

Educating the Filipinos

How Our Army Officials Are Establishing Schools in the Various Islands.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Copyright, 1900, by Frank G. Carpenter. Manila, Aug. 1, 1900.—One of the most important things our government has to do in the Philippine Islands is the establishment of a good public school system. At present not more than twenty per cent of the people can read and write. There are districts in which very few of them can speak Spanish and there are hundreds of thousands of school children who have had no school advantages. For the past two years, owing to the trouble with the Spaniards and the Americans, many of the schools have been disorganized. In every island I have visited I have found the school houses vacant, and nearly everywhere they are going to ruin. In some parts of Luzon they have been burned by the insurgents and in others the teachers have had to leave because they were connected with the friars.

THE ARMY AND THE SCHOOLS.

With the advance of our army every town which has been garrisoned has been given a school. The officers urge the people to open the school houses and tell them that they must support their own schools and that English must be one of the studies. In some places the soldiers are teaching, and everywhere attempts are made to organize a new system of education. Heretofore the Philippines have had nothing like a public school system. They have had schools in most of the villages, but the teachers have been appointed by the priests and the studies have been confined by them. The chief teaching has been in the catechism and along lines of religious instruction, and today the priests object decidedly to having the catechism taken out of the schools. The schools were opened with the reading of Catholic prayers, and until now every school had a crucifix hung up over the teacher's desk. The same prayers are used now by many of the American teachers, one of them telling me that she thought it better to keep up the prayers notwithstanding she was a Protestant herself.

IN MANILA.

A present there is no systematic school organization of the islands. Each military official prescribes for his own district, and it is a sort of go-as-you-please. The only place where there is anything like a bureau of education is in Manila. Here we have a superintendent of public instruction. This is Mr. George P. Anderson, a Seattle man, the son of one of the leading college educators of the Northwest. Prof. Anderson graduated in one of the Washington State universities, and about nine years ago finished a course of three years at Yale. He has had no practical experience in public school

work, and it is a question whether a man who has worked in the schools at home would not be better equipped for the place. Mr. Anderson came out here as a soldier in the Second Oregon volunteers, but he has been placed at the head of this department. He tells me that there are now between forty and fifty public schools in Manila, with an attendance of four or five thousand pupils—not more than one-tenth of what there should be in this city of 300,000 people.

The schools, with one or two exceptions, are all of the primary grade. The language used is mainly Spanish, English being taught for only a portion of the day. The English teachers are in most places American girls, the daughters of the officials here. Some few have been school teachers at home, but many are new, experimenting for the first time on the poor Filipinos. Many of them labor under the disadvantage of not knowing the Spanish language, but they are all learning rapidly, and, considering their lack of normal school training, are doing remarkably well. They are very well paid, each teacher receiving a salary of \$1,440, or \$720 in gold. This is, I think, for a year of ten months. It is considerably more than the school wages in the United States.

WHAT IS NEEDED.

What we need here is a bureau of education, officered by practical American teachers, who will take charge of the educational system of the whole archipelago and direct it from here. There should be a supply of American teachers so that there could be at least one English teacher in every village and school district, with a corps of general superintendents, who could go from district to district and see that the children are being properly taught. The best educated of the native teachers should be retained and the work for Spanish. The children should be compelled to go to school. They need new school buildings and new school books, and, in fact, a thorough reorganization of their educational system. They are, I am told, in nearly all places anxious to learn and perfectly willing to pay for the best school advantages, but in order to have these there must be American aid at the head of the school system and enough American teachers scattered throughout the whole to lighten the load.

A TYPICAL SCHOOL.

I have visited a number of the public schools of Manila. I am surprised at the quickness and intelligence of the pupils. They are very apt at learning and are the equals, I believe, of children of the same age in the United States. Let me take you into one of the schools, and show you just how it looks.

It is a primary school, for as yet little more than the primary grades have been established. The school house is nothing like any you have seen in the United States. It is a one-story building about thirty feet square, built upon posts ten feet in height. It has sliding windows made up of a lattice work of hundreds of little squares, in each of which a piece of oyster shell not thicker than your thumb nail has been fitted. These shells serve to keep out the hot sun and they are so transparent that they admit enough light for study and work. The windows are always open, except where they keep out the sun, so that the air may sweep through. There is a little coconut tree in front of the building I am describing, and we pass through a grove of banana trees on our way to the back yard, where the entrance is found. Going upstairs, we find two or three rooms filled with little children at work.

HOW FILIPINO SCHOOL BOYS DRESS.

