

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE PHILIPPINE IMBROGLIO.

We are quite inclined to believe that serious mistakes were committed in the Philippine Islands when the sovereignty of Spain passed to the United States. The Filipinos were somehow unnecessarily offended, and did not at once receive a sufficient assurance of the intentions of our government to grant them the independence to which they were entitled. President McKinley might very well have received the messenger of Aguinaldo at Washington without acknowledging thereby the existence of a Filipino Republic. But while we acknowledge that mistakes were made by the representatives of our country, we cannot say that the Filipinos are blameless, and that it would be the patriotic duty of American citizens to support their cause and hamper our government in re-establishing peace in the Islands. The claims of Aguinaldo could not be granted, for that would have involved a suppression of the colonists and other peaceful inhabitants of Luzon to the arbitrary dictatorship of one man.

Our government has certainly tried to come to terms with the Filipinos allowing them a perfectly free home government, but Aguinaldo proved uncompromising and has refused the fairest propositions. Under the present circumstances, there is no choice for the United States but to continue the struggle until under peaceful conditions such a Filipino Republic can be established, as would not interfere with the independence of the white colonists.

Our government is bitterly criticised by a number of well-intentioned liberty-loving men but few of them consider that if the claims of Aguinaldo and his followers had been granted, we should have been guilty of neglecting the rights of others who are entitled to our protection. It is not impossible, that if the management of our affairs had been left to the loudest critics and defenders of peaceful methods, the imbroglio would be worse than it is now. American sympathisers with the cause of the Filipinos, as a rule, consider only the rights of the Aguinaldo party who are ready to defend their claims with gun in hand, and do not consider the rights of the non-combatants whose interests should not be neglected.

While the present warfare is lamentable, the more so as it is to a great extent based upon misunderstandings of the intentions of the American government, and while we should like to see the establishment of a Filipino Republic, we cannot countenance the methods of propagandism which a great number of prominent American citizens make in behalf of Aguinaldo. It seems to us that William Lloyd Garrison misinterprets the situation when he addresses Aguinaldo with these words:

"Thou hast unmasked a nation falsely clad
 In altruistic garb, revealed a land
 Blind to distinctions between good and bad,
 And smiting Liberty with ruthless hand."

The accusation is neither fair nor just, and can only be uttered by one who has no idea of the difficulty of the situation.

We repeat that our government made mistakes in the very beginning: but there is no justification for going to the extreme of slandering President McKinley by saying:

"Whether as tool or tyrant History's pen
 Upon the nation's scroll of lasting shame
 Shall pillory in letters black thy name,
 Time can alone adjudge."

It is the duty of our nation to establish order in the Philippines, and to give the Filipinos full liberty of home government, retaining for the United States government nothing except perhaps the possession of Cavite together with other strategic points of the harbor of Manila, and the recognition of a protectorate. Yet the latter should be drawn up in the form of an alliance, as an older brother would treat a younger brother, with rights similar to those the territories of the United States possessed, and nothing should be contained in the treaty which might savor of imperialism or indicate the conception that the Filipino republic is subject to the United States.

The best plan may prove to be a division of the territory of the Philippines into various states with different constitutions according to local requirements, ethnological as well as religious. The Mussulmans, the various mountain tribes, the Filipinos, the European colonists of the city of Manila, the Chinese colonists, etc., are too disparate elements to enter as homogeneous ingredients into the plan of a comprehensive Philippine Republic. But the various districts might be independent and might form a loose confederacy under the presidency of the United States; and a federal supreme court should be instituted as a court of last appeal in all affairs, civil litigations and criminal proceedings. It would be the duty of the latter so to construe the laws of the different states that they would not lead to collisions and would be interpreted in the spirit of modern civilisation and humaneness.

KPC.

BOOK-REVIEWS.

EN DEUTSCHER BUDDHIST. Oberpräsidialrat Theodor Schultze. By *Dr. Arthur Pfungst*. Stuttgart: Fromman's Verlag (E. Hauff). 1899. Pages, 51.

This pamphlet is the memorial of a prominent German official and author of considerable influence, who not only played an important part in German history, especially with reference to the fate of the Duchies of Schleswig Holstein, but was also widely known in certain circles as a man deeply interested in the religious problem, with a strong inclination toward Buddhism.

Theodor Schultze was born in Oldenburg, Holstein, June 22nd, 1824, and died at Potsdam, April 6th, 1898. Educated at Lübeck, he studied jurisprudence at the Universities of Kiel and Berlin, and entered the Danish service of his native country in Holstein. When Holstein was occupied by the Prussians in 1864, he was retained by the conquerors for his special work, but he saw fit first to be released from his oath by the king of Denmark. This request being granted, he returned