



A NATIVE PLOUGHING.

they were woefully behind. They were even behind Dutch and English colonies in other parts of Malaysia, although they had advantages over them. At the time of American occupation the public highways were scarcely worthy of the name, and there were few public works.

But now the friars have gone, nearly twelve hundred of them, "into space," as Carlyle would say. They were weighed in the balance and found wanting:

"No farther seek his merits to disclose,
Or draw his frailties from their dread abode."

In April, 1898, Admiral Dewey of the United States Navy, received orders to capture or destroy the Spanish fleet in the Pacific. The Philippine Islands had not the remotest connection with his orders. The enemy's fleet might have been in any other part of the Pacific. It

happened, as we say, to be at Manila, and there it was signally defeated. The Filipinos were in the throes of a civil war. Dewey found himself most unexpectedly with something more than the Spanish fleet on his hands. He and others began to realize that they were "up against" the islands themselves.

The United States was suddenly confronted with a problem, the solution of which involved a departure from her cherished traditions. The right man was at the helm, and President McKinley fully realized the importance of the crisis. He paced his study floor, thought, and prayed for light. Then he saw clearly certain things, namely, that it was out of the question to give these islands back to Spain, whose government had been so hapless, and whose fleet was now destroyed; that independence of the Filipinos was an impossibility; that