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## AGUINALDO DECLARES THE INDEPENDENCE OF PHILIPPINES

BY JOSEPH L. STICKNEY.

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MANILA, June 13, via Hongkong, June 17.—At a large conference of rebel chiefs, held yesterday in Old Cavite, General Aguinaldo proclaimed the independence of the Philippines.

### GRADUALLY CLOSING IN ON MANILLA

#### Insurgents Preparing for the Grand Assault on the City.

#### Native Soldiers Deserting Their Regiments and Killing the Spanish Officers.

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MANILA, June 13, via Hongkong, June 17.—The rebels are gradually closing in around Manila. Yesterday they took Malabona, and are now in Tondo, a northwest suburb, where a great fire is now raging. The native carabineros killed their officers and deserted last night. A part of a native regiment at Caloocan also deserted, killing their Spanish officers. A fierce attack on the powder magazine at Malate was made early this morning, but the Spaniards kept the rebels out. The insurgents are daily increasing in numbers. All the Spaniards, their sons and grandsons are obliged to serve as volunteers. A few of the garrisons in the provinces still hold out.

The rebels are wearing out Manila garrison, but I believe they will delay the grand assault until the arrival of the American troops. When the rebels captured Guadalupe they sent the patients in the hospital into Manila. They are treating the Spanish prisoners well.

There was severe fighting in the southern suburb to-day. The Spaniards attach importance to the arrival of the German flagship. The relations between General Augusti and the German Consul are intimate. Nearly all the English families will leave to-morrow by the Yung Sang for Hongkong.

#### AGREEMENT BETWEEN DEWEY AND AGUINALDO.

By It the Insurgent Leader Promises to Co-operate With American Forces.

LONDON, June 18.—The Madrid correspondent of the Times gives the text of a Berlin letter dated June 4, and read in the Cortes on Thursday, purporting to be the text of an agreement signed April 24 at Singapore between Aguinaldo, the insurgent leader, and the American Consul there, regarding



VIEW OF THE WESTERN PART OF THE CITY OF MANILA LOOKING TO THE SOUTHWEST ACROSS THE OLD WALLED CITY AND THE NEW BASINS, FROM A POINT ON THE RIVER PASIG NEAR THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

Through the right of the picture runs the river Pasig, extended by jetties out into the bay. On the right or north side are Binondo, the business part of the new city; and Quiapa, a mixed suburb, the former connecting with the old city by the Punta Espana or Bridge of Spain. To the left or south of the jetties lie the merchantmen, and beyond these two British, three German, one French and one Japanese men-of-war, with Commodore Dewey's fleet keeping watch over the whole.

### SIGNIFICANT THREAT BY GERMAN OFFICERS

#### "Americans Will Never Annex the Philippines While William Remains Emperor."

MANILA, June 6 (via Hongkong, June 17).—There is a story current here this evening to the effect that the captain and officers of the German warship Irene went to a picnic on horseback to the further outpost of San Juan, accompanied by the highest Spanish staff officers.

They had a champagne luncheon, and the captain of the Irene is said to have made a speech, during which he declared the Americans "Will never annex the Philippine Islands while William remains Emperor."

The Germans, it is further said, with their Spanish hosts, might have been killed by the insurgents, who had the road to San Juan strongly ambushed, but it is further asserted the insurgents had orders to avoid giving a pretext for German intervention.

Finally, it is said, the Germans proposed to remove the wounded Spanish soldiers to a hospital ship under the German flag, but Admiral Dewey is reported to have replied that hitherto mediation had always been British, and it must remain so.

the future government of the Philippines, an agreement afterward orally ratified at Hongkong by Admiral Dewey. In this agreement Aguinaldo undertakes to organize a republican government under the protectorate of the United States, with the assistance of two or three American delegates as coun-

sejors. The ports of the archipelago are to be opened to foreign trade and immigrants with certain restrictions against the Chinese. Then follow clauses promising judicial and other reforms, the expulsion and abolition of "tyrannical religious orders," the freedom of the press, protection to Spanish residents, provision for the return of Spanish officials to Spain, and the general development of

the country. The Times correspondent says the contents of the agreement harmonize with information derived from other sources, but there is no proof of its authenticity. Gladstone, the Man of the Century, By Walter Besant, In next Sunday's Call.

#### SPANIARDS FEASTED BY GERMAN OFFICERS.

Friendly Relations Existing Between Representatives of the Two Nations at Cienfuegos.

HAVANA, June 17.—The German Vice-Consul at Cienfuegos gave a banquet the other night at the Union Hotel in that city to the commander and other officers of the German cruiser Gier. Colonel Rios of the Spanish artillery, who was brought up in Germany, was present as a guest. There was great cordiality during the banquet between the Germans and Spaniards. While the feasting was going on the band of the Alfonso XIII played at the door of the hotel. Several of the Gier's crew received special attention from the Spaniards and were treated to beer and cigars, which pleased them greatly. The Germans and Spaniards understood each other perfectly, all speaking French. The Gier's commander visited the Spanish authorities, and the latter returned the call. The cruiser is expected to-day at Havana.

The Colonial Cabinet resolved at its session yesterday to pardon several political convicts. On one of the ships that will sail from Manzanillo in a few days will be embarked a Cuban-American citizen, who filled the office of interpreter in the Custom-house. He was dismissed by the Government and ordered to leave the country. The Spanish columns operating in Puerto Principe have had a fierce fight with the rebels. They have captured thirty-six, killed several and wounded many.

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#### MAY DISEMBARK TO THE WEST OF SANTIAGO.

They will probably be disappointed. The indications are that the landing will be made to the westward. There are good approaches in that direction, and with a north wind the disembarkation of the troops would not be difficult. The landing will not be delayed long after the arrival of the transports.

### GENERAL AUGUSTI ADMITS DISTRESS.

MADRID, June 17.—The following dispatch from Manila signed by Captain General Augusti and dated June 17 is published officially: "The grave situation set forth in my dispatch of June 8 continues. The troops are fighting on the line of blockhouses which stops the enemy's advance. The enemy has been strengthened by desertions of the native troops, which diminish our means of resistance and may compel me to take refuge within the walled city. "Communication with the provinces is still cut off, and I do not know whether the detachments there will be able to hold out against a lack of resources. I hope to receive assistance from the peninsula before our means of defense are exhausted."