

war the avowed object of which was to secure Cuban independence, can we now disregard their wishes and ignore the object of their long struggle for freedom?

Dewey has said that the Filipinos are more capable of self-government than are the Cubans. Can the American republic, for mere commercial reasons, insist upon annexing the Philippine archipelago against the protests of the inhabitants?

American trusts and syndicates are using all their influence to make the Philippines American possessions and their inhabitants vassals of this country. The declaration of independence is lost sight of. Hanna and the American sharks represented by him want Oriental markets; they want franchises; they want new populations to tax and exploit; they want opportunities to make money in new fields of enterprise by exclusive grants and franchises. The design is to utilize the cheap labor of the tropics. The working men of the United States are not expected to take any part in this extension of American sovereignty. Their only part will be to pay taxes in order to keep a vast military establishment in the Philippines—an army of 50,000 and a strong navy—all for the benefit of the trusts and syndicates that aim to monopolize the business of Asiatic islands seven thousand miles from our own shores.

Will the American people submit to this scheme? If they do they will thereby demonstrate their own unfitness for republican government.

Macaulay says that the way to prepare a people for liberty is to give them liberty. The United States should encourage the Filipinos to maintain such a government as they want, instead of grabbing their islands and annexing them because it has the power to do so. If the American republic forces the Filipinos, against their will, to recognize American sovereignty in the Philippines, it will present to the world a sorry spectacle indeed. If wise counsels prevail, justice and honor in this matter will triumph over commercial greed, ambition for conquest, and a revived military spirit.

FORTUNE-TELLING.

A CLOWN in motley met a rich merchant.
 "God ild thee, fair merchant," quoth he;
 "an' thou be willing, I'll tell thy fortune
 for a penny."

But the merchant shrugged his shoulders
 and passed on.

Presently there came a solem-visaged
 man dressed in black.

"Be humble, O merchant," said he,
 "for I am the messenger of the gods;
 and, if haply thou hast wealth, I may
 e'en secure thee joy hereafter."

And the merchant, prostrating himself,
 poured his gold at the stranger's feet.

—*Freethinker.*

ELUCIDATION.

A THEOLOGIAN chanced on a Philosopher.
 "Thou dost not believe in miracles,"
 said he.

"Hardly," said the Philosopher.

And forthwith the Theologian with
 much gusto explained the bearings of cer-
 tain prodigies, to the end that they might
 seem reasonable and true.

"Tarry a moment," said the Philoso-
 pher. "Since thou canst show these things
 to be natural and in reason, prithee tell
 me wherein lies the miracle thereof."

And the Theologian wagged his head
 sadly, as if he would say, "This man hath
 no sweet reasonableness." E. R. W.