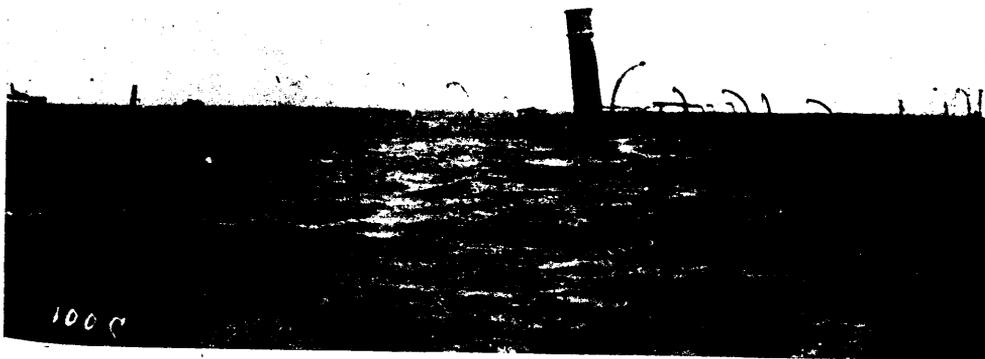


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THE PHILIPPINES AND THE FILIPINOS.

BY THE REV. R. O. ARMSTRONG, M.A., B.D.



SPANISH WAR VESSELS SUNK IN MANILA BAY.

II.



THE friars (of which there were four orders in the Philippines) were chosen in the first place because they made the cheapest missionaries, and that was an argument that outweighed all others with Philip II. Their vows bound them to a life of poverty and celibacy.

Their name henceforth was their order, while the individual sank for ever out of human reckoning. Why then should such self-denying

and unselfish men be so thoroughly hated? Let Dr. Stuntz, who has carefully examined the whole question at first hand, answer for us:

"1. Because the friars secured and held large tracts of the most valuable land and used these tracts as a means of enriching their orders." (See illustrations of costly churches and cathedrals.) The means used to secure this land was in multitudes of well-known cases most reprehensible. All such land, too, was free from taxation.

"2. Because they stifled all liberty of thought or freedom of speech in matters religious and political." Until