

THE FIGHTING AT MANILA

Full Details of the Battles Between the Americans and the Filipinos.

How the Collision Was Brought About—Narratives of Eye-witnesses.

Aguinaldo's Flag of Truce Said To Have Been Rejected.

The Aggressive Filipinos Provoked the Combat-Terrible Slaughter.

The R.M.S. Empress of India, which arrived yesterday, brought full details of the fighting at Manila. The correspondent of the Hongkong Press says: After months of waiting, and weeks that have failed to pass without calling out regiments of soldiers to repulse imaginary attacks of the natives, the long expected has happened and a fight has taken place between the Americans and Filipinos. At the present moment it is difficult to decide whether the clash was premeditated or accidental, but as soon as firing commenced it became general and settled down into a steady fight all about the fortifications from Malate to Calocan.

Just behind Santa Mesa, where several Englishmen have their residences, lies a village that has caused the Americans great annoyance. It is partly within and partly without the line of block-houses and the natives have been taking advantage of its location to run the lines at night. Several times there has been trouble and two men were shot there some days ago, but the matter quieted down.

On Saturday night (Feb. 4), about half-past eight the Nebraska sentries on outpost duty noticed a number of natives running in and out of the lines, and they warned them that if they were found inside that they would be shot. The warning had no effect and the corporal of the guard took upon himself to challenge persons, and instructed his men to fire if no answer was given at the third call. In a few moments three natives approached the post and were called upon to halt, but they kept advancing. Once, twice more the command was given, and they shot broke the silence, and the night quickly followed by another. The foremost of the natives lay dead and the sentry had received a bullet through his hat from the gun of the dead man's comrade.

For half an hour things were comparatively quiet while the Americans quickly extended and reinforced the line of outposts all around the city. A general call to quarters was sounded, the city streets were patrolled, and reserves hurried out to the suburbs. Long before the trouble had commenced it was reported that a general engagement was on; people rushed from the theatre and circus and off the drives to their homes, which were quickly shut up, locked, and lights extinguished. Many took refuge in the walled city and hundreds of native families from the suburbs attempted to get into town, but were not allowed. What went on in the insurgent lines will never be known, but suddenly a volley was fired from the big three and a half foot water pipe that crosses the fields back of Santa Mesa, fronting the waterworks of the city; like an echo it was answered by the American lines along the hill and in five minutes the engagement was continued along the line of breast works. Every few minutes the firing was interrupted by yells of "Viva Filipina," quickly answered by the cheers of the Americans. For one hour the fire was limited to rifles alone until the Monadnock, stationed off Malate, started throwing six and ten-inch shells into the rebel lines; the havoc must have been awful, but Mauser bullets never ceased for an instant, some even finding their way out of the warship. Up at the third call the city of Charlestown was dropping explosives into the works about Calocan, but as the distance was much greater the effect was not so disastrous as at Malate. At Calocan the rebels had a big smooth bore gun mounted and trained on the Tondo district, and occasionally a shell fell into the American lines. Following around from this point the 3rd U. S. artillery, mounted on Maxim guns (computers), and Kansas infantry regiments were busy answering the steady fire that poured over the rice fields. No other aim could be taken than the rifle's flash and the mortality was necessarily small, though the hospital corps was soon busy carrying in the wounded. Generals McArthur, Otis, Hale and King were constantly along the line ascertaining themselves the exact progress of the fight. At the Chinese cemetery, north of Manila, the fight was unusually bitter and from the point around the line toward the South Dakotas, Colorado and Nebraska regiments, the last of which were the heaviest.

Then came the Idaho, Washington, California, 4th U. S. Cavalry, North Dakota, 14th U. S. Infantry, and 6th U. S. Artillery, with two or three other sharpshooters, and the line was extended to Malate fort. On the river was the Pisig gunboat with its Gatling and machine guns. The Utah battery was somewhat scattered as its guns were placed in such a way that they could do best work at Santa Mesa and the cemetery.

