

MANILA IS A DOOMED CITY.

Americans Will Have Little Trouble in Capturing It.

Is Very Poorly Equipped to Resist Attack by a Formidable Enemy.

Guns as a Whole Are Relics of Antiquity, and Would Not Have Been Even Modern in Nelson's Time—Views of an Associated Press Correspondent Who Visited the City and Its Surroundings.

[Correspondence of the Associated Press—Copyrighted.]

MANILA (Associated Press), July 27.—Rear Admiral Dewey, always courteous and always cordial to press men, was good enough to assure this correspondent that he could go just where he liked, when he liked and how he liked. For the present, the American commander said, accommodation might be found on one of the American transports at Cavite, or, if so desired, the correspondent could go ashore, on which ever side he chose, and take his chances with the Spaniards or rebels. It was, however, one thing to say "Go everywhere you please," and quite a different matter to say "Go."

Admiral Dewey, with all good will, had no information at his disposal to indicate which place was likely to be best for news and communicating it to the outside world. The correspondent finally fixed on Manila itself, not entirely deprived of mail facilities, thanks to the courtesy of Admiral Dewey and the American naval authorities. Moreover, Manila was bound to be an exciting place to live in. Even without a bombardment, a besieged city must be a center of excitement. Sooner or later the food supply must run short. The Spaniards had declared that they would fight to the last, and even an overwhelming force cannot capture a stubbornly defended town without a severe struggle. Then, what would the native population do? The native troops would probably keep up fierce fighting on the Spanish side, so long as the Spanish troops kept a lookout on them, and then they would be mostly found on the other side, acting chiefly by a desire to save the island.

Of the non-combatant natives with the Spaniards now, it is impossible to predict anything when the town falls if it is to fall. They may at the last moment take arms on either side, but it seems just as likely that they will maintain an attitude of calm indifference and sit still, looking on in mere idle wonder, as the Chinese did in many villages when invaded by the Japanese in 1894.

Manila consists of an ancient walled citadel, a large straggling business town and a wide fringe of suburban townships, where the business men have their private residences.

The "Intremuros" quarters contain now only officials in all its grades, the government offices, the Governor General's palace, the treasury and army and navy headquarters, and more potent than all others, the head establishments of rival religious orders, the Cathedral and the province, which the Archbishop has erected a palace more imposing and more magnificent than any building in Manila.

The citadel was built in the early days of Spanish colonization, and was there frequently besieged and assaulted from all sides, from the sea by the British and Dutch, and sometimes by the pirate fleets of Mohammedan Malays from the southern islands, while the natives of Luzon have never been quiet for long at a time, and the present day is no means a peaceful time the city has been threatened from the surrounding hills.

The old walls, armed with guns of old, would be very well to keep out an enemy in those days, but of all the scores of guns I have seen in the walls would have been even modern in Nelson's day. As ornaments, relics of antiquity, or picturesque features of the old city, they are very appropriate, but as a hope of salvation, against a powerful modern fleet, they are pitiful and ridiculous. There are indeed some better batteries along the sea front, under the walls; two, I think, of 10-inch caliber, and about a dozen smaller, all apparently modern breech-loaders. Of parently modern breech-loaders, as the other guns I cannot say much, as the Spaniards are so bitter against the British, and so suspicious that it is unsafe to be seen looking much about. But it is palpable that, even with good guns, there is absolutely no hope of saving the citadel if Admiral Dewey's full force of guns that are good up to 6,000 yards easily, and at that range a walled city is a good enough mark to insure that every shot would tell.

On the other hand, the Spaniards have not more than a half dozen guns that can do anything at 6,000 yards, and they would not have a whole city to aim at, only six small gray specs, very easy to miss and not easy to hurt even when hit. Courage is a fine thing, but to shut up a crowd of women and children in a stone wall is not courage—it is ghastly homicidal mania. The walled city is in the angle of land south of the river's mouth. Along the sea front, facing westward, is a narrow strip of low land, on which reclamation works were started some

years ago and left. The idea was to make breakwaters and a fine artificial harbor. The breakwaters were begun and extended a little way out, stacks of concrete blocks, iron rails and derricks and other things were accumulated, several fortunes were made by the officials concerned and the work is at a standstill.

Along the water front under the old city wall are several improvised batteries with guns that look like six-inch breech loaders. Above these, on top of the wall, are the antiquated objects already mentioned. At one corner of the city, up the river a little, is the Santiago fort of solid masonry, with good guns well adapted to attack anything apt to enter the river, but in the absence of such attack the fort seems to be rather of hardly any use for general defense purposes.

At the other end of the city, the southwest corner, is another fort which commands the whole bay and the landward approaches as well, and this is supplemented by the Tureta battery, a little way along the shore from the city wall, with two powerful guns, apparently nine or ten inch, which fired on several ships ineffectually. Admiral Dewey said in a word that if they fired upon him again he would have no option but to proceed with the bombardment. The threat sufficed to silence the Spaniards; why, therefore, do they not recognize that they are entirely in his power the moment he chooses to exercise it? If they shrink from the sight of his guns then, why do they still keep up the force of defying him?

Across the river, north of the walled city, is the large and flourishing business town. The central part is called Pinondo, which name is often applied to the whole, though the town has grown so large as to include nearly a dozen other wards. Driving in any direction it is about three miles before one gets away from built up streets and reaches the open country. Even then the rural townships are found full of the residences of Manila people for five miles or more, and so difficult to say exactly where the city should be considered part of the town and what should not. The town is as poorly defended as can be imagined for a city of its size. Admiral Dewey's guns can render its defenses useless with absolutely no trouble, and the guns of the Spanish coast hardly injure the American warships, even if they carried far enough to touch them, but they are so powerless and inaccurate that any defense by the city forts would look ludicrous in the face of a fire from the modern guns of the American squadron.

