

ter and fifteen feet tall and very strong so strong that they build houses out of it, and very good houses too. The floors in these houses are about four feet from the ground, they have the appearance of being built up on stilts, they have thatched roofs which turn water quite well. We saw a wonderfully big amphitheater, made of bamboo with a thatched roof and enclosed with seats rising around. It is wonderful what substantial buildings the natives can build from these bamboo poles. The amphitheater is used for cock fights. In the evening we went to a part of the city where the Spanish Gov. General's house is located. His house is like a palace and is now used by Fig. Gen McArthur commanding of brigade, as headquarters. That part of the city is really very beautiful and attractive. The houses are large and spacious and the yards are beautiful and are full of tropical plants and trees. Most of the city is but very compactly and is very unattractive. We also crossed the river Pasig, on the suspension bridge, here are three bridges and very good ones too, across this river. Two of them are stout arch bridges and the other a suspension bridge. You have doubt read and heard a great deal about the power of the church here. I have not learned so very much about it, but this I do know, that in no city in the U. S. did I ever see so many and such beautiful churches and cathedrals as there are in Manila. They are almost the only beautiful buildings here. You can go but few blocks in any direction without coming across one, even out in the suburban districts where there is little but thatched huts you will find wonderful cathedrals. They are very large and built of stone. There are many more that are larger and more beautiful than any I ever saw in the U. S. It is a wonder these poor people are dissatisfied when they are downtrodden and taxed to death to build such churches. The church owns more property here than the Spanish government. In the old city of Manila, one half of the landed property belongs to the church. They have churches and cathedrals and convents and colleges. I have heard that before Manila was captured there were more than four thousand Spaniards here. Since then from fear of the natives many of them have returned to Spain. The natives say they would hang them if they get in session. The Philippines seem to be the native priests but they understand that the Spanish priests rob and bleed them and they therefore hate them. The Philippines swear vengeance if they ever get control of these islands.

I am afraid this letter is a terror. This is Dec. 31st the last day of the year. A steamer arrived from Hong Kong yesterday and brought us some mail. I received three letters from home. I also received Rudyard Kipling's "Barrack Room Ballads". I was very glad to receive the letters and books. I like the little book of poems, I can appreciate them better now than I ever could before.

This is evening, I began to write a letter at noon but had to stop to work. I am so "bum frazzled" now and have strung this letter along so I can't tell what I have not written. We have a joke on Fox, the man who attends to the clothing. He was sick with malaria yesterday and was scared half to death. He lay around all day and last night and groaned as if he were about dead. He thought he had the small-pox. He is much better today and we laugh at him for being so frightened. He is the sort of friend who would die if he should get it because he is so much afraid of it. Some half dozen Philippine soldiers just went past, they salute our flag and our officers. You will have read long before you receive this letter that Aginaldo has forsaken the insurgents and given himself up to rear Admiral Dewey, at least such is the published report here. Some of his best officers came with him. That leaves the insurgents in bad shape, as he is a bright military man and a competent leader. The morning papers published a report this A. M., to the effect that Gen. Otis had received a 2000 word cipher cable-gram from the President in regard to taking formal possession of the islands. When we do that the insurgents will have to lay down their arms and it may be necessary to force them to it.

You know most of the troops of the 20th are quartered on the 2nd floor. Yesterday when the mail came to this battalion all of them rushed to a big double door which opened out over the pavement. They were so anxious to see the mail that they crowded two of their number out of the door and they fell to the stone pavement and were both badly hurt. They are in the hospital now. All the Iola boys are well. Tell Mrs. Chastain that Earl is in the best of health and spirits, he is fat and seem to be quite happy. By the way I saw by a letter from S. C. Brewster in the REGISTER that Mitch, Conley, Coffield and myself were among the sickest of the sea sick. This is another war story. The fact is that Conley, Mitchell nor I were the least bit sea sick, I do not know how about Lewis. Brewster

thinks it is a pretty good joke because people are more likely to believe him than us. Lots of the boys who have been here have monkeys but very few of the Kansas boys have them yet, perhaps I may get one after a while. We don't have a very good time nor a very bad time. We can't talk to any one much but soldiers and we get tired of them. Oh we can jabber a little Spanish with the natives and Chinese, but they, the most of them, don't understand much more Spanish than we do, and there are not so very many real Spanish here except Spanish soldiers. There are about 14000 of them I guess. They like the Americans and are very friendly.

