

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16, 1907.

THE PHILIPPINES.

JUST nineteen months ago we wrote "It would be the height of inconsistency, indeed of injustice, on the part of the United States, which prides itself on being the living exponent of the principles of democracy and man's rights, to abandon now the poor people (Filipinos) whom it has taken under its care with promises of an ennobling future, and leave them to the mercy of some arrangement that must needs end in one or another of the more aggressive and scheming Powers gaining despotic control over them." In all our subsequent references to the Philippines question we have been unswerving in our maintenance that the islands should remain American, and that, while Japan cherished no desire to own them herself, she should most strenuously oppose their passing into possession of any European Power. Not that we have been unaware of a growing cry among a section of the American public against the longer retention of the islands, since they have cost the Federal Treasury the huge sum of 800,000,000 yen in less than ten years; but we all along believed that the American conscience would not allow the desertion of them on the mere consideration of dollars and cents. The desertion would, moreover, be tantamount to a confession of incapability of governing a colony, and it is inconceivable that American pride and sense of honour would acquiesce in the ignominy. From the view point of our own interests, too, we would much rather see the islands remain permanently under American sovereignty than undergo any change in ownership; for with America in the Philippines, we will always rest assured not only of our safety but of the ultimate triumph of American genius and of having a prosperous community to trade with in our direct neighbourhood. It is, therefore, with a feeling of relief and satisfaction that

we read in the *Tokyo Asahi* a New York despatch which says: "The visit of Mr. Taft to the Philippines marks the completion of the administrative machinery by which the Government hope to teach the Filipinos the responsibilities of autonomy. Despite the conviction that the Philippines are unprofitable, America is averse to selling them on the ground of national honour and policy." Our fervent hope is that the Filipinos will rise equal to the trust their generous protector now reposes in them; such an opportunity will not come twice.

JAPANESE PRESS

Chinese Students.—Desirous of seeing the continuation of attendance at the Japanese schools of Chinese students, the *Chu-o* is afraid that German and American influence is strong in inclining the Mandarin leaders at Peking to sending them abroad rather than to Japan. The paper is hopeful of a certain definite plan being arrived at by the new Chinese Minister who came to this country once to make investigations into the conditions of the Chinese students and held a post in the Educational Department up to the moment of his new appointment.

COURT AND PERSONAL.

A telegram to the *Deutsche Japan Post* says the condition of the Emperor Francis Joseph has improved.

Yesterday morning Mr. Thomas J. O'Brien, the American Ambassador, proceeded to the Palace to present his credentials. The Ambassador accompanied by Mr. Hachisuka, Master of Ceremonies, and escorted by a party of lancers arrived at the Palace at 10.30 a.m. After an interview with Count Toda, Marquis Tokudaiji, Count Tanaka, Count Hayashi and Count Kagawa in the waiting-room, Mr. O'Brien was ushered to the Phoenix Hall where he was received in audience by the Emperor. Afterwards the Ambassador and Mrs. O'Brien were received in audience by the Empress at the Paulownia Hall. On the same occasion Secretary Dodge, Secretary Jay, Lieut.-Colonel Irons, Secretary Wheeler, Secretary Lausford, Secretary Stevens, Secretary Miller of the Embassy as well as Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Irons, Mrs. Wheeler and Mrs. Miller were also received in audience by the Emperor and Empress.

Prince Fushimi left for Uyeda, Nagano, yesterday.