

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June 1866

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Severe Battle Fought in the Philippines.

RAGED FROM DAYLIGHT UNTIL DARK.

Manila, June 13 6 05 p. m.—Gen. Lawton unexpectedly stirred up one of the liveliest engagements of the war south of Las Pinas this morning upon which occasion American field guns were engaged in the first artillery duel against a Filipino battery concealed in the jungle.
Companies F and I of the Twenty-first infantry were nearly surrounded by a large body of insurgents, but the Americans cut their way out with heavy loss.
The United States turret ship *Monadnock* and the gunboats *Helena* and *Zafiro* trained their batteries on *Bacoor* and the rebel trenches near *Las Pinas* all the morning. *Bacoor* was once on fire and the natives stopped the spread of the flames.
During the night an insurgent cannon was fired three times at the Americans on the outskirts of *Las Pinas*.

HOME MADE CANISTER

Gen. Lawton this morning took a battalion of the Fourteenth regiment and two companies of the Twenty-first regiment to locate the rebel battery and then two guns of the Sixth artillery and four mountain guns were planted against it at 600 yards distance. The rebels had a large gun from which they were firing home-made canister loaded with nails, and two smaller guns. Their shooting was most accurate. The first lot of canisters burst directly in front of Scott's guns and another shattered the legs of a private of the Fourteenth infantry. Several shots struck the edge of the town. The country traversed was as bad as it is possible to imagine, being mainly lagoons, mud and water fringed with bamboos.

SHOT BY "AMIGOS" IN THE REAR.

As soon as the fighting opened the Americans were attacked by hidden riflemen on all sides, even the amigos, or "friendly" natives in the houses of the town shooting into their rear.
The companies of the Twenty-first regiment, skirmishing along the beach with amigo guides, found apparently, a handful of rebels, who retreated. The men of the Twenty-first followed and suddenly the rebels opened a terrific fire on the troops from the sides and rear. The soldiers withdrew to the water's edge, finding what shelter they could and were picked off rapidly. After their ammunition was nearly exhausted the companies of the Twenty-first retreated, but Gen. Lawton dashed down and rallied the men.

ENEMY WELL ORGANIZED.

The Filipino force engaged appears to have been the largest and best organized body of men which has met our troops.
The Americans are compelled to advance along narrow roads and over small bridges commanded by earthworks ten feet thick.
The only means of crossing the *Zapote* was by a small bridge which the Filipinos commanded with trenches spreading V shaped, whence they could concentrate their fire on the bridge. They also had the advantage of the trees and jungle so the Americans could hardly see ahead.

When the battle was resumed at 1 o'clock with the reinforcements, our battery having silenced the enemy's guns, the Americans wading waist deep in the mud of the salt flats, slowly and pouring steady volleys of musketry at the rebels, drove their opponents beyond the river.
"RAPID FIRE" FOR THREE HOURS.

When the two armies lay facing each other across the deep stream, the enemy, practically out of sight while the men in blue and khaki lay in the mud and bushes, many of them without shelter, for three hours, without a moment's cessation in the firing, poured bullets at the enemy as fast as they could load. The thousand rifles blending into a continuous roar was

vastly different from the intermittent skirmishlike rattle of most of the engagements.

ALL RESERVES CALLED UP

One battalion after another Gen. Lawton summoned the reserves from *Las Pinas* until only enough troops were left in the town to prevent the Filipinos from attacking the Americans in the rear, which was feared, as they were creeping around our left through the woods, delivering a flanking fire which put a great strain upon the endurance of the Americans who were foundering in the mud across the river, while on the right the Filipino sharpshooters, hidden in the trees, were peppering our men. But, thanks to the poor marksmanship of the rebels, the loss was not as great as if the Filipinos had shot straight.

ARTILLERY ORDERED UP.

At 4 o'clock there was an hour's lull in the fighting and the artillery sergeant galloped back to where two guns of the mountain battery were waiting in reserve and shouted: "Bring up those guns."
The sergeant then tumbled exhausted from his horse.

