

it be seen to that he is thoroughly representative and altogether a fit person to insure the greatest amount of satisfaction to the largest number of people.

AUGINALDO AGAIN.

An article in this department on Saturday insisted upon good faith being maintained by the representatives of the United States with the insurgent chieftain, Aguinaldo, and his followers, of the Philippines. That is a rule which ought to prevail in all cases, whether nations or individuals are the parties to it, so long as nothing essentially criminal is the object of it. But it is to be remembered that contracts or deals are sometimes subject to abrogation, and it is always the case that the violation of or departure from the terms of a contract between two parties by either, is a release therefrom of the other as to such first party. In other words, the rescission of an agreement by one is a release therefrom to the other if he chooses to so hold himself.

Mr. Aguinaldo, it seems, entered into an agreement with Admiral Dewey, by the terms of which their forces were to act in concert and under the control of the admiral to secure the overthrow of Spanish rule in the islands and the independence of the natives, the exact terms of the latter to be a subject of agreement when the common enemy was disposed of. All went well for a while, which, in view of Aguinaldo's Malay blood and his record, was something surprising. But he could not restrain himself long. The leopard cannot change its spots, though he may succeed in concealing them for a time, and the veneering of integrity under which the insurgent chief had indifferently concealed his true personality began to wear through in places. Without consulting his colleague and commander, he proclaimed an independent government for the Philippines, with himself as provisional president. This was a pretty bold and rather long step to take, but it was eased up a little with a reference to the authority held by the United States and the taking of a pledge of loyalty thereto by all the prominent rebels. "Loyal rebels" sounds very much like a paradox, and it proved to be one most decidedly in this instance. From being a self-proclaimed president to a self-constituted dictator, was an easy matter, so the presidential fox-skin was put aside, and one that fit much better and was in every way more appropriate—that of the jackal—took its place. Finding neither recognition nor encouragement in this latest coup, he concluded, as it appears, to kick out of the traces altogether, and did so, taking his whole band of mongrel barbarians with him. He has got where he belongs at last, and can deceive no longer; indeed, it is scarcely understood how he managed to do so at all, with the man and his methods so well known.

Well, it is all "off" with Aguinaldo so far as the United States is concerned. He has followed his natural bent by repudiating his covenants and letting his native treachery have away. It is very evident that he has never had a very evident that he has never had a genuine patriotic impulse, but has always and ever looked to his self-glorification. Perhaps he may not engage in open hostilities toward our troops and people over there, and perhaps he may do so, in which case things all at once would take on a very serious aspect. Dewey telegraphs that it will take 150,000 men to hold the islands against the insurgents, and as at the rate transportation has so far been carried on, this vast army could not be landed there in much less than three years, the ques-

tion arises as to whether or not it would be advisable to abandon the Philippines altogether and let Aguinaldo settle with the Spanish. He would cut a very sorry figure warring against them when their forces, means and energies were no longer divided but concentrated upon him and his. This state of things he has not, perhaps, counted on, and it might prove a most excellent thing to let it be suggested to him; also, at the same time the reminder might be gently imparted to him, that the reward of \$25,000 for his caput is still in force, and the chance for its collection with the American forces withdrawn would be decidedly good.

In the meantime, those who did not go to the Philippines have nothing to regret as to that.

A GROWING SUBJECT.

The Battle of the Third of July is still a fruitful theme, and notwithstanding the voluminous manner in which it has been treated each additional account contains some new feature or suggestion. It is all interesting enough, because it is utterly impossible for the mind to grasp the fullness of the great event all at once, or to form even a remote comprehension of its working out and consequences. That it was the most rapid the most wonderful, the most ponderous and the most momentous thing of the kind that ever happened is conceded; but even then we do not clearly and completely measure its length, breadth and thickness; it grows apace and will continue to grow with the growth of time.

A noted writer, John R. Spear, contributes a lucid and most entertaining article on this subject to the New York Journal. He epitomizes his theme in the following comprehensive manner:

"Never before did such a powerful aggregation of ships seek safety by flight alone.

"Never was such a fleet wholly annihilated in a single battle.

"Never was so great a victory won in so short a time.

"Never did a triumphant force conquer such an enemy with losses so small.

"Never was there such a dramatic scene at sea as that mighty race for life for fifty miles down the Cuban coast."

After depicting in a most vivid manner the general aspects of the scene as it appeared before the great duel took place, Mr. Spear proceeds to show that there was little sign of life and none at all of energy anywhere. It was a day of ease for the soldiers and sailors, apparently; they had been to breakfast and passed through the regular drill; some were idling away time and others engaged in writing letters home, when all at once a volume of black smoke was observed by the watch officer of the Texas just beyond the eminence on which La Socapa is situated. The gong was sounded and instantly all was bustle, animation, preparation. Furnaces were fed and under full heads of steam the fugitives were slowly brought within an effective engagement distance, when all at once the echoes were awakened by a puff of smoke from the Oquendo, followed by the hiss and shriek of a shell, which struck the sea and did nothing else. Then firing became general. The reader knows the rest, from the impetuous race of the Oregon with the Colon to the taking on board the American ships as prisoners all that

were left of the Spanish sailors and soldiers.

It would be impossible to give any idea of the dramatic and literary excellence of Mr. Spear's article in a compressed synopsis. It is as entertaining and thought-creating as anything that has been issued for a long time.

CAVITE.

The geographical cynosure of the time is the large and in many respects beautiful city of Manila with its surroundings. It is not only the metropolis of the Philippine group but comes very nearly being the aggregation of all that is metropolitan or modern in the islands. One of the adjacent points of interest—practically a suburb—is Cavite, which began to fall off in interest after Dewey's conquest and occupation and when all eyes began to be turned upon the next point of expected attack. But interest in the former place is by no means extinct, in fact it has not diminished but for the time being; and it is quite within the possibilities that the whirligig of military events over there may at any time make it more conspicuous than ever.

A recent letter in the San Francisco Chronicle, by its special war correspondent, Martin J. Egan, states that Cavite is a pretty relic of another age. There are, he says, touches of modern improvement here and there, and the arsenal and dock yard are equipped with some of the more recent appliances, but the rest is time-honored. The builders of the Cavite over which the old Stars and Stripes now float, were cotemporaries of the Pilgrims. It is shown that prior to the opening of the seventeenth century, Cavite was the site of the royal granary. There the rich Spanish traders of the consulado, who yearly sent a galleon to Mexico laden with the priceless products of the Levant, stored their goods. It was also a naval station, but the royal granary gave it chief importance. Its buildings were of wood, roofed with palm leaves, and when in the beginning of the seventeenth century a fire occurred in the town it swept everything before it, royal granary and all. Then it was that the Spaniards builded more firmly, and the battlements he erected and the solid walled houses he reared defied time and stood to receive the steel projectiles of Admiral Dewey. Improvements have been made from time to time, but the old has not given way to the new. The old muzzle-loading cannon, long since of no use in the guards of nations, still keep their places alongside of the modern rifles on the ramparts.

As to its geographical situation, it is described as being located on the inner and larger of two crescent-shaped capes which stretch out from the mainland into Manila bay. It is thought to have been an island at one time, the narrow neck connecting it with the shore probably being a drifted fill. It is intensely military in reputation and in fact, its defenses partaking of the nature of every age from the medieval down to recent times, some of its walls and battlements being on so large a scale and so frowning in their general aspect that they must have been terrible things for an enemy to contemplate in the days when rifled cannon were unthought of and any cannon except at short distances was a thing of but very moderate execution and correspondingly small dread.

Cavite is the principal Spanish seaport, or was when it was Spanish with-