

*odium theologicum*, which, despite the liberal tendencies of the times, is bound to show its head in certain quarters and at stated intervals even here in free America. Every now and then we are sure to have a revival of old calumnies and a violent effort to coin new exaggerations, when the public is to be informed as to how Spain, or Austria, or any other Catholic country, governs or, rather, misgoverns her people. The old pattern is always at hand, and it is always very easy to mould and turn out falsities that appeal to a certain class of the public, ready to swallow them as greedily as did their gullible predecessors of fifty, or a hundred, years ago. Some people have a diseased antipathy for Spain, because she is Catholic, and if they could only have wiped out the name of Columbus and the Spanish Kingdom from the Chicago celebration of a few years ago, the Exposition would have been, in their eyes, an unblemished success.

Spain's troubles at present in Cuba have been well exploited, and we turn, with a sense of relief even, to look at another of her colonies, where more trouble, coming "in battalions," has made her task of ruling certainly no sinecure. It looked but a short while ago as if the Spanish Ship of State would be wrecked on Scylla or Charybdis, either by the successful results of Cuban rebellion or the disastrous uprising in the Philippines. The former is in *statu quo*; the latter, suppressed mainly. The sources of information regarding the Philippines are so very few, and the position of the archipelago so remote from the ordinary lines of travel, that till quite lately this Spanish colony has been a veritable *terra incognita* to the rest of the world. As the archipelago is believed to number over 1,400 islands, and the larger

islands only are beginning of late years to be known and explored, it is easy to comprehend the ignorance of writers regarding the character of their inhabitants and the exigencies of Spanish rule. In many of the islands the natives are independent and have never been subjected to what has been pictured as the horrors and atrocities of Spanish tyranny.

But it is chiefly with the religious development of the colony that we are concerned.

The Philippine islands were discovered by Magellan, in 1521, while he was making his celebrated voyage across the Atlantic and had passed into the Pacific through the straits which to-day bear his name. Ever since that period the colony, which is rich in products and well-populated, has been a dependency of Spain. The original inhabitants were the Aetas or Negritos, a half-dwarfed race, that were so called from their dark complexion. These were pagan, cruel and barbarous, and were forced to give way before the superior forces of several Malay tribes, which, but little above the aborigines in civilization in the beginning, have in the course of the centuries, become Christian and industrious, especially in agricultural pursuits. Added to these invaders have been the Chinese, who, by intermarriage with the natives, have raised up the mixed population of Chinese half-castes or Chinese Mestizos, as they are called, and who control most of the business and trade of the country. When we take into consideration that there are more than two hundred native tribes in the Philippines, all differing in language, customs and laws, and that until recently these tribes have been practically free from all subjection to European authority and influence, we may readily under-