In this school all are boys, for there is no co-education of the sexes in Manila, and the boys and girls each have schools of their own. The boys are as brown as mulattos, and their hair is cut short, so that it stands up like black bristles over their little bullet-like heads. Notice their eyes. They are black, and the most of them snap with the interest they show in the teaching. How queerly they dress. If our boys were their clothes in this way their teachers would send them straight home. Each boy has his shirt tail outside of his trousers, and each is in his bare feet or in slippers, without stockings. Fully half of the number cannot help studying out loud, according to the custom which was taught in the past, but which our American teachers are trying to abolish. As we stand and look at the school the native teacher comes out. It seems queer to us that he keeps his hat on while he is teaching, and stranger still when he pulls cigarettes from his pockets then and there asks us to join him in a smoke. He shows off the scholars, but the language is Spanish, and we can hardly say whether they do well or ill.

A GIRLS' SCHOOL.

Later on I visited one of the primary schools for girls. The teachers were women and among them was an American girl who told me that she found the children quite as bright as our school children at home. With her assistance I photographed some of the pupils, taking three little girls as a sample, and later on made a picture of a class. She had some of the little ones recite their English lesson, and they did remarkably well. The teachers are doing all they can to inculcate Americanism. Last Fourth of July there was a school celebration

at which pyrotechnic speeches on liberty were read, and the Declaration of Independence read by one of the pupils. On Washington's birthday American flags were put over all the school buildings for the first time, and there were appropriate exercises in commemoration of little George and his remarkable hatchet. I doubt whether the hatchet story has as much force here as in America, for the Filipino child has thus far not been taught to reverence the truth. Men, women and children think nothing of lying, and some of the poems which were written by the teachers and recited off in queer accents by these little yellow Filipinos must have seemed strange to them. I give here a specimen poem as it was actually recited by a bright little fellow of ten. It is entitled "The Truthful Washington."

TRUTHFUL WASHINGTON.

I am a Filipino boy
And not supposed to know
About the great George Washington
And why folks love him so.
But I have heard it said of him
That from his early youth
When accused of naughty deeds
He always spoke the truth.
And I believe that truthful boys
Will truthful men become,
And be beloved by every one,
Like the great Washington.

JESUIT PRIESTS THE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS.

It seems funny to think of Jesuit priests, in their gowns, acting as teachers of the public schools of a United States possession. This is the case here, but it is a necessity for the present at least. The only high school of the islands is the Ateneo de Jesus, a college. It has about 500 pupils—boys from fourteen to eighteen, all well dressed and bright-looking. The professors are dark-faced, black-haired Spanish priests, and as far as I could judge from my conversation with them, well-educated men. Their college building is just next to the church of San Ignacio, one of the finest churches in Manila. The college is very large, comprising many rooms, floored with mahogany, and a theater, which is finished in native woods carved by the Filipinos themselves. The carving of the church interior was done entirely by natives, and it equals in beauty, I venture any cathedral of Europe. One of the features of this college is its musical instruction. During my visit I found about twenty boys seated at pianos, all hammering away at their exercises at the same time and each on a different key. In other rooms the boys were engaged in sketching, and in others they were carving. They show considerable artistic ability, and are, the priests say, very good at all things along the lines of the beaux

arts. This school received, I understand, the most of its income from the public school funds.

MANILA COLLEGES.

There are several colleges here in Manila managed by the different clerical orders, but none which will compare with even the second-class colleges of the United States. Each has a long list of studies in its curriculum, but as to practical education along modern lines it is unknown. One of the largest colleges, St. Thomas, is older than any college in the United States, having been founded at least ten years before our Pilgrim Fathers landed on Plymouth Rock. St. Thomas belongs to the Dominican friars, one of the richest of the clerical organizations, and one which has caused a vast deal of trouble in the Philippine Islands. The Dominicans also own the college of San Juan de Letran, which was founded in the middle of the seventeenth century. It was at this college that Aguinaldo was educated, but he does not seem to have carried away pleasant memories of his school days, for he has been one of the chief enemies of the friars ever since his graduation.

In addition to these institutions is the college of St. Joseph, founded by the Jesuits in 1601 and then endowed with three professorships by the king of Spain at \$10,000 annually. There are also schools for girls here, taught chiefly by the nuns, such as the colleges of Santa Isabel, Santa Rosa and La Concordia, so that so far as name is concerned Manila has had no lack of educational institutions, although there is probably not a city of its size in the world so wanting in educational advantages of reality.

EDUCATED FILIPINOS.

There are many natives of the better classes who go to school abroad. Some girls are sent to the Italian convent in Hongkong, and many of the young Filipinos are educated in Spain. There are here in Manila Filipino lawyers, doctors, and dentists. The rebellion against the friars which involved the people in war with Spain was largely the result of a novel written by a Filipino author, Jose Rizal. This man was educated in Germany and Spain, and was famous throughout the far East as an orator. His novel had had the same effect here as to the friars as "Uncle Tom's Cabin" had in exciting feeling against slavery in the United States, and it eventually caused him to be shot by the Spaniards. He was a poet as well as a novelist, and is greatly beloved by the Tagalogs. His novel is now being translated into English.

