



Rizal on Work and Unity for the Nation

Your letter has greatly astonished me as it tells me of resentments, differences, and reconciliations. I think it is useless to talk of things that do not exist, and, if they did exist, they must have vanished in the past. I am of the same opinion as you, that there having been nothing at all we should lose no time talking about it.

If I stopped writing for *Solidaridad*, I did so for various reasons: 1st I need time to work on my book; 2nd I wish that other Filipinos should also work; 3rd I have thought that within the party what counts much is unity in the work; and inasmuch as you are now on top and I have also my own ideas, it is more important that you be left to direct the policy as you understand it and that I should not meddle with it. This has two advantages: it leaves us both free and it increases your prestige, which is very necessary because in our country men of prestige are needed. I do not mean to say by this that I am not going to work and to follow the course of your activities. I am like an army corps that at the needed moment you see arrive and fall upon the flanks of the enemy who are before you. I only ask God that I be given the means to do so. Moreover, frankly I do not like to waste time attacking and fighting private enterprises as those of P. Font, Quioquiap, and others. I fight for the nation, the Philippines.

—From Rizal's letter to M. H. del Pilar, 1891.