It is utterly impossible for one man to observe all that was going on in that area of 50 miles or more of entrenchments. I focused my attention to Santa Mesa, Malate and Pandacan, where the fighting was the heaviest.

The engagement at Santa Mesa was so stubborn that Colonel Stottzberger, of the Nebraska Infantry, sent in for reinforcements at 9:45 p.m. Up to midnight there was no lessening of fire, but about half-past twelve a general quiet settled down and only an occasional

boom of the Springfield or peisses crack of the Mausers through the canes told of vigilant sniping on both sides. At 2:30 a.m. it flared up again and threatened to become an attack aided this time by moonlight, but in half an hour it quieted down. Word was sent out by the division commander to hold the lines until further orders or relief. As the news was heard the regiments shouted for joy and the insurgents taking it for a charge signalled answered with yells and volleys, never retreating an inch. This was about twenty minutes past four and in the bright light of the half moon the Utah guns opened fire from Santa Mesa and the cemetery on the blockhouses. Over at Paco and Pandacan the insurgents had fortified themselves in the churches, stone houses, and a flank in the rice fields and were keeping the Americans moving under a lively fire, and at Malate the Monadnock was throwing in the great shells that must have killed scores. The first advance made was at Santa Mesa at daybreak, when two companies of the Nebraska regiment charged across the rice fields, covered by the 3.2 inch guns of the Utah battery, and forced the insurgents back from the water pipe, which they had held all night. The position was almost untenable, but the natives held the field and the best on the other side of the pipe and San Juan river more than an hour under the heavy fire of the guns and encroaching riflemen. Every time a shell burst a line of white hats and feathered heads would leap in the air and howl "Viva, Viva Filipina!" and then settle down and pour volleys accompanied by arrows into the American lines. It was a wonderful exhibition of bravery, recklessness, perhaps fanaticism, but utterly useless against the overwhelming advantage of the enemy. Slowly, slowly they were forced back up the hill, leaving their dead, to the deposit of reservoir, where a short stand was made about the house of Col. Monaghan, and then it was turned into a rout and they ran all through the fields and brush, firing whenever a chance was offered. The plucky Nebraskans were followed by the Colorado and backed up by the Tennessee regiment, which arrived from the walled city. The last stand did not stop at the deposit but kept right on raking over the fields for some two miles further, until recalled. In the meantime the Paco, Pandacan, and San Juan were being shelled by the big guns of the beautiful old church; other houses were fired as the only means of driving out and preventing a return of the grifty defenders and at least a hundred natives were killed and a few more wounded.

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Two companies (I & M) of the 4th U. S. Infantry tried to clear out the east of the fort to clear out some canes that were sheltering a large body of natives. By a clear flank movement Co. M was put under cross fire and lost twelve men and Lieut. Mitchell before it could be recovered. From the top of the fort the big navy shells could be seen falling apparently in the midst of the insurgent entrenchments, and sometimes whole broadsides were fired, but without any apparent weakening of the enemy. It is impossible to estimate the loss, but in those miniature volleys of dust and earth many a misguided, unfortunate native has given up his life for his "liberty." On the north side of the city but little advance has been made, the natives have been driven back and the blockhouses burned. Nothing more will be done until to-morrow unless natives return to the attack. The American lines have been extended about a mile in all directions about the blockhouses except at Malate and the cemetery on the northeast.

At this writing it is impossible to estimate the dead and wounded, but a fair calculation is eight American officers killed and eighty men wounded and 300-400 insurgents killed and wounded.

Aguinaldo's men have shown that they can fight and have the grit to stand punishment and their ability as enemies has gone up several points in the American soldiers' estimation. To-night the city is still under the closest military surveillance and no natives or foreigners are allowed about the streets unless they have passes. Along the outposts quiet reigns, but for the occasional shots of distant snipers.