THE LORD'S PRAYER IN TAGALOG.

There are a number of native newspapers published in Manila and at other places throughout the Philippine Islands. Some are in Spanish and others are in Tagalog. A Tagalog paper looks very strange to American eyes. The type seems to have been grabbed up at random and thrown into the columns without regard to order or reason. The language is harsh, containing many nasal sounds, and rather grating on the ear of the foreigner. I give you here a copy of the Lord's Prayer in Tagalog: "Ama namin sugat ma sa langit casambalin ang nagla mo, Napa sa amin ang cahaviano mo. Sundin ang loob mo ngul sa lupa para nang sa langit. Hiyayun mo sama ngalan nang amin canin sa arsanon. Patavarin o mo cumi sa dilan masama." In looking over the prayer you will notice that the most of the consonants are n's and m's and one in every eight is a g. It is indeed a curious language. Nearly all of the names of the towns in the islands begin with M or N, but a great many of them begin with G. Still, of the eight million people of the Philippines at least one-third, if not

more, speak the Tagalog, though comparatively few can write it.

THE VISAYAN LITERATURE.

Next to the Tagalogs come the Visayans, of whom there are perhaps two millions. They also have a language and literature, but the literature is largely made up of tracts published by the missionaries of the Catholic church. The Visayan is not unlike the Tagalog, as may be seen from the following extract, which I copy from one of their tracts merely to show you how the stuff looks in print. It is only one sentence, but it contains fifty-four words.

"Saring man maca-agum sang indulgencia plenaria ang mga tagumata-yon nga, sa dili maca confesar ang maca calauat tungud sang mga caula, nang hinuul sang liang nga asia cag manungang sang santos nga ngalan ni Jesus cag con dili sarang macahimo sinl bisan tuyon lamang sa salud sang cabubut-on."

THE MOROS AND THE KORAN.

As to the Moros, the only education which they have had up to now is learning the Koran. The teaching is all done by the Mohammedan priests. The books are in the Arabic characters, and the little ones squat down on the floor or the ground and in a sing-song tone cry out the prayers until they have learned them. They usually keep a book before them as they study, but as to any practical education, as we know it, such things are unknown in our Mohammedan land.

In fact, in nearly all the islands education will have to begin at the ground level, and in many of them new books will need to be written for the purpose of teaching. The superintendent of educa-

tion here in Manila has already ordered a large number of books, and before this letter is published some 20,000 will already have arrived and be in the hands of the people. A great many of the books are in Spanish, but it seems to me that the language should be changed for English just as soon as possible. The quicker we can open the doors of our literature, religion and ideas of our moral morality to these people the quicker we can make them respectable American citizens. I doubt if much can be done until they have learned the English language, and it seems to me that the chief hope is in the children and not in the grown-ups, who have been bred and raised in Spanish corruption.

Will Boom His Business.

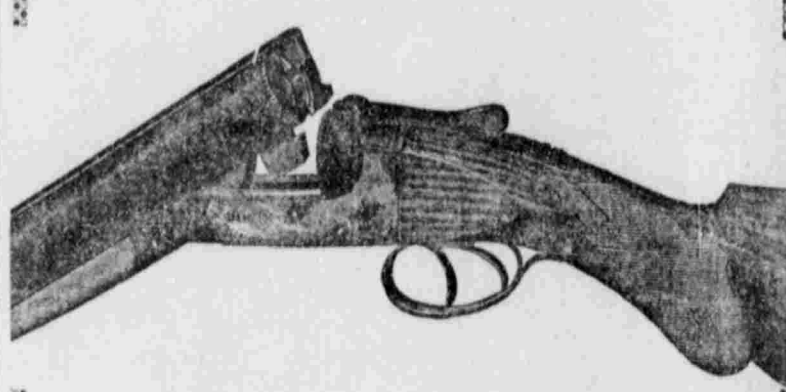
S. Laval, a merchant of Dallas, Tex., writes: "I thought I would have to give up business, after two years of suffering from general debility brought on by overwork and long hours, but four bottles of Electric Bitters gave me new life. I can now eat anything, sleep well and feel like working all the time. It's the best medicine on earth. It's a wonderful tonic and health builder for tired, weak, sickly and run-down people. Try it. Satisfaction guaranteed. Only 50c at Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept."

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Of the 5,000 copies of this popular book published last year only three or four hundred remain and the author has decided to sell these through the ordinary agencies for Church publications. Your local agent will order the book for you or it will be sent postpaid from the Deseret News Office, Salt Lake City, Utah. Price, 15c; Half Morocco, \$2.00.

