

WHEN THEY WERE YOUNG

VICTORINO MAPA

Born February 25, 1852

Victorino Mapa, one of the first Filipino chief justices of the Supreme Court, was born in Calibo, Capiz, on February 25, 1852.

As a child Victorino was very fond of books and read everything that attracted his fancy. He was a quiet boy and wanted to be alone most of the time. He liked to wander in the woods, the plains and the meadows, as well as on the seashore. He also loved dumb animals and was very kind to them.

Because his parents had high hopes for him, he studied hard to be worthy of them. He was deeply interested in current events. Literature, history, philosophy, and mathematics were his favorite subjects.

Victorino Mapa took the law course in Sto. Tomas, where he showed the same eagerness and patience that he

had had in the lower grades. In order to gain practical experience, he apprenticed himself while yet a student, to a well-known law firm.

He practiced law in his home province, where he soon gained admiration for both his ability and his honesty. He did not defend cases merely to make money or to earn popular favor. Always bearing in mind his duty to the community, he only accepted cases when he was sure that they were just.

Because of his honesty and ability, Victorino Mapa was appointed mayor of Iloilo by the Spanish authorities. It was the first of a number of important positions he occupied under both the Spanish and American rule. Throughout his long years of service, he always showed honesty and unflinching devotion to duty.

SUNSET GOLD

By A. C. CANCELLER

Ligao, Albay

I asked you where and how could I
Get also gold that you and others find;

You answered me that I should try
To dig the earth or work beneath the
mine.

I dug and dug from morn till night;
I could not find a shining piece of gold,

Again I dug with all my might
And yet no precious stone I could behold.

These many days I dig the ground no
more,
Instead I dream and write of things I
see;

I find more gold than what I asked
before
In gazing too, at sunsets in the sea.