The Americans have driven the natives from the immediate vicinity of Manila; being strongly located themselves they have driven the natives from comparatively strong positions, but the advantage in almost all places lay with the Filipinos. The ball has been opened and it is not likely that explanations will settle the difficulty, but it is not

again that the Americans will be so conveniently placed. A Britisher interviewed at Hongkong by the Press says: "On Saturday night of last week I was at the circus, which is within half a mile of the outposts where the shooting first took place. As a rule when there are any circus performances going on the place is crowded with natives, but I was surprised to notice that on this particular night there were not more than 20. The audience, however, included a good many American soldiers, and the reserved seats were filled with members of the aristocracy.

"The first part of the programme was over before the alarm was given. Then somebody came to the door and shouted 'Quarters, boys, the rebels are on us.' Within a minute there was not a soldier in the circus. One of the circus people got up and said the alarm was a false one, and we thought his announcement was correct when three or four minutes afterwards 30 or 40 of the soldiers came back, and the performance was continued. The shooting, however, continued to increase, and we began to realize that it was much too near to us to be comfortable. Consequently the performance was stopped and we came outside.

"We then saw that all was in confusion. People were flying all over the place. Europeans were hurrying towards the town whilst natives laden with their belongings were making their way to the outskirts of the city as fast as they could. I saw two of the soldiers stopped by American sentries, and two great big knives (bolos) were taken from them. What surprised me was that the soldiers did not punish them in any way. They merely took the bolos from them and told them to 'git.' There was an awful commotion in the city that night. I was stopped twice on my way down to my quarters and was kept under the verandahs and to walk in the middle of the road, because people with white faces were all the same to the soldiers. Soldiers were going about in all directions, bags were sounding, and there was tremendous excitement all over. The firing had by this time it was about 12 o'clock—got right round the city. You may depend upon it nobody slept that night. As a precautionary measure a great many women and children were taken aboard the St. Paul.

"The firing continued up to morning, when the warships came and the Americans having evidently made up their minds to give the natives all they wanted. At about half-past four on Sunday I strolled towards the outskirts of the town Malate way and saw scores of wounded natives being brought in. It was in this direction that the Americans had a pretty hot time, one of their regiments being completely surrounded by natives at one period. I, however, did not see any American wounded brought in. I did not go right up to the lines, as I was told that the sight was anything but nice. Some people went, all the same, and saw a narrow escape of Britishers who had ventured too far out and were arrested by the Filipinos, who took them for Americans. They were kept all night in a house with a guard over them. They got away on Monday morning, but not before some one had been sent for to the city to come and identify them. The fight continued all Sunday night, and was resumed on Monday, and when there was very heavy firing.

"I was given to understand on Monday that the Americans were about to attack Paco and Malolos, where Aguinaldo's best soldiers are stationed, and they expected a stiff job. When we left on Wednesday afternoon they were going to attempt to take Malolos. I went into Manila on Monday, and saw that the situation was not so serious as it seemed. A sentry was on guard on the Punta del Espagnia examining every native who went across. By Tuesday night you could scarcely hear the firing, and the rebels having been driven completely away. You could only hear the heavy guns.

"In the city of course no one talked of anything but the war. An American soldier told me a very strange thing. He had been at the engagement, and he said that he and some comrades were standing in a perfect shower of bullets. They could hear the 'ping' of the bullets, but where the bullets came from they could not understand. They were on the alert and had their guns at their shoulders, but they could hear nothing to fire at. There were plenty of trees covered with leaves about, but they could discern no one among the branches, and they came to the conclusion that the firing was coming from the trees. This is a very curious thing, which they could not say, as smokeless powder was being used by the natives. All at once an American shell burst within a short distance of them, and dropped figures dropped from a tree to the ground like shot crows. They had been up a tree trying to pot them, and as they were using smokeless powder they could not see them; but the shell burst in the trees and the light did it. One of the shells thrown by one of the warships had the credit of killing over 100 natives. It fell right in the centre of one of their entrenchments.

