

# TEXT IS "WHITE MAN'S BURDEN"

## Chicago Preachers Find Sermon Themes in Recent Events in the Philippines.

"The White Man's Burden," as read in the light of recent events in the Philippines, was the central thought in sermons delivered yesterday by the Rev. William P. Merrill, Sixth Presbyterian Church; William M. Salter, Society for Ethical Culture; and Bishop Samuel Fallows, St. Paul's Reformed Episcopal.

"We are accustomed to think of the white man's privilege, rather than his burden," said the Rev. W. P. Merrill.

"The superior man, belongs to the privileged class, we think; his power enables him to have others bear his burdens. This poet brings to us the Christian message that the strong man belongs to the burdened class; the more he has the less ought he to please himself, and the more ought he to bear the burdens of the weaker.

"The white man's burden, so the poem shows, means sacrifice for the helpless. But it means more than sacrifice; sometimes sacrifice is pleasant; but the distinctively white man's burden, which we might as well call the Christian's burden, is to do the thankless task, the fruitless, to send 'the best we breed' to work for others, not for ourselves, to give our wealth for the weak without hope of return.

"Our nation must take up the work in Cuba and the Philippines in that spirit or it will be a curse to her. These people need help and guidance—recent events show it conclusively. But unless we deal with them in the spirit of sacrifice, taking it up as a thankless task, a duty to God and humanity, then better for us and for them that we should not take it at all.

"I believe our nation will so undertake it, will follow in the path already begun, of giving our best men and treasures freely for the good of those peoples, regardless of our gain or loss."

### Salter on "Imperialism."

"Imperialism" was the theme of W. M. Salter, and on it he said:

"The carnage of the last week was the natural fruit of mixed motives in the nation. If we had been willing to say that we will do for the Filipinos what we propose to do for Cuba, it would have been prevented. It is a superficial notion that the Senators who opposed the treaty were responsible for it. The real fact is that the Filipinos want freedom and we are dubious about giving it to them. The idealistic sentiment with which we went into the war is waning, or at least suffering temporary eclipse. Gain, or imaginary gain, is urging us now. We think we have a chance, and we don't propose to lose our grip on it.

"There is no honor for the soldiers who fell on Manila's plains. As holy as was the war for Cuba, so unholy is this war against the Filipinos.

"Imperialism has now an unmistakable meaning. It was not imperialistic to go to war with Spain; it was not imperialistic to ratify the treaty. It is imperialistic to hold the Filipinos without their consent. We have a good title against Spain and against the world, and this title is valuable for unselfish purposes as well as selfish purposes; but we have not a good title against the natives who want to rule themselves. We should encourage them in the government they have made a beginning with, not put it down. We should not continue the war another day without declaring that our aim is to make the islands as free as Cuba is to be. If they wish to become a part of us, that is another matter, and is to be settled on other grounds."

### By Bishop Fallows.

Bishop Fallows took an optimistic view, preaching from the text, "All things work together for good." He said:

"Our nation is the called, according to God's purpose, to carry on a mission no other can accomplish on earth, let the skeptic sneer as he may. It has not loved God with a perfect heart, nor always served him with a willing mind, but yet it has imperfectly loved him, and he has graciously accepted the incomplete service. He has multiplied his blessings upon it. He has met its every emergency by providing the needed men and means, from the landing of the Pilgrim fathers to yesterday's battle with the misguided Filipinos. He has overruled all its strifes and conflicts, all its sins of omission and commission, for the welfare and glory of this, his chosen Israel.

"The gigantic civil war, which seemed destined to cleave its people asunder, has made them cleave the closer together. It gave them a Lincoln and placed him side by side with Washington. And he who 'binds the sweet influences of the Pleiades and loosens the bands of Orion' has set them forever, his brightest twin stars in the world's political firmament."