

world. That a comparatively feeble folk should have raised a magnificent city out of the desert, is in itself a standing monument to the success and vitality of their organization. Owing to the influx of large numbers of people to Utah, attracted thither by its prosperity, it has been impossible to maintain their co-operative system in its completeness and simplicity. The strangers in their gates would not cast in their lot with the Mormons. But in spite of this, among themselves the Latter-day Saints have been very largely true to their communistic principles. As a result, poverty is almost unknown among them, while the fearful warfare which rages between capital and labor in the eastern states is yet unknown. Whatever may be urged against the Mormons, it cannot be gainsaid that so far as the social relationships of life are concerned, they have come nearer to realizing the Christian ideal than any other community.

FROM ENSIGN PEARSON.

Ensign Pearson has written an interesting letter from Philippine waters to his relatives here anent the Subig Bay incident, which came near leading to unpleasant complications between this country and Germany. Incidentally he figured quite conspicuously in it. That is he was one of the officers on the Raleigh, which was sent by Admiral Dewey to the scene of disturbance, having been transferred to that ship from the Zafiro, which cut the cable immediately after the destruction of Admiral Montejó's fleet. On the arrival of the Raleigh and Concord the German man-of-war lying in Subig Bay quickly sailed out through another channel and thus avoided a collision.

Spanish troops were entrenched on shore to a considerable number. The Raleigh sent an under officer and a number of marines to the forts with an unconditional demand for surrender. The Spanish colonel refused and the American sailors returned to their boat. But the American ships were there on business as the Spanish soon found out to their discomfiture and regret. A bombardment was commenced on the forts. At first it had but little effect. Then the American gunners got the distance and hit the main fortifications with unerring accuracy and terrific force. Instantly, says Ensign Pearson, the Spanish troops poured forth like a swarm of bees. Still they were obdurate and defiant, resisting with all possible force. Then the Raleigh sent a 12-pound shot through the Spanish commander's house. That settled matters. Without further loss of time a white flag was run up and the enemy capitulated, laying down their arms and turning over 600 prisoners to the Americans.

On Saturday two more letters came from the ensign to his parents at Draper one being written from Manila on August 22nd and the other from Hong Kong September 2nd, showing the latter to have been but three weeks in transit. That is a most marvelous record. The short time en route is accounted for by the fact that it came by a returning troop transport, the China, while the other letter which was just a month on the way came by one of the regular mail ships. The letters were both written on the Raleigh and are as follows:

Manila, August 22, 1898.—Since we took Manila everything is opening up again. The cable to Hong Kong has been repaired, street cars are running, all business is open again and business generally is booming. They say there are many steamers from Shang-

hai, Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan on the way to Manila with various cargoes to fill up the many different kinds of stores whose supplies were wholly gone owing to the long blockade.

During the blockade no steamers were permitted to enter or leave port, so it finally got so that supplies in the city even were nearly gone. We hear that peace negotiations are progressing and that they will soon be completed.

While ashore a day or two ago, I visited the Utah volunteers, who are now stationed in fine barracks in the city of Manila. I had the pleasure of seeing most of the officers and learned that the Utah men were generally in excellent condition. I am surprised that Draper did not furnish some men. It seems that Salt Lake and Ogden furnished most of them.

Gen. Merritt has issued his proclamation stating that he assumes the position of governor general in the name of the United States. We have a post-office already, have assumed charge of the customs, taken all the public buildings and barracks for our use and in fact entire control of the government of the place. The old police force, which consisted of natives, and the street cleaning force have been hired by us to continue in their respective places.

August 24.—Two more transport ships with troops from San Francisco have just arrived, and the mail for the United States, which goes by one of the transports that came some time ago, closes in a few minutes.

We got orders yesterday to go to Hongkong tomorrow to dock ship and give liberty on shore to the crews who have not been on shore for four or five months. Will remain there about two weeks. The Olympia starts for Hongkong the day after us for a similar stay. Then we will return to Manila, and other ships will go there for a like stay.

