

and complications. More than that, the insurgents on the island of Luzon would not consent to be returned to Spanish rule. Spain must be asked to relinquish all control over the island, therefore, and the question of the relation of the United States to the insurgents can be disposed of later. They certainly do not promise to be disposed of "earlier."

Of course all this and pretty much everything else in a similar line is mere conjecture with a more or less substantial foundation of logic and semi-official utterance to stand upon. Perhaps the island of Luzon will be all that is asked for, perhaps not. It is the largest one of the archipelago and in area and population is equal to about one-third of the whole. The authority above quoted speculates on the subject in the following interesting strain:

"Granted that the President intends to keep Luzon, what is to be done with the rest of the group? It clearly is undesirable that they be brought under American control, unless our rule shall be absolutely essential to the maintenance of order; and as a matter of fact, in some of the islands the tribes are so wild that civilized government cannot be maintained any more than it can among the Indians on our own western plains. Whatever obligation the United States may be under to the insurgents is chiefly to those on the island of Luzon. It has had little if anything to do with the insurgent forces in the other islands. Apparently, therefore, the United States would be serving its own interests best, and also fulfilling all obligations to those who have co-operated with our forces as allies, if it confined its acquisitions of territory in the Philippine group to the island of Luzon."

HE DOTH PROTEST AGAIN.

The official announcement by H. R. H. Aguinaldo that he is at peace with the United States has arrived, and it serves the useful purpose of relaxing a strain which was becoming painful. There are no means by which the probable duration of the period of relaxation can be determined, the time in such cases varies so. They have a less determined periodicity than some of the comets, only they come along with much greater frequency. Some of them have endured so much as three weeks, but the usual run is from one to two weeks. It is perhaps safe to venture a guess that the current production will have a tenure lasting well on and perhaps fully up to the maximum; it might, indeed, run a day or so over, because of its official characterization and the knowledge on his part that it has been cabled over to us at \$2.47 a word. Such expensive indulgences must not occur too frequently.

Seriously, the insurgent leader is about as difficult a man to locate with anything like continuity as has ever been jostled to the surface of the world's affairs. He is as hard to retain a grip on as any eel, and if he has either steadfastness of character or tenacity of purpose it has been so completely overborne by self-seeking plots and egotistical outbursts, that no recognition thereof can be had. Being a man of some judgment and by no means ignorant, he ought to and it is believed does know, that his interest lies in being submissive and friendly to this country, not by spasms and at intervals, but as a steady, continuous thing. The only fear that is ever felt regarding anything he may do is because of the thorough understanding on the Americans' part of the constitutional treachery of the race to which he belongs manifesting itself at a time and under circumstances when it would

cost more to subdue him than it would as a general proposition. Undoubtedly, at any time he and his followers would be quickly overcome and their cause hurriedly disposed of if they even attempted an overt act of hostility, and doubtless the knowledge of this does more to preserve outwardly amicable relations than anything else.

It seems that an attempt to assassinate the dictator by poisoning his soup has been made. This is greatly to be deplored, and it is to be hoped the guilty parties will be detected and punished. Erratic as the man is, bad as he may be, the chances are very many to one that our forces will have less trouble getting along with him than they would with one of his less learned and possibly more malignant lieutenants. The question of what disposition to make of him has not yet been reached, let alone disposed of; but, apart from all other considerations, it is sincerely hoped that the work of the assassin may not answer it. With all his imperfections it is hardly to be believed that he has done anything justifying capital punishment, and if it were otherwise, no time nor "place indeed should murder sanctuarize." Perhaps Aguinaldo may yet, by the force of association with a stable race, manifest a stability which may all along have existed but has become dormant through non-user. It is to be hoped so. With his other qualifications he might then become an excellent governor of the island of Luzon, acting as the governors of other territories act—by and with the advice and consent of the United States of America.

Aguinaldo is improving in his method of stating things, as witness the tone and wording of the message to our government and people. Sincerity and candor back of it will make it the signet which betokens the beginning of the end of all misunderstandings and any kind of friction.