Twenty wounded men were carried to a *casco* (native boat) waiting on the beach, which was rowed to *Paranaque*.

It is impossible at the present time to estimate the number of Filipino dead. There are many dead bodies in the fields the Americans traversed.

FIELD OF BLOODY BATTLES.

This battlefield, incidentally, was formerly the scene of several of the greatest struggles between the Spaniards and the Filipinos. The *Zapote* was considered impregnable and hundreds of Spaniards and Filipinos have been killed while fighting over the same bridge in former contests for its possession. In June, 1897, Gen. Pio del Pilar and Gen. Trias turned a scale of war on the side of the Filipinos by deserting the Spanish army there on the eve of a decisive battle, carrying the native militia with them and thereby breaking the chain of defenses around Manila.

THE BATTLE CONTINUES.

10 p. m.—The fighting at *Las Pinas* continued hotly all day long. Gen. Lawton called out the whole force of 3,000 men and at 5 o'clock he was only able to push the insurgents back 300 yards to the *Zapote* river, where they are entrenched. The insurgents resisted desperately and aggressively. They attempted to turn the left flank of the American troops. The American loss is conservatively estimated at sixty.

INTENSE INTEREST FELT IN WASHINGTON.

Washington, June 13.—The news of the heavy fighting almost within sight of Manila and adjacent to the navy yard at Cavite where Admiral Dewey landed his forces more than a year ago was received with intense interest here. It is evident to the officials that the insurgents either are far stronger than has been realized, or that they have come to the end of their resources and are making this last struggle in sheer desperation. Otherwise it is hard to understand why they should come down to the shore of the bay and fight the war ships.

Adjutant General Corbin steadfastly maintained his confidence in the success of the present movement in Luzon, and said today that he felt encouraged at the advices that came from Otis. He had driven the enemy with heavy loss, and that the latter could not be reassembled in force. Still, there is great concern exhibited over the conditions that confront the American troops in this campaign, and there was a renewal of the inquiry as to whether or not there is to be further reinforcement of the troops or another call for volunteers. The statement was made in reply to this, that Gen. Otis has or will have all the men he estimated for, and the opinion of Gen. Otis in these matters, it can be said, is to determine the policy of the president in the matter.

Boers Make Last Concession.

Pretoria, June 14.—The volksraad has resolved to accept President Kruger's franchise proposal and refer them to the people before putting them into operation.
President Kruger, in thanking the raad, said: "In these troublesome times we do not know what is going to happen."
England, he added, had not made even one concession, and he could not give more. He reminded the raad that God had always stood by them. War, he asserted, he did not want, but he would not relinquish anything more.
In conclusion, he called them all to witness that though their independence had once been removed, God had restored.

Bacoor Reduced to Ruin.

NEXT BATTLE WILL PROBABLY BE AT TRENCHES ABOUT IMUS.

Manila, June 14, 4 40 p. m.—The Filipinos retreated several miles southward after yesterday's engagement, to the strongly fortified town of Imus.

The shelling of the American warships drove the rebels from *Bacoor* so that the Americans control several miles of coast. Gen. Lawton, with his staff and a troop of the Fourth cavalry, started to ascertain the nature of the insurgents position. He rode five miles along the coast to *Bacoor* without discovering the enemy. He found the town full of white flags. But there were no soldiers there. The women and children who had fled to the woods during the bombardment were camping in the ruins of their homes. The shells had almost knocked the town to pieces. The big church was wrecked and many buildings were ruined. Even the trees and shrubbery were torn as by a hailstorm.

8 40 p. m.—Before dark last night the Fourteenth infantry swam the *Zapote* river, charged and carried the trenches, a heavy fusillade of artillery preparing the way and covering the crossing. The insurgents broke for the Ninth and the Twelfth crossed a bar of the sea and came upon their left flank at a point where the body of marines with Maxim guns landed under protection of the ships' batteries and fired upon the enemy's left rear with a demoralizing effect. The Twenty-first crossed the river by a bridge as soon as it could be mended. Sixty five dead Filipinos were found in the trenches, most of them shot through the head. Several five inch smooth bore guns were captured, with ammunition marked "U. S. Navy yard."