I don't have to really work hard but there has been a good deal to do, trying to find and get possession, and get all the stuff straightened around since we arrived. And then we have had to issue clothes since we arrived to about half the regiment, who had lost hats, shoes, leggings and clothing on the boat. Some of them had thrown their clothes away because they got bugs, I have never been troubled but the once when I was in town in the company. I have to boss the fatigue gang in carrying and moving stuff some of the time, and work on reports. A complete report and balance of all stuff drawn, issued and on hand has to be made every quarter. The last quarter of '98 is up to-day and our report is all right, but not quite finished. It is a big job and we are glad to see the end of it. It came at a bad time this time as we were busy at other things—getting pots, lights, ovens, horses, horse feed mosquito nets, new clothes, fixing up the office and store room and distributing Christmas presents which fell to the Q. M.'s lot. One thing that they generally send me to do is to get ox carts and boss them and bring them over. I have learned how to get them at the depot Q. M., and how to make the drivers understand. It is to my sorrow that I have learned. Today I was sent down for eleven and was to stop at the 3rd battalion and bring a box up here. Where you get the carts they give you checks, the same number that you get carts. About 50 cart drivers, Chinese and Philippine's all want to go with you, for until they make a trip and get a check they get no pay. They, none of them seemed to have done anything to-day, for they all wanted to come and all jumped on their carts and started to come. I at last got eleven or them sorted out and started for the 3rd battalion, but when I got there I counted over and found I had seven too many. They had come around the back way and crowded in and of course I didn't know which ones I started with. They all wanted to haul the box I got there for they knew they would be sure of their ticket if they once got that box. One Chinaman and Native nearly had a fight and the natives all swore the Chinese were "very bad" and the Chinese all swore the natives were very bad. Well I "sorted" again and sent the extras back and started on. A funny thing you have to learn about managing these people is that you have to motion in the opposite direction to which you want them to go. When we got a couple of blocks I stopped and let them pass me in review and found that I had three too many. I sent three back and they all tried to run a race the rest of the way as I would send the ones in the rear back. When I arrived at quarters and checked up my wagons, I found I still had thirteen, of course I sent two more back, and turned over to the Q. M., eleven carts and eleven tickets. It is quite laughable but one is inclined to get out of patience with the delivery boys of Manila.

I hear that mail goes to-morrow, I must write some other "notes". Your affectionate son and brother, WILFRED W. NELSON.

Headquarters 20th. Kans. Inf. U. S. V., O. M. D. December 31, 1898.

Tomorrow is New Year's day. I am going to skate out on the bay to Dewey's fleet if it freezes up to-night. It isn't so awfully hot here this winter, about 90 degrees in the shade in the day time but nice and cool at night. I guess it cools down at night so the mosquitoes, lizards and bugs wont over-heat themselves, as they are exceedingly industrious at night. We had a hot Christmas here in Manila, that is literally speaking. Oh yes, we had a good time. A ship load of Christmas packages for the soldiers came two days before Christmas. There were a hundred tons of Christmas presents for the soldiers. Maybe it wasn't a pile when it was unloaded! The 20th. Kansas got a good supply for which they were truly thankful. Among other things I received a Testament and comfort bag. I now have Testaments enough for a missionary and sewing material sufficient enough for a milliner. Speaking of millinery perhaps you would like some pointers on the latest Philippine costumes. For the top part of the person, I mean from the waist up, the ladies wear something like a flour sack with the bottom cut out and

holes cut in the sides for arm holes. Some of the upper-tens have sort of sleeves about as large as flour sacks which are starched so they stand out away from the arms. They don't have any buttons on these garments but put them over their heads like a person does a sweater. I know because they aren't particular about where they make their toilet. Well this "what-you-may-call-it" doesn't come down far enough and they wear a belt of nothing around their waist. Then they have a skirt made by lapping a piece of cloth about the size of a shawl around them a couple of times. Then comes the Philippine's hose and some times slippers. The slippers have no heels and they are sometimes Chinese shoes with wooden blocks about two inches high on the soles with which they clump along like a horse with loose shoes. There don't many of them wear hats and if they do it is any old thing from an straw hat to a basket. Sometimes the "upper's" wear a sort of a scarf over their shoulders. Oh yes, I almost forgot, a cigar or cigarette in their mug. But most of them wear a cigar about the length of Smithy's stogie only as large around as a white man's cigar. Some of the boys can describe "Smithy's stogies" if you have forgotten about them. There are tens of thousands of Chinamen here and a few Spaniards, and some Indians and a few from every other place on earth. But if you try to get a girl, "win a home" as the soldiers say, you are "up against the real thing." They all look like buzzards. Oh, a few of the native shop girls powder up until they look about like a muskito, but they have small-pox or leprosy so you better not talk to them. Some of them have beautiful hair and eyes, great heads of glossy black hair. When they wear it unbraided hanging down their backs, it means they want to get married. There are a few beautiful Spanish women here but of course they have no love for an American soldier. By the way, you need not be afraid to read this letter for fear of the small-pox, for I haven't got it yet. Only five or six of the 20th. Kansas have it so far, none of the Iola boys.

