

" You'll never plumb the Oriental mind,
And if you did it isn't worth the toil ;
Think of a sleek French Priest in Canada,
Divide by twenty half-breeds, multiply
By twice the sphinx's silence. There's your
East,
And you're as wise as ever. So am I."

The government of the islands had to be almost entirely reconstructed. The Philippine Commission, of which President Schurman was chairman, had this work in charge. The Acts of the Civil Commission were legion. There were the Municipal Code, the School Act, Constabulary Act, Penal Code, Public Health, etc. These had to be amended and revised as their weakness or insufficiency was proved by actual testing. Auditors were appointed to examine all public accounts—a new thing indeed! Equal privileges were granted to all religions. Like emancipated slaves it was difficult for them to understand the real meaning of this. A man one day secretly showed a missionary a copy of the Bible. He was overjoyed when told that no one would now interfere with him. An Act known as "The Fifteen-Minute Law," because it was written and passed in that time, gave building privileges to other religions hitherto denied to all but the State Church.

A new thing under the sun! Yes. When in all the history of mankind did one nation send a shipload of school-teachers to the Antipodes? Such a thing happened in 1901, and on August 23rd of that year, five hundred and forty-two of them landed in the Philippine Islands, to share in the nation's burden. Those who went for the novelty of the thing, for pleasure, for financial reasons, or "for a trip," had their reward like Portia's suitors; while those who went to help to civilize and raise the people had their reward, too. Their work will last and be a permanent asset to the Filipinos.

There were tremendous difficulties



A MESTIZA FLOWER-GIRL.

in the way of these untried men and women. The pathway was often blocked by the opposition of the Roman Catholic authorities who feared the results of a free school system. The work has gone on, however. The American staff of teachers has been strengthened, and the results have been encouraging. The native child is quick to learn, and they are becoming in turn teachers to their own people. The Normal School at Manila would convince the most pessimistic mind that the Filipino youth are responsive to their teaching, and give promise of rapid advancement to a higher plane of life.

Since the American occupation, through better sanitary laws, the death rate in Manila has been cut in