

quented by the better classes of the population. Rivers of any considerable size are, of course, few, but small streams are very numerous, for there are two rainy seasons, and when it rains on the Philippines it rains in earnest, a precipitation of eight inches in twenty-four hours having been observed on more than one occasion. Such deluges as this might be expected to wash all the arable soil into the sea, and, in fact, this process of denudation is constantly going on, but as the crust of the earth is in volcanic regions, in a process of upheaval, the damage done by the rain is counteracted by the gradual uplifting of the islands from the deep. They are, in fact, constantly growing in size very slowly but appreciably, for stone wharfs that were constructed by the Spaniards in the sixteenth century are now half a mile from the shore, and there are other evidences of the upheaval process.

A torrid heat prevails all the year round. The mean annual temperature of Manila is about 90 degrees, which indicates that in summer the thermometer stands about 100 regularly every day, and hugs the century mark pretty closely during the night. Even in what is facetiously called the winter season a temperature of 65 to 85 degrees prevails, so that a Philippine winter would be deemed a tolerably warm American summer. The heat is rendered almost unendurable by the moisture in the atmosphere, for day and night, from year's end to year's end, the air is almost saturated; the perspiration of the body does not dry, but stands in large drops, which fall off on the slightest movement.

The group is rendered a valuable possession from the fertility of the soil and the variety and abundance of its products. Despite the fact that the natives work only under the most urgent provocation, and then only for so long a time as may be necessary to satisfy their simple wants, the plantations of the island produce an immense wealth. The government reports of 1894, the latest available, declared the exports of the islands to be \$32,000,000, while the imports were \$28,000,000, chiefly of rice, flour, wine, dry goods, petroleum and coal; the exports were of hemp and its manufactures, sugar, coffee, tobacco leaf, cigars and indigo. How greatly the amount of exports might be increased under a proper form of government which did not tax the energy and almost the life out of the people cannot be conjectured, but it is certain that with proper encouragement the Philippine islanders would become an industrious and wealthy people.

The population of the Philippines is probably the worst mixed of any group of islands, even in that part of the world. The island lies about midway between the continents of Asia and Australia. The Negritos or aborigines, are closely analogous to the natives of New Guinea and Australia. But the Negritos, long before the coming of the Europeans, had become an important factor in the population, having been driven back into the interior and mountainous portions of the islands by the Malays. When Magellan discovered the islands in 1521, he found all the coasts settled by Malays. But the Malay Indians by no means monopolized the better parts of the islands, for among them there was a large admixture of Chinese, Japanese, Hindus, Siamese and other Asiatic coast races and tribes, so that the Malays themselves were a sort of composite race. To the present day the heterogeneousness of the population continues and although the Spaniards have political control of the islands, only about 5,000 of these foreigners, and they chiefly officeholders, are to be found on the entire group. The fewness of the number of their conquerors naturally serves as a constant irritation to the natives; that

5,000 strangers should rule, with despotic power, a population variously estimated at between 9,000,000 and 11,000,000 is not to be endured even by ignorant Indians, and in this fact is found an explanation of the restlessness of the people under the Spanish control.

The policy of the Spaniards in the Philippine islands is exactly the policy of the Chinese empire—to exclude as far as possible all foreign commerce, all foreign ships and merchants. Only four ports, of which Manila, the capital, is the chief, are open to foreign shipping, and the restrictions thrown around trade by the selfish policy are extremely onerous and harassing.

Spanish stupidity has, however, overreached itself, for, in spite of the restrictions upon foreign merchants, less than one-fourth of the business of the islands is done by Spaniards; considerably over one-half is in the hands of English merchants and the remainder is divided between the United States, the Netherlands, France and Germany.