The only thing very fine about Manila is the churches, cathedrals and convents. There are a great many very fine and beautiful cathedrals. Don't know whether we will have to fight the insurgents or not. They have the city of Manila surrounded and won't let us pass out beyond their lines. We have been ordered under arms to fight them twice but things have been settled amicably before we got at it both times.

All the Iola boys seem well and as happy as circumstances will permit. We get plenty to eat. Don't have the least idea when we will come home, but have resolved not to enter any protest when we are told to go. Some of the boys had a touch of malaria at first but most of them are all right now. Doc. C. is as fat and as jolly as ever. Christian, Miller, Brews, and all the rest of them and Mitch are all well. But I can't tell it all at one time so, so long. Give all friends my regards, WILFRED W. NELSON.

From Bert Miller. MANILA, P. I., Dec. 31, '98.

DEAR FOLKS: Received your letter dated Nov. 17. I think I told you I received the things you sent me and the Christmas box. There was all kinds of nice canned goods, pickles and cookies and reading matter. Tomorrow is New Year's day but it does not seem like it is that time of year. The natives are all in mourning for the death of their ruler. He was shot one year ago by the Spaniards. Almost all of the houses have a black flag flying and the stores are closed. I see by the REGISTER that there is to be another smelter on the Fulton farm. There will be nothing but smelters around Iola when we get home I suppose.

We are to muster today. We have signed the pay roll and expect to be paid two months pay next week, but I expect it will be all gone by the time this reaches you. I did not draw all my clothing allowance by \$27, for the first six months. I expect I may have money enough to buy a suit when I get home. It seems as though a fellow's money goes before he knows it.

All the boys say that I am one of the healthiest in the Company. I have not been on the sick list a minute since I have been in the army. It seems as though I can't get out of any duty. Ha! ha! I have lost eight pounds since leaving Frisco. I weigh 142 now, but that is more than I weighed at home. It is because of the hot weather. I hope that we will get home in the summer so we will not freeze for our blood is very thin. I was over in the Walled city yesterday afternoon looking around. I visited several fine churches, and all of them are used to keep the Spanish soldiers in. I also visited the old arsenal. I succeeded in swiping a few small shells. There are thousands of old shells piled up all over the grounds. I walked about half way around on the top of the wall looking

at the old cannons mounted there. Most of them were built in 1867 and of the old brass class.

I received a nice report of the election of all the townships in Alifan county from Frankie Wilson. I receive the San Francisco Sunday papers from our cousins. I got a letter from them yesterday telling what they had for Thanksgiving dinner. We ate ours in mid ocean. We had as good a dinner as could be expected for soldiers. Our Christmas dinner was out of sight. I sent you the Christmas number of a Manila paper, and trust you got it for I think it will be quite a relief there. They make all kinds of mistakes but the news is good. I was on guard Christmas eve and the natives were having a pig roast in one of the streets my best crossed, and they invited me to have some but I did not care for any.

We have had several scares, or the officers have. They issued us three hundred rounds of ammunition day before yesterday and told us to be ready to march out to the trenches, but it was the usual scare. The Insurgents were asked to draw their lines further back and in order to do so had to make a flank movement and the guards thought they were being attacked and gave the alarm.

We do not do as much running around during the day as we did in Frisco. We have orders to stay in quarters from ten in the morning until two-thirty in the afternoon. They are not so particular for us to stay in quarters as to keep out of the sun the time mentioned.

The grave yard is quite a sight. It is another large stone wall like everything else here. They bury their dead in the walls and seal them up. If the friends of the dead people do not pay their taxes the bones are dumped out in a pile. Some of the boys have come back to the barracks with their pockets full of teeth and bones from the pile. The soldiers are great people for relics. They will take anything they can get to take home. We are to have the right to take a small box beside our knapsack, etc. There will not be much to see after we visit all the places of interest.

I hope we will get out in the hills as soon as the Insurgents have separated. Aginaldo is over at Cavite now with most of the Insurgent officers. I think they are about ready to dismiss, but this will be old when you read it. We think we will be home by the Fourth of July, but can't tell anything about this army life. I think we will have enough of this place by the time we get out of here. We have no very sick boys in the Company at present.

BERT E. MILLER. From Ord Christian. Manila, P. I. December 22, 1898.

