

of the complete change which religion effected in the habits of the people, is almost unparalleled in the history of missionary enterprise. For the sake of contrast, one has only to point to Hawaii, a land blessed with the most equable climate, and contemplate a people well nigh swept off the face of the earth, under the withering influences of Protestant forms of Christianity.

The Philippines friars were the advance agents of Christianity and civilization. They arrived with the Spanish mariner. By their moral influence they did the work of Spanish soldiery. They were the outposts of small garrisons, so to speak. They were from Spain, a highly civilized country. They were men of fine breeding and splendid education. They voluntarily exiled themselves to work among savages.

The conditions of the country when they first reached it were appalling. They found slavery, murder, robbery and idolatry in their worst horrors prevailing; yet so thoroughly did the friars do their work that twenty-seven years after their appearance there were bishops and archbishops established; and peace and happiness reigned over all the islands, save those of the Sulu group.

The friars brought the Filipinos into the light of day. Almost everything in the customs of the people — geographical studies, maps, dictionaries and grammars, besides the mineral and vegetable products that go to distinguish one island from another — has come from the friars. It is easy for carping critics, sitting at home in easy chairs, and blinded sometimes by bigotry or wofully ignorant of the pages of missionary experience, to pick flaws in the work of the Philippine friars. The Filipinos are a civilized, religious, honest and brave people. In treating with them the United States can well afford to be magnanimous.