After crossing the river the troops were withdrawn, with the exception of the Ninth and Twenty-first, these regiments being left with our guns to guard the bridge. As they were being formed into companies the insurgents commenced to fire volleys from the bamboo jungle three hundred yards away.

The regiments formed into line rapidly and coolly through under fire, and cheering, rushed to the woods, driving the enemy a mile away, the Filipinos disputing every foot. The Fourteenth encamped across the river, the men caring for many of the Filipino prisoners.

Eight prisoners were captured. The majority of the Filipinos wore red uniforms.

INSURGENTS TURN DEWEY'S GUNS ON AMERICANS.

Chicago, June 14.—According to Gen. Anderson, commanding the department of the Lakes, the heavy losses of the American troops in the recent engagements with the Filipinos at *Los Pinas* and *Bacoor*, south of Manila, were caused by the artillery which Admiral Dewey presented to Aguinaldo last winter. The batteries in position, Gen. Anderson says, are being operated by Spanish prisoners who have been released by Aguinaldo with the understanding that they enlist in the insurgent army.

Gen. Anderson took the first detachment of troops to the Philippines last fall and was a prominent figure in the first negotiations with the Filipino government.

"When Admiral Dewey captured Cavite," said Gen. Anderson, "he took possession of a lot of artillery and later presented it to Aguinaldo. It is these cannon that are now being used by the insurgents against our troops with such terrible effect in the province south of Manila. The Spaniards operating the guns are experts in the handling of field pieces and are evidently using their knowledge with deadly effect on our troops. The native Filipino knows nothing of the proper handling of artillery."

GEN. OTIS' REPORT ON THE BATTLE

Washington, June 14.—The following was received at the war department today:

Manila, June 14.
Adjutant General, Washington:
Lawton's troops under Wheaton and Orenschie occupy country south to *Bacoor*; have scouted westward and some distance southward on line *Zapote* river and *Bacoor* road; enemy appears to have retired to Imus, abandoning bay country. The fighting yesterday severe; our loss ten killed and forty wounded; majority at crossing *Zapote* river. Enemy driven from heavy and well constructed intrenchments to which they held tenaciously; their loss several hundred, of whom fifty buried this morning. Will not probably make any determined future stand in southern provinces.
Otis.

NAVY ASSISTS ARMY.

Washington, June 14.—The navy department has received the following cablegram from Capt. Barber, the naval officer in command at Manila, respecting the fighting there yesterday:

Manila, June 13.
Secretary Navy, Washington:
The insurgents fired at navy yard from masked batteries. Ships of war shelled position and intrenchments. The *Helena* and *Monadnock* landed forces to assist in maintaining the position until re-enforced by the army. The movement was successful. Enemy was routed. No casualties in the navy.
Barker

The News That the Censors Permit to Pass.

Death of Gen. Luna Not Credited—Enlisting Volunteers for Service.

Manila, June 15, 5 50 p. m.—Capt. Cable, of Gen. Wheaton's staff, with three companies of the Twenty-first regiment reconnoitered in the direction of Imus. The rebels, who were apparently expecting an attack, retired, leaving behind them 20 Spanish prisoners who joined the Americans.
The rebels have probably gone to the mountains along the lake.

According to native stories, the rebels carried 100 dead and 300 wounded through *Bacoor* after the recent battle.

The natives are now flooding into *Bacoor*, and it is probable there are many soldiers in plain clothes among them. The whole section is practically without food and Maj. Gen. Otis has ordered the distribution of rice and beef to the inhabitants.

Many people still refuse to credit the story of the assassination of Gen. Luna at Aguinaldo's headquarters, though the reports to the effect are most circumstantial and from good sources. Rumors of assassinations and disasters from the rebel camp are so frequently printed in the local papers that they come to be regarded with indifference. The latest is that the governor of Cebu has been killed by natives because of his friendship to Americans.

A prominent commercial man with exceptional means of learning of the Filipino movements claims to know Gen. Luna is still alive, adding that if he were dead and if his death occurred a month ago people would have expected a collapse of the revolution to follow.

