

greatest consideration of all. None has died of disease and all are apparently in good spirits. Just contrast that with Santiago or Montauk!

A Manila correspondent of the Hong-kong Press, recently paid the boys a rather lofty but no doubt well deserved tribute. He declares, after spending several weeks with the volunteers at Cavite and around Manila, that he never before saw such ardent patriotism or such passionate desire for a fight. He is simply repeating the observation made by all the best correspondents at Santiago. The American volunteer is not handsome to look at; his clothes do not fit well and he has not the military air of the regular, but when it comes to fighting or hardship no one can excel him.

This reminds us that Aguinaldo has again dismounted from the high horse on which he takes a ride semi-periodically. The demand by General Otis that the would-be dictator withdraw his forces from Manila was not very graciously received, but it has been complied with. What he and his followers have seen of the fighting qualities of the American soldiers has been an impressive and it is to be hoped useful lesson to them. They now realize, if they did not before, that they are no longer dealing with Spaniards, but with a class of men who, when they get into a battle, make short, sharp and terribly complete work of it. There is not much likelihood of trouble with the natives at Manila, at least not just now.

IN THE WORLD OF MISSIONS.

One of the denominational journals of the East calls attention to the fact that missionary work in foreign lands is about to undergo some essential change. At first the labor of a missionary was chiefly evangelistic. Sometimes it included literary work, mainly the translation of the Bible and the publication of the sacred volume. Then it was found necessary to give attention to the education of the children, in order to reach the families through their children. A number of Christian schools have been established throughout the world in this way, and their efficiency is highly spoken of.

Those directing the missionary efforts are now confronted with the fact that the number of children having the advantage of such education is too large for the societies to take care of. Many of them are employed as missionaries and teachers, but the rest are left to their own resources. In countries where the caste system prevails, there is no opportunity for them to go back to their former friends and look for employment. Their taste has undergone a change by association with Europeans, and they look to the mission station for a start in life. It is this fact that seems to demand new efforts on the part of those interested in foreign missions, and it is predicted that the time is not far off when associated with the missionary station will be various industrial enterprises established for the especial benefits of converts.

What the effect of this would be, only time can show. It is probable that hundreds would embrace a religion sugared over with opportunities of making a living, where one would accept it and make a sacrifice. Still it may not be denied that a missionary who would go to the so-called heathen countries and teach the people better methods of cultivating the fields, establish manufacturing and facilitate the exchange of products, would be a great benefactor to mankind. If he could do this independent of the religious societies, he would prepare the way for missionary work proper. But if the missionary undertakes to control the eventual in-

dustrial activity, giving a job to his converts and taking it away from the apostates, as he would be too apt to do, the system would be productive of hypocrisy on a truly gigantic scale.

Christianity is a practical religion. It enters every department of human life and claims a controlling influence over all the affairs of men—not by promises of temporal rewards for adherence to creeds or performance of ceremonies, but by exalting men and women to a higher plane of morality and by influencing all their thoughts, sentiments, motives, words and acts. It was this peculiarity of the Christian religion that made it a power in the early ages, before which Imperial Rome trembled. There is no Scriptural precedent for making employment in manufacturing enterprises an incentive to faith. On the contrary, all the blessings of the highest civilization may be regarded as a result of the prevalence of the Christian religion. To deviate from a Scriptural rule and precept is at all times a dangerous experiment. Let the Christian missionaries seek to obtain the power, the knowledge, the humility, and above all the divine authority, with which the first missionaries of the Christian Church were clothed, and the results of their labors will be similar to that which is a powerful testimony to the divine mission of our Lord and His Apostles.

THE MARCH OF EMPIRE.

