

## "A WHITE MAN'S BURDEN."

The London speaker, commenting upon the difficulties of the Americans in the Philippines and the emergencies which may arise in the future, says:

It must be noted throughout the present struggle that the Filipinos have put themselves in the wrong. The plea that they were fighting in defense of their rights does not hold good in the case of Manila, which is the center of European interests.

The Speaker has touched upon an important feature of the Philippine problem. We are prone to consider only the Filipinos in dealing with the situation. There are the interests of white men to be considered and white men have been living and trading in the Philippines almost continuously from the days of Magellan, more than 350 years. White men built Manila over three centuries ago, making a city from a group of bamboo huts. The Spaniards have been true to the policy which they began early in all their colonies of extorting tribute from their subjects, and they squeezed these unhappy islanders so rapaciously and cruelly that it is no wonder the Filipinos rose in rebellion.

But apart from this, the responsibilities of the American nation to the civilized world are such that it cannot permit the whites to be driven out and the islands to be abandoned to barbarism. We cannot permit the Filipinos to "choke up the wells and throw ashes on the sword" in such a center of civilization as Manila has become. We cannot, in view of all our responsibilities before the world, be consenting witnesses to the invasion and looting of any white man's port by half-taught savages. No useful harbor in the Philippines can be filled up nor any needed light be extinguished without shame to the whole people of the United States of America.

This country must suppress Aguinaldo, as Great Britain suppressed Arabi Pasha in Egypt, to conserve the interests of white men. Whatever measure of self-government may be conceded to the Filipinos in the future, or whatever may be the relations of these islands to the United States, the first duty of this government is to subdue Aguinaldo and his insurrection, restore peace at Manila, and protect the interests of the whites, so that the commerce of the islands may be maintained. This is a duty which cannot be shirked without national dishonor.