

Our Nation's Heroes—

EMILIO JACINTO

By EULOGIO B. RODRIGUEZ*

BEFORE the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution Emilio Jacinto was taking up the preparatory law course in the University of Santo Tomas. This was in 1894 and he was then 19 years old. He also joined the Katipunan in the same year.

As a student Emilio Jacinto worked hard in preparing his lessons. He had not been only studying his lessons thoroughly but he likewise read much other books that were not included in his course of study.

During the time of Emilio Jacinto, Filipino students especially in the higher grades had to meet a handicap and a responsibility in life. On the one hand, they should not be too liberal in their ideas because they might be accused of criticising the government. On the other hand a Filipino student was looked upon by the people as their adviser or community leader. They came to him to be enlightened on any subject from astronomy to government.

Jacinto took an active part in defending the common man against wrongs they suffered from the hands of some abusive officials of the government. At that comparatively early age his was a delicate responsibility. This forged his character into one of iron will.

At times he would go along the shore of the Luneta to read before his trusted friend his plan or the principle that should guide his people in the contemplated revolution that might take, and in fact took, place at any time. The Luneta's shore was a safe place as any Spanish official who might come at any moment could be seen at once and the compromising papers could either be buried in the sand or thrown into the bay. Jacinto also believed that if a revolution had to be started it must be started

by the common man and not the wealthy or the intelligent class. But the common man must have a leader prepared to guide the revolution wisely so that it would not be a mere bloody affair rather it must be one based upon the principle of human liberty.

For the guidance of the Katipunan he prepared the "Primer" and promulgated rules for its ceremonies and rites. He also wrote propaganda articles on such subjects as light and darkness, light and glitter, liberty, equality of men, love, the people and the government, false belief, and work. In his teachings to his people he emphasized the fact that they must first strive hard to deserve liberty before winning it.

"Work," he said, "is a gift to humanity, because it awakens and gives vigor to intellectual power, will, and body which are indispensable for progress in life. . . . He who toils keeps away from a life of disorderly and bad habits and boredom, finds diversion in labor, and becomes strong, prosperous, and cheerful. . . . How much truth is there in what our Baltazar has sung in his verses 'Those who grow up 'midst the revelries of wealth, are devoid of judgment and kindness and lacking in counsel'. (Ang laki sa layaw karaniwa'y hubad, sa bait at muni't sa hatol ay salat.)"

Again, he wrote, "The life that is not consecrated to a lofty and reasonable purpose is a tree without shade, if not a poisonous weed. . . . The honorable man prefers honor to personal gain, the scoundrel, gain to honor."

Of light and glitter he said: "Treason and perversity seek glitter in order to conceal their falseness from the eyes of the spectator; but honesty and sincere love go naked and allow themselves to be seen confidently by the light of the day."

* Assistant Director, National Library of the Philippines.



Pictorial of the Celebration of
the First National Girl's Week

Emilio Jacinto Elementary School

Presiding over the festivities: Filipinas, center; Minerva (Goddess of Wisdom) on her right; and Vesta (Goddess of the Home) on her left.

Filipinas Gloria Samson
Minerva Remedios Ramos
Vesta Preciosa Irma Pineda

Below are prize winners in the different phases of school work. The prizes are awarded by the Jacinto Mothers' League.

On the right: Corazon Handog, Ideal School Girl and best cook



On the left: Fernanda Salonga, Healthiest



Below: Libertad Donato, most lady-like in department



Adelia B. Fugoso. She excels in academic subjects



Teofila Avelido Skilled in needlework



THE GREAT BELL OF PEKING

(Retold by Elisabeth Latsch)

(Continued from the October issue)

NOW Kuan-yu called upon the Emperor to receive the command to cast the Great Bell of Peking. But he felt all the more distressed after the audience with his Celestial August. He must make the bell: there was no longer any way out. Kuan-yu began to labor day and night. From the wise men who were able to read the great and wonderful books, Kuan-yu learned about the art of casting bells. He traveled far and near to the craftsmen in the art: he must see and hear more about engraving, about embossing and about inlaying the metals to be used for the bell. But such a large bell had never yet been cast in all China. And to Kuan-yu's dismay he realized that he could never become a master in such a great task.

An immense factory was built where hundreds of workmen were busied with precious metals. There were silver and gold in abundance: yellow brass, red copper and bright tin were piled up everywhere. Kuan-yu, too, was everywhere. He watched here and he directed there. He gave the orders for making the mold: the mixing of the metals; and the drawing of the pattern. But the more work his men turned out, the heavier grew Kuan-yu's heart. "How could he know the little and important thing; about casting bells? He a cannon molder! Min Ling, had done him no friendly turn, to recommend Kuan-yu, the cannon molder as the most skillful master in the art of bell making." Gradually, Kuan-yu lost hope altogether. He could not sleep. He could not eat. He worried and worried throughout his work, day and night. Even the fragrant tea of China no longer brought a look of cheer to his face. "If only my bell were finished and as well rounded as this small cup here before me!"

EMILIO JACINTO

(Continued from page 309)

As we all know Jacinto was the brain of the Kapitunan. He was the son of Mariano Jacinto, a bookkeeper by profession, and Josefa Dizon, an intelligent midwife, residents of the barrio of Trozo. He was baptized at the age of three days at the Biondo church on December 18, 1875. He breathed his last on April 16, 1899, at Majajay, Laguna.

In the meantime, Ko-ai, the daughter of Kuan-yu sat in the garden embroidering her wedding gown. She was to be married to the son of Min Ling. The design on her gown was the peach blossom, from the tree which brings long life and good fortune to young brides. Ko-ai was very, very happy and sensed nothing of her father's great sorrow. Softly, very softly she sang to herself an old, old song:

"Peach blossom after rain
Is deeper red;
The willow fresher green:
Twittering overhead:
And fallen petals lie wind-blown,
Unswept upon the courtyard stone."

As she went on embroidering the branches of pine trees took shape upon the cloth: for the pine tree was the sign of happy marriage. And remembering that the perfume of the plum blossom was the nightingale's voice turned to music, Ko-ai carefully selected and stitched its design and colors on her robe. Last of all, she added the King of Flowers, the royal peony. As she shaded its hues of white, cream and crimson, a smile spread over her face and softly she spoke aloud, "Is he whom I am to wed, not more to me than a king? It is for him I place the petals of the peony upon the hem of the gown." And once more her voice drifted into a song from "The Book of Jade":

"The earth has drunk the snow,
and now the plum trees are blossoming once more.
"The willow leaves are like new gold:
the lake is molten silver.
"It is the hour
when sulphur laden butterflies
rest their velvet heads upon the flowers."

as a result of the bullet wound in his thigh which he received while in command of the Northern army. Thus passed the man the keystone of whose doctrine was to work and to labor, giving the noblest and best that was in him for the revolution, or for a change for a better government in order to give the common man—the average Filipino—a chance to rise without interruption, through his labor and industry.