The wonders of the British victory in the Soudan accumulate with additional information. General Kitchen-er's army numbered 20,000 men, one thousand of whom were trained scouts mounted on camels. The expedition began two years ago and led into the heart of the greatest and dreariest desert in the world. It is an equatorial region and the heat, especially to men accustomed to temperate climatic conditions, must have been something awful. Notwithstanding this, but few men died of disease, not nearly so many in the whole period as have been lost to the United States from such source since the war with Spain ceased, less than two months ago. There are reasons for this and they should be named. Of course the men were selected with a view to their sturdiness and endurance, but the rigors of the Sahara temperature and climate would break down the strongest man alive in a very short time if the strictest hygienic regulations were not adopted and rigidly enforced. Not a soldier in Kitchen-er's command has drunk a drop of liquor of any kind since the expedition began, and all that they have eaten, drank or worn has been provided with special reference to cleanliness and adaptation to the country's conditions. Britain expects some of her soldiers to be slain, but she will not slay them herself.

A large number of battles have been fought, in every one of which the Anglo-Egyptian forces were successful, although the Mahdists outnumbered them not less than two to one and in the last engagement three to one. The most remarkable achievement next to the victories was the building of a railway nearly of standard gauge—four feet—along the route, which was designed to keep the army in close communication with its base of supplies, but will now no doubt be made a permanent thing and extended on to the coast. Gunboats were constructed in sections and carried on the railroad; when wanted, the sections could be hurriedly yet firmly put together and were then ready for use. Every feature of the campaign suggests so much

in the way of precaution and preparation that we are constrained to draw the contrast once more.

Wherever the Mahdists were encountered they were, as suggested, a superior numbers and they fought with a fury that might be described as the very extreme of fanatical desperation. They threw themselves like a great living avalanche upon the invaders hoping to sweep them to destruction at one fell blow. It betokened courage and rashness in equal proportions. It meant victory with destruction to the enemy or defeat with annihilation to themselves. Up against the streaming fires of the machine guns they hurled their massive columns only to have them swept away like leaves before an angry blast. Again and again dashed the white-robed fanatics against the implements of destruction whose belching fires sent great volumes of shrieking steel and hissing lead into their melting columns, until no line could be formed, no squad gathered for want of the material with which to form them. At the battle—Omdurman—which practically ended the campaign, 60,000 of the Mohammedans entered the contest headed by the Khalifa himself; a ragged remnant of camel cavalry, perhaps not to exceed 1,000, his harem and himself, were all that escaped, the bodies of the slain carpeting the desert for miles in every direction. Horrible!

The victory opens up a new country to the world of civilization, no part of which has ever yet penetrated there save at its peril. The completion of the railway will soon establish commercial relations where none now exists, and be the means of making great sections of desert waste to literally blossom as the rose. If at the first it seems a brutal and murderous work to invade a country which belongs to its inhabitants by reason of ancestry and occupation from a time immemorial, attack them in their homes, slay them by tens of thousands, drive the survivors away and take possession of everything that remains, such view becomes modified if not abated entirely upon a full consideration of the question. The interior of Africa has been a terra incognita long enough. Over it has hung like a pall the clouds of ancient barbarism and hereditary tyranny. Superstition and its inseparable ally, ignorance, are not merely the rule, they are universal. Productive soil blisters untouched beneath the vertical rays of the sun, although laved in part by the second greatest river in the world, no part of whose life-giving waters have yet been diverted to the adjoining places. Mines of great wealth are there, but the light of day has never been permitted to shine upon the greater part of their hidden treasures. All these were given for a purpose, and the purpose will soon be seen opening and expanding along the blood-stained trails of the invading army. It is manifest destiny, the fiat of fate, the edict of an innire and all-wise Providence without whose consent not even a sparrow shall fall or a blade of grass break through the surface of the globe on which we live.

AN ANGLO-FRENCH WAR CLOUD.

Is war imminent between France and England? That would now seem to depend on whether the French commander at Fashoda on the upper Nile is there for the purpose of making trouble or not.

Rumors to the effect that a French expedition was operating in the sphere of English influence in Africa have not been credited, because the British government has notified the French authorities that that would be considered an unfriendly act. But some time ago the Khalifa sent a gunboat up the Nile,