There is more rustle and excitement in the barracks today than it has been for some time. The mail has arrived and everybody is falling over his neighbor to get his share.

I find that soldiering in the Philippines is not the pleasantest occupation on earth although we have nothing scarcely to do except exist.

LATER. We have had dress parade and supper and I have nothing to do now till ten o'clock, then to take check roll, to see that all the boys are in bed. Most of the boys have gone up town or some place else to break the monotony.

It is hot here but a different heat than we have in Kansas, the air is so moist and sticky. The nights at this time of the year are cool and I sleep with a blanket over me most of the time. The girls are not very desirable company for several reasons. But there are a few Spanish ladies that are pretty, also some Jap girls that run booths in stores that are not hard lookers. But the Filipinos are indeed hard lookers, little, measly, ugly, dirty things that would scare a white man's boys at home.

Old Manila is a great sight. To describe it would take a book, but I will say at one time it was beautiful, but is sadly in need of repair at present. Dr. Chastain says he is going to stay here. I believe he can make a wad of money in a few years. I might do the same if I had a profession, but under the circumstances I see nothing to keep me.

We are having quite a little excitement now with Aginaldo, we sleep on our guns with boots on, about every other night expecting to be ordered out in the night, but it has not come yet and we are getting used to it. We have a double out post guard and are fixed for them if they start any thing, guard duty around the docks and among the old ruins, is no snap, for almost every night some guard gets stabbed in the back, or a native shot with a Springfield. I was Sergeant of the guard night before last and had to make the rounds of the out posts during the night. The old boys were awful glad to see me, they say it is awful lonesome on a real dark beat to walk back and forth for two hours all alone, and I agreed with them. Chas. Smeltzer is on tonight. He looks real mean with his big six-shooter and rifle starting off.

If I could see him, I think I will never get his trip for a year. I expect he will see a lot more of the world. I have one fine horse and I will take it away from here on Monday by day after tomorrow. This is my business and I don't go for it. I will sooner we get at home, the quicker we have our pants on.

ORD CHRISTIAN. From Dr. Earl Chastain.

Manila, P. I. Dec. 18, 1898.

We had a fine passage of 16 days out from Honolulu—entered the harbor of Manila at night and at once were discovered by the search lights of Dewey's ships. All boats anchor out in the bay as there is no deep water dock, so the Newport dropped anchor and all went to bed. In the morning we were absolutely surrounded on all sides by small boats—to sell fruit being their object. The lighters came next loaded with coal and commenced to unload. It is all done by Chinese, who receive the "immense" sum of 12¢ per American money. We had to stay on the Newport five days before we were sent ashore. We have fine quarters in a building that used to be a cigar factory. It is in New Manila, and in a very tough district. We have natives to fix up every day. Night before last one was killed.

The old city is quite a curious place and is surrounded by an immense wall with moat and great draw-bridges. I do not believe the whole force of the Insurgents could take the city from the Americans if their foot held out. Aginaldo is said to have 70,000 troops and surrounds the town. Sentiment is divided as to whether he will make trouble. What is the matter with the Peace Commission? The Spanish seem friendly and the soldiers would join our army, but we don't seem to need them. Almost all the Natives in the city are diseased.

The three Battalions of the 20th Kansas are in different parts of the city and I am with the 1st, so I do not see the rest of the Iola boys except when visiting them. I went to see the only American dentist here, and he is making a fortune every year. No Amalgam fillings for less than \$4.00 and no gold for less than \$8.00, American money. Something new to see every day. The churches are immense and the kind you read about,—when the bells strike the hours it makes a sound that jars the earth. The street cars are "no good" and travel is by means of little carts drawn by small ponies.

J. E. CHASTAIN. NEWS FROM THE 20TH.

Four More of Our Brave Boys Slightly Wounded.

Manila, Feb. 14.—The Twentieth Kansas and the First Idaho volunteers have been called from the marshlands north of Malabon, and the former regiment is now entrenched in front of Calocan. The American lines form a complete cordon 22 miles in length, from the coast north almost to Pasay, south of Manila. The enemy are busy throwing up intrenchments on their left, sharpshooters in the jungle covering their operations. Several Americans were wounded in the trench. Four men of the Twentieth Kansas volunteers were wounded slightly. Last night Private Brinton, company B, and Private Stevens, company G, of the Twentieth Kansas, were wounded. All the enemy's dead at Calocan have been buried—127 last Sunday and 309 yesterday.

Two More Kansas Dead. Washington, Feb. 14.—Gen. Otis cabled the war department a list of deaths of soldiers at Manila, not including those killed in action. Among them were Sergt. Joy Sheldon, company I, Twentieth Kansas, and Private I. J. Howard, company B, same regiment. The general said everything was quiet this morning and business in Manila was resuming its former activity.