The town is as badly built as can be. The houses are much too close together and the streets are narrow. For the metropolis of a big country, for a city of a quarter of a million inhabitants, a rich and prosperous market, a center of education and luxury as the buildings in the walled city indicate, it is a disgraceful, ill-arranged and unsightly town. The principal business street, the Escolta, is narrow, wretchedly paved, crooked and filled with the most commonplace, mean looking structures. So are the other streets, but further from the center there are trees to hide the ugliness. In excuse, the Manila people will point to the typhoons, thunder storms and floods as their reasons for not having a passably presentable town.

But Manila is not the only place with earthquakes and all the rest. Tokio is infinitely worse, but is handsomer, and the roads are better paved. The Pasig is a river sixty or seventy yards wide, and has a bridge, but the deep, yet the bridging of it has never gone beyond primitive stages. There is one narrow bridge, the Puente de Espana, connecting Binbeno with the city, but this bridge is far too narrow for the traffic, and the streets are not considered sufficient in a civilized country. There is another bridge near it, but it is seldom, if ever, used for vehicle traffic, and the Puente Despia is constantly choked. There are tramways running down the playing parts of the town, and a steam railway to the northern suburb. There is also a railway from Manila to Saigbo, about 120 miles north, run by an English company.

In the rural township of Santa Mesa, about three or four miles out, is a big park, the "poliverin," or "poliverin," close by the right (north) bank of the River Pasig. On the opposite side of the river there is the village of Santa Ana, a mile or two away. It was about here that the first shots were fired in the insurrection of 1896, and several English people having villas in these parts had a lively time.

Another "poliverin" is at Malatoc, on the seashore on the south of the walled city. I understand that these two are the only powder magazines the Spaniards have in the immediate neighborhood of the city, excluding, of course, the forts' own stores. Malatoc is reached from Binbeno by a pretty drive outside the city walls, either along the sea front or behind the city, and beyond the city is the Esplanada, called the Tuneta, where the band plays every evening.

At the far end of the tuneta is the battery of two big guns, which fired on the American ships when Admiral Dewey talked seriously of replying. A little beyond this battery is the English Club, surrounded by a number of pleasant residences, English, Spanish and others. Further of all quite near the fort and powder magazine is the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company's establishment (British). A little way back from the sea is the Jesuit Observatory, which does excellent service, and is indeed the result's best answer to those who say they do harm in the Philippines.

Outside the populous suburbs there are many rural and less settled districts, dotted with handsome residences scattered remotely among the rice fields and tropical woodlands, where a guerilla warfare would be well nigh interminable. Such country, with hedge rows that have in the course of ages grown into respectable little thickets, with little plantations that are dark and almost impenetrable patches of somber greenery, a stationary force might check an advancing corps with the greatest ease. There are plenty of open fields, yet the country cannot be called open, for it is luxuriously wooded between the fields. Artillery would be of little use, with not a half mile of clear space. Nothing but skirmishing under thick cover would be of any effect in this kind of ground, and the victory would rest with the side best fitted for jungle warfare. Not that this is jungle it is simply fertile pastoral land with a lot of trees everywhere. But it is the last place in the world for plain peasant lads, newly recruited and without any target practice, to meet semi-savage woodsmen, and that is what Spain is depending on, for her sons are raw recruits, and her enemies are trained forest rovers.

The following is a translation of the declaration of independence issued by Aguinaldo on June 12th: "To the District Headmen of Village Headmen of the province of Ilocos, from the Office-Military Government of this province, whose headquarters are now transferred to the town of San Francisco de Alaban and combined with the sections under disorders at

Bacero, Binacayan, Imus, Novleta, Salinas and Cavite Viojo: "They only require to be combined with the other forces in Indang and Silang, near by, and then our troops will be sent forward, and within a few days will be in possession of the most of the whole province, which will be found in a position to proclaim effectively our independence. This proclamation will not be long deferred, because the ultimate object of this Government will thus be attained notwithstanding the suggestions of some of our principal associates. It is more glorious and more convenient to select as the place on account of its being near the sea, the township of Cavite Viojo, which is an old port, originally the town of Cavite. Wherefore I decree as follows: "The twelfth day of this month is fixed for the declaration of independence of this, our beloved country, in the township of Cavite Viojo, for the due and proper solemnization of which auspicious event this should be on the day named an assemblage of all the district headmen and commanders of our forces, and through the proper representatives there should be a notification issued for the purpose of inviting the attendance of all who have in any way assisted in the good work—such, for example, as the distinguished Admiral of the American squadron and his commanders and officers of all of whom, as having lent invaluable aid in the glorious work, a courteous invitation will be sent, and after the formal reading of the declaration the same will be signed by all who wish to give support thereto. EMILIO AGUINALDO, Dictator of the Philippines. "Issued by General Delplinar, in the name of General Aguinaldo, on the 12th day of June, 1898."

W. F. PURNELL, Bookseller and Stationer, 610 J STREET.

MEETING NOTICES

STATED MEETING FRANKLIN Lodge, No. 143, F. and A. M., Friday, July 30, 1898, at 8 p. m. Work in Master's Degree. Master Masons cordially invited to be present. W. H. D. KERCHEVAL, W. M.

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DR. W. O. GIRARDY, DENTIST—Office and residence, 922 Fifth street. Capital phone 437; next to Sacramento Bank.

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