


Those Filipinos.

O many conflicting statements have been made regarding the Philippines that it is no easy matter for the impartial observer to find out the real state of affairs in the islands. Native characteristics, insurgent warfare, Spanish Friars, "American Methods," are the chief topics discussed in current periodicals. After considering all the pros and cons, we have come to the conclusion that a change of masters has so far done the Filipinos more harm than good.

The Americans have been deeply disappointed to find that their new subjects are not as capable of understanding the advantages of American liberty or as far advanced in the arts of civilization as the people of New York or Chicago. But though they have but scant ideas of self-government and the responsibility of public trust, the Filipinos are by no means barbarians, and have really made wonderful progress, considering the fact that they have been converted to Christianity only during the last three centuries. A few of them are highly educated and the majority are able to read and write. They make fervent Christians, but like all Oriental nations they love splendor and outward show and require an imposing ceremonial to awaken their love and reverence for the Eternal Truth. The inherently indolent disposition common to peoples living in warm climates is also characteristic of them, for it requires little labor on their part to extract from the fertile soil those rich crops of tobacco, rice, cotton and spices for which the islands are noted. This hereditary dislike for over much exertion has this disadvantage, that it generates a lack of enterprise and leaves all the profitable traffic and commerce in the hands of foreigners and Chinese half-breeds.

Opposition to American rule is fostered by a secret society similar to the Masonic organizations of Europe. Promoted and spread among the natives by the Metizos, or Chinese half-breeds, it imposes a tax on each of its members; and, owing to its secrecy and its uncompromising method of "wiping out whole families" opposed to its measures, it is more widely feared and more readily obeyed than even the American government. Most of the crime