

in securing a skeleton from its burial-place, when the Aetes discovered the theft, and they at once set upon the desecrators of their ancestor's tomb and fairly chased them out of the country, the poisoned arrows proving too formidable for the invaders to resist, especially when used by foes as active as monkeys, and who could pour their arrows on their foes from tree-tops, while they scarcely exposed an inch of their little dark bodies to the enemy.

The Aetas are less known than any of the savage races of the world. The Spaniards would not venture among them, and would not permit others to do so. M. de la Gironiere many years ago went among them, and he has left a very interesting and exciting account of them. One passage is as follows :

“ One morning, while pursuing our way in silence, we heard before us a chorus of squeaking tones, which had more resemblance to the cries of birds than to the human voice. We kept on our guard, concealing our approach as much as possible with the aid of trees and brambles. All at once we perceived at a little distance about forty savages of all sexes and ages, who had absolutely the air of animals. They were on the banks of a rivulet, and surrounding a great fire. We made several steps in advance, and presented the butt ends of our guns towards them. As soon as they perceived us, they set up shrill cries, and prepared to take flight, but I made signs to them, showing them some packets of cigars that we wished to give them. I had fortunately received at Binangonan all the instructions necessary for opening up communications with them, and as soon as they comprehended us, they ranged themselves into a line, like men preparing for a review. This was the signal that we might approach. We went up to them with cigars in our hands, and I commenced distributing them from one end of the line. It was very important that we should make friends with them, and give each an equal share, according to their custom. The distribution being over, an alliance was cemented, and peace concluded, when they commenced smoking.

“ A deer was hanging from a tree, and from this the chief cut three large slices with a bamboo knife and threw them on the fire. Drawing them out an instant afterwards, he presented a piece to each of us. The exterior was slightly burned and sprinkled with ashes, but inside it was perfectly raw and bloody. It would not do, however, to show the repugnance I felt at making a repast scarcely better than a cannibal's, for my hosts would have been scandalized, and I wished to live in good fellow-