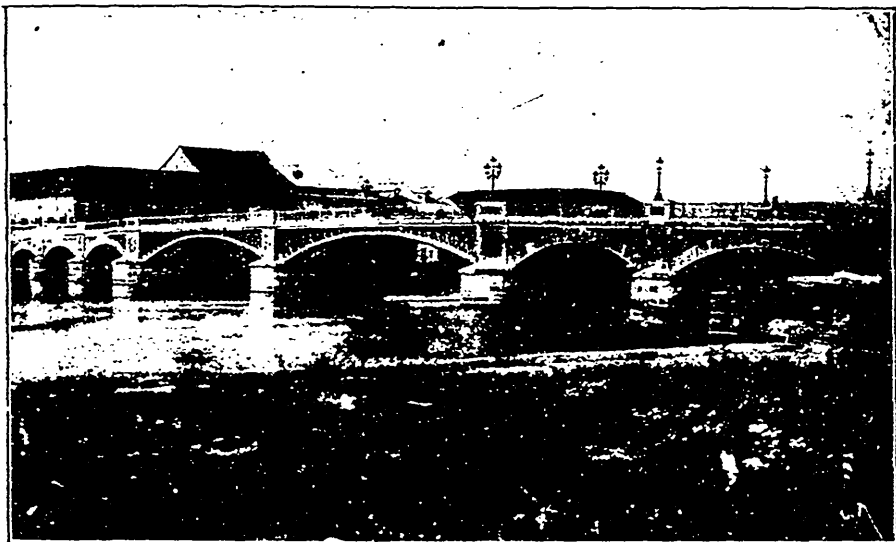


Methodist Magazine and Review.

APRIL, 1899.

AMONG THE FILIPINOS.*

II.



A GLIMPSE OF THE GREAT STONE BRIDGE.

The attention of the whole world is now being focused upon the group of islands in the eastern Pacific, which a year ago were known chiefly to the general reader as an out-of-the-way Spanish possession, noted chiefly for its product of hemp and tobacco. When Dewey's ships sailed into the harbour of Manila on the first of last May the centre of gravity of the American Republic was

changed. A new frontier was created, new burdens were assumed, a new relation to the Asiatic continent and to great world questions was adopted. The Philippines, from being regarded with indifference as a group of scattered islands, occupied largely by semi-civilized peoples, became a subject of engrossing interest in two continents.

It was soon found that we must revise our ideas about this archipelago. Notwithstanding the arrested development caused by Spanish mis-rule there were still many elements of advanced civilization. There were, for instance,

* "The Philippine Islands." By Ramon Reyes Lala, a native of Manila. Illustrated. New York: Continental Publishing Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Svo. pp. 341. The cuts which illustrate this article are by courtesy of the publishers reproduced from this book.