The failure of the Filipinos to follow up the peace negotiations strengthens the impression that their overtures were merely to gain time and in order to lure the Americans to show their hands.

The *Independencia*, a revolutionary organ, of May 20, a copy of which has just been obtained, prints an interview with Gen. Luna showing the arguments he used to keep up the spirits of his followers. He represents the Filipino cause as prospering, "because the Americans have gained only a hundredth part of Luzon by hard fighting," and says the woman and children tilling the fields within the American line give proceeds of their work to support the Filipino army. He is said to have further remarked: "More Americans will be killed by ambush, surprises and disease than in battles."
"I detest war, but we cannot accept peace at any price but independence. The Americans suffered for their own independence and in their own hearts they appreciate why we resist them."

ORGANIZING VOLUNTEERS.

Washington, June 15.—Pursuing a policy determined upon some months ago, Gen. Otis is organizing three regiments in the Philippines composed of officers and men of the State volunteers who desire to remain in the service. The army bill authorized this kind of enlistment in the Philippines. If the full complement cannot be made up from those discharged volunteers in the Philippines the regiments will be organized and officered in skeleton form until recruits can be sent from the United States to fill them.

Gen. Otis and volunteer officers in the Philippines have been consulting to see how many men will enlist. The number has not been very large as there seems to be a desire on the part of the volunteers to return to the United States with their organizations.

These three proposed regiments of regulars will sail from San Francisco on the 22d and 24th and those under orders for Manila will give Gen. Otis 33,000 fighting men.
The field and staff officers and captains of these three regiments will be selected from the volunteer and regular officers who have demonstrated their special fitness to command and who have distinguished themselves in action. It is expected also that the first lieutenants will be chosen from second lieutenants in the service in the Philippines who may be especially commended by Gen. Otis. The volunteer second lieutenants will probably go out from the United States with the recruiting squads.

REBELS LOSE HEAVILY.

Washington, June 15.—Gen. Otis cabled today as follows:

Manila, June 15.
Adjutant General, Washington.
Success Lawton's troops Cavite province greater than reported yesterday. Enemy numbering over 4,000 lost in killed, wounded and captured more than one-third; remainder much scattered, have retreated south to Imus, their arsenal; of five pieces of artillery three captured. Navy aided greatly on shore bay, landing forces occasionally. Inhabitants in that country rejoice at deliverance and welcome with enthusiastic demonstrations arrival of our troops.
Otis.

REPORTED ASSASSINATION OF "FRIENDLY."

Washington, June 15.—The war department bulletins the following:
Manila, June 15.
Adjutant General, Washington.

Prominent Filipino, friendly to Americans, assassinated at Cebu. Inhabitants that locality urgently request American protection in stronger force. Have sent battalion Tennessee and two guns from Iloilo which insure peace. Hughes now in charge of affairs in that section.

MORE TROOPS NEEDED

Commander Ford's Opinion of The Filipino Campaign.

Baltimore Sun, June 12.
Commander John D. Ford, fleet engineer of the Asiatic station, reached his home 1,522 West Laval street, on Saturday morning before noon, after an absence of a year and a half, most of which period he spent on board the cruiser *Baltimore* in the bay of Manila.

Commander Ford was the only Baltimore officer on board the *Baltimore* during the battle of Manila and since. His return on the army transport *Zelandia*, having left Manila on May 9, probably completes his last voyage in the service of his country and he expects to be retired in a short time.

"When I left," said Mr. Ford yesterday, "we held not quite as much ground as was ours during the first part of August last year, and our lines were restricted to the suburbs of Manila. The troops did push out into the country, but could not hold the ground they made by raids and were obliged to fall back. It is impossible to conquer the people or to gain the islands without more soldiers out there and but if we bend our energies to doing it we can beat them and take the island. It would mean great loss of life and considerable time, but it could be done. As it is now it is all we can do to hold our own. The insurgents are constantly encoaching and though, as I have said, raids are made, the natives driven back and the lines thrown out, we can't hold the ground because we have not enough men."
"The line is always active and there is no relief. Men spend months in the trenches subjected to great mental and physical strain and never knowing at what moment they will be assailed. The lines of the natives are often not a block away from our own, and the rule is when you see a head exposed to shoot it. The natives are always on the defensive. They make no advances of their own, but wait and shoot when they can, do all the damage to us they know how and when we rally out they are driven back into places where it is impossible to follow, so strong is their number, so impregnable the country."

