



CHILDREN OF A GOBERNADORCILLO.

languages, religious superstition and bigotry, pagan idolatry and fanaticism, for paradoxes and extremes, these islands were without a parallel in all the world.

During the past seven years interest in the islands, both political and religious, has greatly increased. Commercially and strategically they will assume a greater importance in the eyes of the world as they are gradually brought under the humane tutelage of the United States from their state of semi-savagery and semi-civilization.

The archipelago is situated to the south-east of the coast of Asia, about seven hundred miles from Hong Kong, and fifteen hundred from Japan. Its area is three-fourths that of Japan, and it is vastly more fertile, but owing to the tropical situation, between 4 deg. and 21 deg.

north latitude, it can never be developed like Japan. Only seven out of the hundreds of islands are of any great importance. Between Luzon on the north, with 47,000 square miles of territory, and Mindanao on the south, with 36,000 square miles, there are scattered many smaller islands such as Panay, Negros, Mindoro, Samar, Leyte, Cebu, and Paragua. Outside of Manila, on Luzon, there are few cities. Iloilo, on Panay, with 16,000 population, is the second in size.

Like the rest of Malaysia these islands are of volcanic origin, and over many a peak there still floats a murky banner of smoke which indicates the presence of those stupendous forces that were used to build the



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