The city of Manila is a typical eastern metropolis. It is on the east side of a wide bay, which furnishes a tolerable anchorage, but not a secure place of refuge for shipping. The city itself is, as in most eastern centers of trade, divided into a new and old town, the mediaeval style, and containing warehouses, storerooms, offices and an enormous native population, while the new town, much better built, with edifices more modern in style and construction, lies without the walls. A small stream, which, during the rainy season, becomes a mighty torrent, runs through the heart of the town and divides the two sections. The old town has narrow streets, badly paved, reasonably filthy, as well provided with varieties of odors as Coleridge found the City of Cologne, teeming with East Indians of every age, color and previous condition of dirtiness, whose principal occupation seems to be keeping out of the sun, smoking cigarettes and chewing betel nut. Why they should smoke under the blazing sun with steamy heat rising from every square foot of the ground on which they tread, is a mystery, but, probably, on the idea that they are already as hot as they can become, they puff incessantly at their cigarettes and take life as easily as the climate will permit. In the intervals of smoking they load and unload the vessels, most of the native population finding its employment about the shipping, while those not thus engaged have all the occupation they want at their homes, in the manufacture of the coarse goods known as manilla bagging or sacking and in the making of cigars, of which many millions are annually exported to China and India.

Of course, they have amusements. Man under every sky must have some fun, and the Malays are no exception to the rule. The principal amusement from one end to the other of the Philippine islands is gambling. Everybody gambles, and everybody devotes to gambling nearly all the time that he can spare from his meals and smoking. A game closely akin to craps is everywhere in progress. Wherever two or three Malays are gathered together, the dice are produced, and expressions similar to the well-worn "come seven," "come eleven," floating out upon the heavy atmosphere from behind the huts and the concealment of alleys, give notice to the passing stranger that the East Indian crap game is in progress. In the pursuit of his favorite amusement the East Indian is absolutely insensible at fatigue. It is said that in one native resort in Manila there is an "Everlasting club," where the Malay craps have been going on for the last 100 years without cessation day or night. When a player becomes so fa-

tigued as to be compelled to withdraw, another takes his place, and thus the ivory shooting goes on unintermittingly. Men may come and men may go, but the dice-throwing and the gambling slang go on forever. Two or three times every month, however, the crap-shooting is momentarily forgotten in the excitement of a cock fight. Cocking mains are common in Manila and the other towns, and every great feast day of the church owes part of its attraction in the popular mind to the fact that, after the religious services of the day are over, the cock fighting begins and is kept up as long as there are any cocks to continue the fight. The enthusiasm over the cock fighting is of a more boisterous character than that displayed at crap shooting, and the visitor at Manila on a church feast day has no difficulty in locating the building in which a cock fight is going on by the shrieks and yells of the audience, who are encouraging their favorite bird. A Malay will bet his last copper on a cock fight, and instances have been known of men who pawned every item of personal property in their possession and lost it when betting on a cock that they felt sure would win.

The vices of the seaport have penetrated the interior and demoralized the natives of the island towns, so that the Malay, whether he lives on the coast or in the interior, is essentially the same.

The villages consist of collections of huts made of wattles and reeds, thatched with grass; exceedingly primitive in character, they are suited to the climate, and quite good enough for the people who inhabit them, for why should a Malay take the time from crap-shooting and cock-fighting to build a house, when a double armful of reeds will make the walls and a load of grass the roof; so he lives in his grass hut, through which the breezes can blow, and when he is obliged to venture forth during the rainy season, keeps himself dry by enveloping his body in a thatched covering, made of the same materials which compose his roof, and places over his head an umbrella-shaped hat, also of grass, which perfectly sheds the rain and keeps his cigarette from being extinguished by the falling drops.

Of what use, he says, are houses of stone, brick, or even of wood, for the earthquake and typhoon are incidents of weekly occurrence in his life. His grass hut can stand the heaviest earthquake shock, and the tremors which bring down a stone building in ruins do not affect his slender structure. When an earthquake occurs, as it does in some portions of the islands two to seven times a week, he is amused to see the Europeans jump up and run in dishabille out of their houses for fear the walls will fall upon them, sits under his grass roof and enjoys the sensation, for even if his house does fall he crawls out from under his load of hay, and with the assistance of his wife and neighbors sets up the poles and recommences housekeeping, as though nothing had happened.

The government of the Indians by the Spaniards is simple, but arbitrary. All the native provinces are divided into small districts, each with a petty magistrate, or alcalde, to whom the Indians go for the adjustment of all trifling matters; more serious affairs are referred to the Spanish magistrate, who settles them off-hand and from his decision there is no appeal. The Malays, however, always restive under any form of control, have learned of the civil freedom enjoyed by people of other nations, and, taxed beyond endurance, compelled to give forty days' labor each year to the government without compensation, they aspire to better things. The spirit of freedom has extended even to the country districts of the Philippines, and the re-