UNCLE SAM IS READY.

The United States has been engaged in five foreign wars and was in a state of suspended peace with a power that was closed without serious hostilities—France. The others were, in the order named—England with a large troop of Hollanders, England again, Morocco, Mexico and Spain. It has had several internal wars, the chief being that of the great rebellion of 1861, which racked it from center to circumference and subjected it to a strain such as no other nation in the world could have passed through and preserved its identity; the other wars were with various Indian tribes. In every case the great Republic has emerged from the contest a victor. It is proper to assure the nations that the God of battles as well as the God of peace has been with us through it all, and after the lessons given they ought to realize it; also that we keep our powder dry.

To prefigure the next passage at arms would be to some extent an idle use of time, since in this age with its kaleidoscopic changes what seems probable today becomes manifestly impossible with the morrow and vice versa. But with all this duly considered, it looks as if our next opponent on the sea if not on the land as well would be the German empire—that is, the ruling power of Germany with the people assenting. Americans are thoroughly despised in Germany, so much so that they are frequently subjected to personal indignities, and it would be no unpopular movement to precipitate a war with this country. The masses being willing, from what source would the provocation most likely come? This is already in its inception and appearances are that it

will be carried out even if needs be to the bitter, bloody end.

Germany covets an island of the Philippine group and has unofficially made a selection of one which she proposes to seize and use as a coaling station. This is, without further proceedings, such a piece of impudence that it necessarily puts the Americans on their guard. In the settlement of the disposition of the islands it is expected that Germany's desires will be presented for consideration, and if refused she may take a notion to ignore the settlement if one should be reached, also to persuade Spain to join her in bringing the United States to terms. This would undoubtedly be the means of bringing about hostilities, and at least one more foreign nation would be added to the list of those who have gone down in defeat before the prowess and skill of the American soldiery. That nation would be Germany.

Six thousand more troops are on their way to reinforce General Otis and two great battleships will soon be headed for Manila to be added to the already formidable fleet of Admiral Dewey. These are respectively much superior to any forces that Germany can muster at the islands, besides which American gunnery is as far ahead of German as it was of Spanish.

THE MALAY RACE.

Daniel M. Tredwell, of the American Anthropological society, in an article published in the New York Herald gives as his opinion that the Malays, the inhabitants of the Philippine islands, belong to a race with a great past. He says they were the sailors of the ancient world and their nautical exploits were much more remarkable than those of the ancient Phoenicians.

He takes the view that America is the oldest of continents and that between America and Asia there is a sunken continent of which the present Pacific islands once were the mountain tops. In America there was at that time a large inland sea and another in Europe and Asia, connecting the Baltic with the Caspian sea. Civilization pushed westward from America to the sunken continent and from there to Asia and the Old World and the Malays were the standard bearers of that most ancient civilization. They once had a greater empire than either Egypt, Greece or Rome, but that was long ago. When they first came in contact with Europeans they were a great deal more powerful than they are now. They fought England, Holland, Spain and Portugal for 300 years and gave those nations much trouble.

The Malays have always been represented as a cruel, treacherous race, but Mr. Tredwell says this is only the European side of the story. He has found the Malays the most polite people on earth, gentle, kindly and generous. Their aristocratic descent is marked, he says, in their forms and faces, and perhaps more especially in hands and feet. A hollow foot is said to be a mark of aristocracy, and if this is true the Malay is the most aristocratic man in the world, for his foot is the hollowest. As a sailor the Malay is incomparable in his own way. Brooke says that he would rather trust his life in a Malay proa with a Malay crew than with any other vessel afloat. Many a time, he declares, he has seen Malay proas beating down the Yellow sea in the southwest monsoon when not another ship dared venture out. A Malay proa can beat the best yacht in America running with the wind on her quarter.

To these characteristics the following are added as the testimony of Rajah Brooke: The Malay is noble, proud, haughty, brave; he suffers death un-