

streets, also narrow, are well paved, and the city is quite metropolitan in appearance. Everything is flourishing and everywhere can be seen the signs of business. There is a street car system similar to our old mule carts, the cars being pulled by the small horses of the islands. There are also up-to-date electric light works, many factories and large business houses, such as exporters of hemp, tobacco, rice and coffee, and many mercantile houses of all descriptions. Since we came into the city and the blockade has opened, many Americans have come from the United States and Hongkong and opened up various business enterprises, such as groceries and American canned fruits, which go fast, as Uncle Sam's boys have no fruits in their rations. There are many American liquor houses opened up, and they seem to do their share of the rushing business. In many of the larger halls, looking out over the river can be heard sweet music from the native orchestras—the natives are very fine musicians.

It is a grand sight to stand on the large bridges and look down the Pasig river; it is a mass of vessels from all nations, unloading their cargoes from dawn until dark, and is indeed a busy scene. The swift steam launches dart here and there, though a seemingly impenetrable mass of masts and rigging, followed by cascos and native canoes, all bent on getting near some incoming vessel, in hope of getting a job unloading it.

The American boys are well received here, even by the Spaniards, who seem to be quite friendly. The Americans have conducted themselves, as a rule, in a manner becoming American citizens. Of course as pay day comes there are sure to be a few fights, there being so many thousand soldiers here, and all being paid at once there is sure to be a little trouble, but nothing more serious than a little fighting has happened. All the troops here seem to be very anxious to return or leave this climate. We are now enjoying what is called the rainy, cool season and some of the English merchants here state that the hot season is something terrible and that they all close their business houses during the middle of the day. The thermometer registers at present 87 degrees in the shade, so you can judge for yourself just how it is. There is considerable sickness among the United States boys, all the hospitals being filled; in some of them they claim as many as 1,300 patients suffering from fever, dysentery and other diseases incident to a tropical climate. All our water must be boiled and filtered before drinking, under penalty of punishment in the guard house; but there is nothing said about the purity of our food.

From the way it looks now, and the richness of these islands, if the United States holds them, they have a great future in store. It is claimed that coal, gold and copper can be found in large quantities, and some of the finest timber in the world grows in abundance, such as mahogany, cherry, ironwood, rosewood and cocconut wood. Added to these resources are the many tropical productions, including sugar, which can be increased and made more profitable. It is said here, that during the years of Spain's misrule that nation has done nothing to develop the wonderful resources of her possessions, but has levied taxes with a heavy hand, wherever possible, for the enrichment of a small circle of favored officials, who have done nothing for the betterment of the natives; created no opportunities for their labor, and have sold the fruits of their toil and pocketed the money. It has been proved that since the Americans came in possession the nations have made more in a day

than they made in a week during Spanish rule. They have had considerable work, and have been able to sell their products at a good price. They have worked up their cane and wood into different articles to sell the boys, and if something was done for the education of the natives in the interior and they were given something for their work, I believe in the course of a few years the Philippines could be made an industrious class of people. The Spaniards paid their Philippine servants from 3 to 12 cents, Mexican money, and city guards or police 11 cts a day, so you see that there was very little inducement for them or profit from their labor.

There is considerable business done here by natives in transporting goods down the many canals that run through the city; they have their large cascos and live in one end of them, and the canals are always full of them loaded with different products. The native women are doing a rushing business, by doing our boys' washing, such as white suits. They have a large flat rock and a club and stand in the canal to their knees, and by pounding the clothes on the rock they seem to get them cleaner than we could by half an enough to furnish the water for the washing. They charge 10 cents, Mexican money, for a pair of trousers and 5 cents for a shirt.

At present we are getting a few cablegrams and learning a little of the news of the outside world; but the peace commission that holds our doom, does not seem to be progressing very fast. All the boys are anxious to return to America. We have all kinds of bulletins every day, but they have no encouraging news for us, and as they pass from one barracks to another something new is always added, until it became quite a cablegram. Many of the boys would endure two years garrison duty, if we thought it possible we could receive our discharge here, and receive our transportation money, so we could finish the tour of the world; and I would prefer that to staying here five or six months longer and return to San Francisco.