"I don't think there is any need to fear for the white population now. The only thing to fear is the burning of the city by natives who are in the city. In order to be prepared for this emergency the Americans have taken Malolos, and the capture of Manila. This is a very important thing, as it shows that the Americans are not only able to capture a city, but they are also able to hold it. The capture of Manila is a great victory for the Americans, and it shows that they are not only able to capture a city, but they are also able to hold it.

"On Wednesday the Tennessee regiment, over 1,000 strong, left for Iloilo in the St. Paul. A man-of-war or two went there as well. I believe the Americans purposed giving the insurgents at Iloilo only a short time in which to make up their minds. It is not correct that the Americans have taken Malolos, as the attack on the town had not been made at the time the report was published.

"There was one thing that gave general dissatisfaction in Manila. I do not know who authorized them, but the soldiers got hold of all the carriages which they found driving about and having turned the occupants out drove in them to where they were wanted. A number of Filipinos who had been treated in this summary fashion made a complaint at headquarters, and in consequence the soldiers were notified not to interfere with private vehicles, but it was very bad on Sunday and Monday. I myself was strolling down the street when I saw some soldiers stop a vehicle, make the occupants—two natives—get outside, and drive away in it themselves. I also saw them stop a carriage containing a Britisher. He, however, would not

get out and after a while they ceased to bother him. At the time of the outbreak a lot of Britishers were living on the outskirts, and some of them had very narrow escapes. Mr. Pitton, who had a wooden bungalow at Santa Ana, told me that his house, which literally riddled with shot, as it stood directly in the line of fire. The occupants saved themselves by getting underneath the raised flooring. As to the losses, I should think the Americans lost up to the time they left were 200 killed and wounded; the insurgent killed and wounded would number 5,000 or 6,000.

"I was told that Aguinaldo had displayed a flag of truce, but that Dewey had refused to recognize it, adding that the Filipinos had started the fighting and they would have to abide by it. An old Filipino told me that it was the best thing which could have happened, as if the Americans gave the Filipinos a thorough good drubbing now they would have peace for the next 50 years. American soldiers whom I have spoken to complained that the natives had been so hard on them that they had to put up with them from the Filipinos have been awful. It was quite a common thing for a Filipino to tell them that they could not fight and that one Filipino was better than a dozen Americans.

"General Otis gave orders for all the wooden shanties to be destroyed, because of many of them American soldiers who were hiding had been shot at. A lot of arms and ammunition was found in some of them. A box two feet long and one broad was found on the dock wall, and when it was opened it was found to be filled with bolos. With a view to being ready should the insurgents cut off the water, on Saturday condensing engines were got to work at the river side.

Another Version.

The story of the outbreak is told by the Manila Times of Monday, February 27. On Saturday evening, shortly before eight o'clock, 40 or 50 rebel soldiers tried to occupy a position within the lines of the South Dakota regiment outposts at Santa Mesa. They were met by the regiment and a sharp fight ensued. The rebels were driven back, and the Americans having evidently made up their minds to give the natives all they wanted. At about half-past four on Sunday I strolled towards the outskirts of the town Malate way and saw scores of wounded natives being brought in. It was in this direction that the Americans had a pretty hot time, one of their regiments being completely surrounded by natives at one period. I, however, did not see any American wounded brought in. I did not go right up to the lines, as I was told that the sight was anything but nice. Some people went, all the same, and saw a narrow escape of Britishers who had ventured too far out and were arrested by the Filipinos, who took them for Americans. They were kept all night in a house with a guard over them. They got away on Monday morning, but not before some one had been sent for to the city to come and identify them. The fight continued all Sunday night, and was resumed on Monday, and when there was very heavy firing.

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orders to take no notice of them unless they fired, when the firing was to be returned with interest. Mr. Crocker, in a representative of the Daily Press that before the outbreak took place soldiers to whom he had been speaking frequently exclaimed to him: "We cannot stand it much longer." Mr. Crocker found it was about ten o'clock when the Filipinos wished to see how much the Americans would stand. Continuing, he said:

"Though the relations between the Americans and the Filipinos were strained, I do not think the Americans anticipated any immediate trouble, because the same evening I saw General Anderson and his wife driving along the Louisa.