H. A. PEARSON.

Hongkong, Sept. 2.—We arrived here several days ago and have docked the ship and given all the crew liberty, and expect to return to Manila in a day or two. The Olympia came here a day or two after us, and yesterday the Concord came, all for the purpose of docking and giving the crew liberty on shore, the first in five months.

Today the S. S. China, one of the transports that brought troops to Manila, came here with General Merritt on board. He is going from Manila to Paris to act as one of the peace commissioners. The China leaves for San Francisco in a day or two, and may take this letter. There is no news worth mentioning. There are rumors of ships going home this fall, but nothing definite yet. Hongkong is very hot; more so than Manila.

We learn from the Olympia, which left Manila after we did, that two men of the Utah volunteers had been shot by natives. It seems that they were out buying something at a store, and some question arose as to the price of it, whereupon they drew their revolvers and began firing, not at anybody particularly, but perhaps more to make a noise. They were perhaps under the influence of liquor somewhat, though I am not positive of this. When the fire began, some natives shot these men, killing one and fatally wounding another.

Regards to all.

H. A. PEARSON.

BEFORE AND AFTER THE BATTLE

Geo. Duffin, a Utah volunteer batteryman, now in the Philippine islands, writes to his mother at No. 70 Vine street this city under date of August 2nd, saying, "I guess you have seen pictures in books of the kind of houses they have here. They are made of bam-

boo and sugar cane leaves. Some of them are pretty and picturesque, and some of the people are neat and clean, though most of them are filthy as pigs. Men, women and children all smoke cigarettes and chew tobacco. As a result their teeth are all black and decayed. I thought once of learning their language and I did learn to count as high as twenty but I got sick every time I went on my rounds and quit. The people are worse than Indians and go about half naked.

We are camped about four miles from the walls of Manila. The wall runs clear around the town and is fifteen feet thick and twenty feet high. We will have to break it down before we can take the place. But I guess Dewey will do that with his guns. I presume you have heard about our first fight by this time. The Spanish breastworks are about one mile this side of town so that makes our camp about three miles this side of the Spanish camp. But we have thrown our breastworks up to within about 300 yards of theirs. The men here took it in turns to go up and stay twenty-four hours at a time. I was one of the first to go to the front. It was the first of July. Everything was quiet all day, but at 11:30 that night the Spanish made a charge on us and we had a fight mighty hard to keep them back. Bullets flew like hail. But we had good high breastworks and only thirteen of our men were killed and twenty-six wounded. None of the Utah boys were killed but two of them were hurt, but not badly.

One of the bullets hit the wall directly in front of my face and filled my eyes and mouth with mud. I thought for a minute of two that I had been shot, but I got off without even a scratch. There are as near as we can tell about 400 Spaniards dead and 700 wounded. When the fight commenced we had 508 men and the enemy 5,000.

In a letter written on August 26th, the same writer says: "I suppose you have heard all about the bombardment before this time, so it will be no good for me to write it all down. At 10 o'clock on the morning of the 13th, Dewey, the Astor battery and ourselves all turned loose on the Spanish at the same time, and at 11 o'clock our flag was floating over their fort. Before sundown we could see our flags on the tops of the highest buildings all over the town. We slept in Manila that night and we have been here ever since.

I don't know how many were killed and wounded on our side but none of the boys were hurt in the Utah batteries. As we were advancing on Manila I was sent ahead on an errand. Just as I got over the Spanish intrenchments there lay three Spanish soldiers with the tops of their heads shot off. I think it was done by our gun, as they were straight in front of it. Nothing was left of the heads of two of them but their noses and chins. The other one just had the top of his head and his right arm blown off and a big hole through his side. It was a mighty sickening sight, but it is all over now. I don't know how long we will be here but I think we will return home before the two years are up. We are living in a Spanish fort and have good shelter from the rain and good beds to sleep on.

The mosquitoes are as big as shetland ponies. They come in pairs, one carrying a lantern and the other a can opener. Last night they rolled me out of bed and dragged me out into a ditch as though I wanted a bath. But we have a fine bath house here and I had a fine bath just before going to bed.

We have fine mahogany tables to eat off, but they don't put any too much on them. But I see that I get my share of anything that comes along.