

them both food and clothing. The food consists of rice and fish,—very cheap provender in the Philippines,—and the clothing is of a primitive character, that costs little. Yet, at the end of the season, the labourer has usually exhausted his wages and may be in debt to the planter. Often a hundred per cent. interest is demanded for the use of money.



A MESTIZA FLOWER-GIRL.

Thus the planter is ground between the upper and nether millstone, the exporter and the middleman.

Among the chief exports is sugar. The culture and manufacture are conducted in a very slovenly fashion, consequently the sugar produced is coarse of grain and poor in quality. The yield, however, is large, and leaves,

after the demands of the islands are supplied, some 250,000 tons annually for export. With proper cultivation, this could be very much increased and its quality greatly improved.

The staple food of the people is rice. Upon it their very existence depends. It is cultivated by the most laborious and unscientific methods. It is usually husked in

a large hardwood mortar, where it is beaten with a pestle. In husking or winnowing, machines are not employed, save some small ones in domestic use. The manufacture of hemp, the chief export, is of a similarly primitive character. The product is used in making mats, sail cloth, cordage, and the famous Manila paper of commerce. Nearly a million tons a year were exported before the war.

Smoking goes on in the Philippines everywhere but in church—in the hotel dining-room as soon as coffee is served, and at the theatre or opera while the audience is gathering, and between the acts. Even your cab-driver will offer you a cigar, if he thinks you have none. Spanish women of wealth and rank—grandmothers, mothers, daughters and nieces—sit on the balconies of their beautiful residences in the capital, puffing

away at their cigarillos,—a tiny brand made especially for feminine consumption; while in some homes men and women help themselves from the same box.

The Jesuit missionaries introduced the art of weaving, and all through the islands a primitive bamboo-loom is one of the commoner implements of the smallest hut. Here are woven fabrics of