JOHNNIE

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A HINT TO THE WISE

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On Sale at \$1.25 a Pair. Cheese of Ruffled White Fish Net Curtains, size 3x42, or Ruffled White Novelty Swiss Curtains, with fancy open work lace effect design, size 3x40, worth fully \$5.00 a pair.	On Sale at 36c. a Pair. Cream or white Nottingham Lace Curtains, each Curtain 2 1/2 yards long and 30 inches wide, worth fully 75c a pair.	On Sale at \$2.98 a Pair. Ruffled White Bobbinet Curtains, a beautiful artistic drapery, each curtain 3 yards long and 45 inches wide. Marked to sell regular at \$4.00 a pair.	On Sale at \$1.35 a Pair. Ruffled White Organza Curtains, trimmed with lace insertion and edging, size 3x40. Marked to sell regular at \$2.25.
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On Sale at 99c a Pair. 3 1/2 yards long and 42 inches wide Nottingham Lace Curtains. Novel effects, finished with buttonhole edge—in cream or white—worth fully \$1.50 a pair.	On Sale at \$1.25 a Pair. Empire effect Lace Curtains. An exquisite design with Novelty border. Finished with patent over-locked stitched edges. Size 3 1/2 x 51. Worth fully \$2.00 a pair.	On Sale at \$4.68 a Pair. White Brussels Net Curtains, an exquisite design and magnificent quality, size 3 1/2 x 50. Marked to sell regular \$6.00 a pair.	On Sale at \$4.10 a Pair. Ecru Irish Point Curtains, in very artistic patterns, each Curtain 3 1/2 yards long and 45 inches wide. Marked to sell regular \$5.50.
On Sale at \$1.49 a Pair. Cream on white, mirror effect. Lace Curtains, with renaissance effect border. An exact imitation of the finest imported goods. Size 3 1/2 x 51, worth fully \$2.50 a pair.	On Sale at \$1.69 a Pair. Tambour effect Lace Curtains, in cream or white, one of the most stylish patterns procurable, size 3 1/2 x 51. Worth fully \$2.65 a pair.	On Sale at \$5.10 a Pair. Ruffled Tuscan Net Curtains, trimmed with Arabian lace, extremely attractive, size 3 1/2 x 48. Marked to sell regular \$7.00 a pair.	On Sale at \$4.68 a Pair. Honiton Point Curtains, extremely novel, each curtain 3 1/2 yards long and 47 inches wide. Marked to sell regular \$6.00 a pair.
On Sale at \$1.80 a Pair. Choice Lace Curtains, Marie Antoinette design, each curtain 3 1/2 yards long and 51 inches wide, finished with patent over-locked stitched edges, in cream or white. Worth fully \$2.75 a pair.	On Sale at \$2.15 a Pair. Imitation of Real Point Roccoco Curtains, a novelty, exquisite in design, in cream or white, size 3 1/2 x 50. Worth fully \$3.00 a pair.	On Sale at \$6.65 a Pair. Choice Irish Point Curtains in white or ecru, the most stylish design, size 3 1/2 x 50. Marked to sell regular \$9.00 a pair.	On Sale at \$5.10 a Pair. Beautiful Ecru Irish Point Curtains, strictly up to date, each Curtain 3 1/2 yards long and 50 inches wide. Marked to sell regular \$7.50.
On Sale at \$3.38 a Pair. Extra size Giuseppe Curtains, empire design, note 4 yards long and 60 inches wide, in cream or white. Worth fully \$4.20 a pair.	On Sale at \$3.45 a Pair. Magnificent Lace Curtains, very stylish—one of the finest Macchete made curtains woven. Size 3 1/2 x 60. Worth fully \$4.00 a pair.	On Sale at \$4.68 a Pair. Honiton Point Curtains, extremely novel, each curtain 3 1/2 yards long and 47 inches wide. Marked to sell regular \$6.00 a pair.	On Sale at \$4.68 a Pair. White Irish Point Curtains and exquisite design, made on finest quality Bobbinet, size 3 1/2 x 50. Marked to sell at \$6.00 a pair.
On Sale at \$3.90 a Pair. Imported Novel Curtains in cream or white, the wonder of the curtain world—each curtain is 3 1/2 yards long and 54 inches wide. Worth fully \$5.00 a pair.	On Sale at \$4.49 a Pair. Finest quality of French Giuseppe Curtains in Louis XIV design, an extremely fine weave. Size 3 1/2 x 51, in cream or white. Worth fully \$6.00 a pair.		On Sale at \$5.10 a Pair. Beautiful White Irish Point Curtains, strictly hand made, dainty pattern and fine finish, size 3 1/2 x 50. Marked to sell regular \$7.50.
			On Sale at \$18.90 a Pair. The finest Imported White Brussels Net Curtains, one of our Best, magnificent quality and very rich pattern, size 3 1/2 x 50. Marked to sell regular \$25.00.
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