church, as a whole, responsible for all this, but at the same time no one was in a better position than herself to know the condition of things. When circumstances forced investigation, and the light of public opinion was thrown upon them, only then did even the Vatican acknowledge the venality of these men, and give orders for their removal.

But these friars after their own manner did some constructive work in the Philippines, and it is but just that credit should be given them for that work. In the first place they helped to Christianize the people. Although the type of Christianity given them was superficial and characterized by great sensuousness, yet the lowest type of Christianity is better than the highest type of Paganism. A veiled Christ is better than an unveiled Buddha or Confucius.

"For somehow
No one ever yet plucked a rag even
From the body of the Lord, to wear and
mock withal,
But he looked the greater and he was the
better."

They taught the one God and the



A PARISH PRIEST.