INTELLIGENT, LIBERTY-LOVING PEOPLE

"The Filipinos pictured in the sensational papers are not the men we are fighting. They are entirely distinct and separate. The fellows we deal with out there are not ignorant savages, fighting with bows and arrows, but an intelligent, liberty loving people, full of courage and determination. The idea that the Filipino is an uncivilized being is a mistaken one. Originally the natives of those islands sprang from Java. These people are identically the same race, with a change in language and customs. There was a time when the feudal system prevailed in Manila, but no vestige now remains and the savagery of the people is found only in the very lowest class of 'negritos' or 'little niggers,' as the Filipinos are called.

"I have pictures taken here, which

I brought home, of native women who would be handsome anywhere, and of good looking, brainy men. They have the intellect and the stamina to govern themselves and have done it for 300 years, although under the rule of Spain. They were the clerks, and bookkeepers, the assessors and managed the entire machinery of government. Their courage is undoubted, and they fight to the death, having among them a superstition that if you are killed you do not really die, but in three days reappear somewhere else.

STRONGER THAN EVER.

"As for their condition now, as far as I can see, they are stronger, more determined and more skillful in the art of war than when the fighting out there started, and as days go by they increase in strength and knowledge, having nine or eleven millions of people to draw from. They are armed with Mausers—the best rifle in the world—and are far better marksmen than the Spaniards. At first they shot high and missed, but now they have caught on and aim low with deadly effect. They have a good government now, which they are operating successfully, and preserve law and order. They certainly don't think this is a hopeless fight and I don't think anyone else does who knows anything about it.

FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM.

"What they are fighting for is absolute and entire liberty. They don't want us there or over them, and in the course of time might wear out our patience entirely. An excellent postal and telegraph system is in existence, which we wish very much we could get hold of. While they fight for entire freedom, all they ask is a chance for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and they care not whether it be a republic of their own or some form devised for them by the great United States of America. I see nothing promising in the struggle now or any hope of speedy success on our part, unless many more troops are sent out.

PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED.

"The problem can be solved, however, and I believe that if a proposal was made to the natives to lay down their arms upon the promise that the United States would annex the islands, treat them as Americans and make their country a territory of ours, the rebellion—if such it can be called, for we had no claim on them—would melt away like a block of ice before the sun. A good, level headed governor could be appointed and given full veto power, while the rest of the government could be in the hands of the natives. They could be called together and elect their own legislature and leaders, operate their own politics and manage their own affairs. I believe firmly they would accept this proposal and surrender, as they realize the possibility in event they establish a republic of their own, of Germany coming along and taking an island here, France an island there, and England three or four islands somewhere else. No proposals of this kind have, however, been made to the Filipinos.

THE SPANISH PRIESTS CAUSE TROUBLE

"The chief thorn in the side of the islanders is the Spanish priest, and when he is taken out of the country much of the trouble will dissolve itself. Not that I mean their religion should be taken away from them and efforts made to teach them another kind, because that would leave them with none at all. They are all Catholics and I know of no people who more strictly live up to the requirements of their religious belief, but the Spanish priests have created most of the trouble for the natives. There is now a good chance to send them out, as they are Spanish officials and should go with the rest of the Spanish institutions. What they want is their own priests—native priests—and not a change in religion. Their ideas are well expressed along this line by the clause in the proclamation issued by the government on July 1. It reads: 'There shall be general religious toleration, but measures shall be taken for the abolition and expulsion of the religious communities, who with an iron hand have hitherto demoralized the actual civil administration.' This is what they want—to get rid of the Spanish priests, and in their place have priests of their own race and country."

