

with about 5,000,000 more of population. Luzon is exceedingly rugged, although its mountains nowhere exceed 7,000 feet. Some of its volcanoes are still active, issuing dense volumes of smoke and steam and sometimes lava. One of these, at the extreme south, serves as a continual beacon to navigators.



MANILA. WASHERWOMAN.

The volcanic soil is exceedingly fertile, producing rich crops of rice, wheat, indigo, tobacco, coffee, cotton, sugar-cane, bread-fruit, oranges, and citrons. The mountains and plains are clothed with magnificent forests of palm, bamboo, ebony, mahogany, and other valuable woods. Tobacco has long been a Government monopoly, 20,000 "hands" being em-

ployed at Binondo in the manufacture of cigars. Gold, copper, iron, and coal are among its mineral resources. The principal rivers are the Apari and Pasig, both of which are navigable for vessels of considerable size.

The Philippines were discovered by Fernando Magellan in 1521. He was subsequently killed on one of them. In 1564 the cruel bigot and persecutor, Philip II., sent a fleet which captured Cebu. Six years later Luzon was subdued, and Manila proclaimed the capital. Two hundred years later Manila was captured by the British, but was ransomed at a cost of \$5,000,000. Of the population, about 7,000,000 are Romanist, 1,500,000 are pagan, and nearly 1,000,000 Mohammedans.

"The Philippines," says F. de P. Castells, formerly agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society in these islands, "have always been a dependency of the Pope rather than a Spanish colony. Not only is the Roman Church here established by law, to the exclusion of all others, but her clergy are under a charter which makes them inviolable, while each individual priest is a monarch in his parish, where he keeps reaping the only benefits that ever come of colonizing the country.

"The general character of the islanders exhibits, in a striking manner, the ruinous effects of sin, and manifests the failure of Romanism as a moral force. For among those people we see much licentiousness and drunkenness, witchcraft and idolatry, lying and stealing. But yet the same people are naturally endowed with qualities, and present traits which, under the sanctifying influence of the Gospel, should make them a great blessing to that part of the world. For instance, they are grateful, sensitive, and hospitable; have a most remarkable aptitude