Additional Casualties. Washington, Feb. 14.—The adjutant general to-day received the following casualty list from Gen. Otis: "Additional casualties of the engagement at Calocan February 10: Twentieth Kansas: Wounded, Capt. Charles M. Kershner, company F; Privates James Kershner, company A, and Charles Bennett, company M."

AGUINALDO ACTIVE.

The Rebel Chief really thinks he has a fighting show and is working hard to win.

MANILA, Feb. 14.—It is learned from good authority that Aginaldo is doing everything in his power to give heart to his disorganized and dispirited army. He has reviewed the troops in the field and is seeking by every human means to encourage his men. Aginaldo knows his captures sought by the Americans and he is taking extraordinary precaution to keep from falling into their hands.

A telephone deal has been consummated whereby the towns and cities of Bourbon, Montgomery, Labette, Crawford, Cherokee and Neosho counties will soon be connected by an independent toll line company. The circuit of the different lines will embrace over 100 southwestern towns.

# ILOILO IS OURS

## The Rebel Town Taken Saturday Without American Loss.

# AN EASY VICTORY.

## The Register's Dispatches Give Details Showing that the Natives Commenced the Fight, But the

# GUNBOATS ENDED IT

Scripps-McRae Telegram.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 14.—Iloilo has fallen early. The insurgents, according to the report from Gen. Miller, precipitated the conflict and the result was disastrous to them, their loss from the fire of the American cruisers and gun boats being heavy and that of the Americans—none.

When the insurgents were ordered to evacuate the place they turned their cannon on the American ships and prepared for active hostilities. The Petrel fired two warning shots when the rebels opened fire on her. The Petrel and Baltimore then opened the bombardment and the insurgents soon left in disorder, first setting fire to the town. General Miller's troops landed and extinguished the fire. It is said that Aginaldo had ten thousand men defending Iloilo. Further details of the fight are anxiously awaited.

Washington, Feb. 14.—Shortly before midnight Adjt. Gen. Corbin made public the following dispatch from Maj. Gen. Otis:

Manila, Feb. 13.—Gen. Miller reports from Iloilo that the town was taken on the 11th inst. and held by troops. Insurgents given until evening of the 13th to surrender, but their hostile actions brought on an engagement during the morning. Insurgents fired native portion of the town, but little losses to property of foreign inhabitants. No casualties among the United States troops reported.—Otis. A dispatch also came from Admiral Dewey telling of the capture of the city. It was a brief recital of the facts in the case, but it is said it contained substantially the same information sent by Gen. Otis. It was sent to the navy department.

The Associated press dispatch announcing the capture by the American troops under Gen. Miller, of Iloilo, on the island of Panay, was the first news received in this city of the fall of the second largest city in the Philippines. The announcement was promptly communicated to the president at the white house and it was read with gratification. Half an hour later the official intelligence of the fall of the city came in a cable dispatch from Maj. Gen. Otis, which Adjt. Gen. Corbin promptly authorized to be made public.

There is a feeling of intense satisfaction among such of the administration officials as are aware of this battle, as considerable apprehension has existed, not, however, as to the ability of the Americans to take the place when they decided upon this step, but as to the loss of life which this might incur. The tension between the opposing forces at Iloilo has been for some time at the danger point and a collision between them at any time would not have been surprising. It is felt here that Gen. Miller has conducted himself with great circumspection in treating with the natives, as their action has been anything but conciliatory and petty annoyances have been resorted to by them to provoke the Americans.

About a month or more ago the officials here and in the Philippines deemed it wise to dispatch an expedition to Iloilo because of rumors that the natives were gathering in that and neighboring localities and were threatening to take the city. Gen. Miller, who was on duty with the major general commanding the troops at Manila, was selected for this duty and several regiments of infantry were forwarded, conveyed by an American man-of-war. Before they reached Iloilo, the Spaniards who then occupied the town had surrendered it to the insurgents who immediately occupied it.

When the troops attempted to land they were notified by the insurgents that such a course would precipitate a battle and Gen. Miller, under his instructions to pursue a conciliatory course, held his men aboard the transports. The men became tired of this and about two weeks ago the Fifty-first Iowa regiment was sent back to Manila and the First Tennessee was sent to Iloilo to replace it. As soon as the latter arrived it is believed Gen. Miller decided to force a landing. The desire of the administration has been that the natives should submit to the American demands and avoid a forced fight, but it appears that up to the last moment they could not be so persuaded.