Manila is supporting five American newspapers at present. The Freedom, of which I send you a copy and will continue to do so, is published by battery B. At present my health is as good as could be expected. Captains Young and Grant are expected in a few days. No doubt you have heard of the arrival of Lieutenant Wedgewood, who is enjoying the best of health. I suppose politics is the only rage in Utah now, I trust you are all enjoying good health. Well, write soon and remember me to all; I will close with love, wishing you good night.

HARVEY.

#### SPANISH FORK.

Spanish Fork, Nov. 29.

For a few days past there has been very slight frost here, and part of the time sleet or rain, consequently many are plowing, especially those who intend to put in some "dry wheat," being encouraged by the good results which accrued therefrom last summer.

Thanksgiving day passed off pleasantly. Very enjoyable dinners were had in all the wards, to which all close to 70 and over, as also widows and widowers, were invited. It being slushy, and the streets muddy, due to the sleet storm which occurred the night previous, and did not let up till in the forenoon, Bishop Henry Gardner of the First ward took his buggy, driving back and forward through his ward, and gathering those who were invited to the new capacious and beautiful meeting house which has been erected at a cost of near \$7,000. It stands on the same lot as the Relief Society's hall, and is not far from the center of the ward. In the latter build-

ing a sumptuous repast was served with Bishop Gardner at the head of the table, who asked the blessings of the Lord upon the delicious viands spread thereon.

After the dinner, all went into the meeting house, where in the afternoon they were delighted by listening to a well arranged program, which was masterly carried out by a number of boys and girls.

I am informed that pleasant times were also had in the other three wards, especially in the Fourth, those who participated therein speaking in loud praise regarding the management thereof.

Brother Thomas D. Evans, an old and respected citizen of this place, is reported to be very sick.

The Icelandic Lutherans of this place are expecting their former minister, Rev. R. Runalson, to arrive here next week, and hence they anticipate an enjoyable Christmas.

JOHN THORGEIRSON.

#### INDIANAPOLIS INKLINGS.

Again there has been a conference in Indianapolis. It was held in the court room. The conference was attended by about twenty Mormon Elders. Among them were Elders Cardon, Nelson and Phillips, whose acquaintance I made several months ago. Elder Phillips is one of the best of singers. His solos at this conference were highly entertaining.

During the conference there were a number of public services and at all composed of the best of citizens. The doctrine taught by the Elders was a little strange to the majority of their hearers, and yet it could not have been any more inconsistent with reason than many others heard in Indianapolis.

It looks now as if Mormonism is about to get a firm hold in Indiana, and especially in the city of Indianapolis. Mormonism, in my opinion, is an improvement on many of the leading, orthodox Christian beliefs in this city. I think it would not be as dogmatical as some of them. The spirit also of persecution does not seem to be in the Mormon heart. It has been my observation, that seemingly the more an orthodox Christian loves the Lord, the more he hates those like myself. There is not an orthodox Christian in the United States who has heard of me, and thousands of such ones have, but think that I am one of the Devil's chosen imps, and will rejoice when I die, for then and then only will get that which I deserve—an eternal roasting in an orthodox hell.

Indianapolis, like Brooklyn, New York, may very well be called a city of churches. It maintains a clergy who from the supplied print to the street corner evangelist with an amount of alacrity and good will that would ever do credit to an Apache Indian in preparing things for a war dance. Its preachers are about of all kinds and color. Their salaries range from \$6,000 a year on down to what can be begged from street corner loafers. The laborer though even if working in the Lord's vineyard is supposed to be worthy of his hire.

As yet no Mormon has been invited to preach in a Christian pulpit in Indianapolis. Salvation Army "colonels" and "captains" though have occupied them. The reason of that I suppose is because of the fellow feeling which exist between a Methodist or a Presbyterian divine and the Salvation Army leaders.

W. H. SAMARTER.

Indianapolis, Ind., Nov. 16, 1898.

John Hancock, the convicted burglar, who is accused of the Engelke and Edminston murders in southern Nevada, may be called upon to answer another charge of murder committed in Denver, Col., in 1895. March 19th of that year Detective Moore was shot and killed while taking two prisoners to the police station. The murderer made good his escape, and until the present time the crime has been shrouded in mystery. A Mrs. Colter of Orange now comes forward with the information that Hancock, in a burst of confidence, confessed to her that he killed Detective Moore. He was then traveling under the name of F. A. Benton. Telegrams received in Los Angeles from Denver confirm the information that the man named F. A. Benton served a term in the Colorado penitentiary for burglary.