"I was in the hotel when the trouble commenced. Someone said there had been a collision, and then I noticed carriages driving very rapidly through the streets and officers making their way to the front. It was about ten o'clock when the firing began, and a few minutes afterwards a portion of the Kansas regiment, which was quartered near the hotel, left for the front in quick time. They went away so silently that notwithstanding their close proximity to the hotel I should not have known they were going had I not been in full view of their quarters. There was not the least confusion or stirring. The firing commenced on the road leading to the waterworks, where the Nebraska men were stationed, but it spread all along the line with great rapidity. There was a continuous roar from 10 to 12, when the firing slackened, to be resumed with increased fury at three o'clock on Sunday morning. After another lull it was again resumed, some of the warships joining.

The Monadnock was stationed to the south and the Charleston to the north, they being subsequently reinforced by the Concord and the Callao. Admiral Dewey also came down in the Olympia and fired a few shots, but as he was right among the shipping and could not do much where he was he soon ceased. The Monadnock with her 12-inch guns and the Charleston with her 10-inch guns made a fearful noise, the reverberation shaking the earth.

"At the commencement the Filipinos gained a hundred yards or so, but on Sunday the Nebraska men pushed forward with the object of getting possession of the waterworks and carried all before them, backed up by the Utah battery and the Tennessee men and the boys from Colorado and California. Ultimately they secured the reservoir—three miles away—and here they encamped for the night. The next day they again pushed on. Everybody was afraid lest the Filipinos would cut off the water supply, in which case considerable suffering would have been caused. The Filipinos had been in the city, it would have been the easiest thing in the world for the insurgents to have cut the pipes, which are exposed in many places. It was of no great strength, and the insurgents had still possession of the pumping station, which is four miles beyond the reservoir. It was two o'clock in the afternoon when the Nebraska men resumed their advance, and by five o'clock the pumping station was in their possession. I cannot tell why the Filipinos did not make a better fight for the waterworks or why when they saw they could not resist they did not cut off the water supply. I can only think it was because there are a great many Filipinos in the city who would have suffered just as much as anyone else had this been done. On Monday the rebels were driven back to their position which commanded a plain some three miles in extent, across which the defeated Filipinos were fleeing to the mountains. A few shots were fired by the rebels in a village in the plain soon sent the inhabitants running helter-skelter for the cover of the hill-country. Here, at any rate, the resistance was absolutely broken down.

"To the north of the city was dangerous to walk about, as shots were continually being fired from houses, but in another direction I went as far as San Mateo, where I saw a few shots fired by the rebels in a village in the plain soon sent the inhabitants running helter-skelter for the cover of the hill-country. Here, at any rate, the resistance was absolutely broken down.

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may be anything from 5,000 killed and wounded to 10,000, and then there are several thousand prisoners. I saw 400 or 500 heads on the ground on Sunday and on Monday I saw 1,000 who had been taken. I should be inclined to place the American losses at 200 killed and wounded. With regard to the Filipinos I saw myself 50 lying dead in one field. There were the same number in the next, and a little further on there were 50 more. I heard a mining engineer say that there was a pile of 125 to bury in one lot. The Monadnock killed as many as 20 and 30, and sometimes 50, with one shell. The Callao, which kept steaming close to the shore, also did much damage with her guns.

"There is nothing of the nature of a panic among the Europeans. The ladies and children in the hotel were sent on to the St. Paul on Saturday night. They returned in a launch the next day and tried to end that they were not allowed to do so. On Monday, however, they came again and were allowed to come ashore. Arrangements were made to bring some of them to Hongkong in the Emerald.

An Incident.

The American of February 8th has the following: "Sorrow reigns supreme among the rank and file of the Utah Light Infantry Battery over the horrible fate and end that came of Dr. Harry Young, their popular surgeon, at the hands of the insurgents. After capturing him they stripped him of his clothes and cut him and his horse in a frightful manner.

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