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## The "LET YOUR HAIR DOWN"

Column

WHAT I admired most about your exposure of the 'Confidential Agreement,' truly a historical scoop from a journalistic point of view, was the restraint with which you presented it...

"Seems to me you lost an opportunity to show up these fellows who during the Japanese regime swallowed whales without as much as a peep out of them and who now strain at a gnat and scream their 'injury' to high heaven. Of course, I refer to the Bell Act and 'Parity,' as against that euphoniously entitled 'Confidential Agreement' with the Japs which just meant that the Filipino 'leaders' of that time 'agreed' that the Japs should have the whole country."

We feel that the first of the two writers from whose letters we have quoted in the foregoing, understood us rightly. The article was written and presented with "restraint" and for the record, rather than for argument, and any comparison was deliberately avoided.

To us it seemed deeply offensive even to imply that there is any basis of comparison between that "Confidential Agreement," — voracious and utterly cynical, and secret, covert, never avowed, and the long and openly discussed terms of the Bell Act, frankly advocated and opposed, popularly accepted in a national plebiscite; between the special position which the Japanese sought secretly to "legalize" for themselves as masters of the country and everything in it, and the privilege extended to Americans to continue to participate, as before independence, on an equal basis in the development of the country's natural resources and public utilities,

which the American Congress believed would be necessary for the encouragement of further American capital assistance, so badly needed, and which the American Congress furthermore knew would be of far greater importance and benefit to the Philippines itself than it could possibly be to America.

Too much is made, in some hostile quarters, of this Parity. It extends no whit further than has been stated. There is no parity in the economic and business position in general, for instance, as is shown by the Philippine Flag Law and other legislation. There is no parity in civic or political rights. Americans have no right to vote or to hold office or to take any part whatever in politics. Americans have to register and be fingerprinted like every other alien, and they must report and fill out forms and answer questions and pay various fees just like any man from China or India or anywhere else. Regardless of the fact that they helped to build and establish the Philippine Republic, in fact, established by the wholly American act of a withdrawal of sovereignty, the Philippine Republic being truly a Daughter-Republic of the United States of America, — regardless of that, a bitter thing to many Americans, they are now officially foreigners and aliens, just as much as the Japanese are, except for that little parity clause which gives them a few privileges, no more, in fact, less than they had before, in such activities as mining and

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lumbering and running transportation companies and electric light plants. Is that so out-of-the way? Is that for a moment to be compared with the Japanese dictations and ferocious impositions?

WHEN the following letter and the accompanying comment had been prepared, a Chamber authority expressed the opinion that the subject was worthy of the more serious treatment it would receive in the editorial columns of this Journal than anything generally receives in these more ribald columns of the "Hair-Down" section. So the editor wrote the editorial which readers may turn to,—if they are interested, on page 370. However, on comparing the two compositions,—on the same subject and practically the same in content, but in different styles, the one (supposedly) sarcastic, ironic, cutting, and the other (supposedly) sober, dignified, earnest, some of us here thought that it might be interesting to print both, each in its proper place, allowing the reader to judge for himself which is the more effective. As for us, it seems just as likely that, for the reader, this experiment may turn out to be a frightful bore. Reading the editor once,—well, we suppose it has been done; but reading him (or virtually him) twice, in any "style," ye gods!

And, we ask, in all this attention being directed to the "style," or rather, they mean the manner, isn't the message likely to be lost? And wouldn't that be just too bad?

"You're always sneering," said the editor, heavily.

"We sneer when there is something to sneer at," said we.

"Remember we are talking about human rights. Is nothing sacred to you?"

"Oh, is that so? Didn't you shift the talk to 'style,' so called?"

"Did I shift the talk to style?"

"Come on, come on! Didn't you? Who (whom) do you think you're kidding?"

"Well," said the editor plaintively, "is it so wrong for anyone to take a little pride in his work?"

"Tschh!" said we.

It's **N E W**



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claration and those who voted for it thought should be or ought to be.

"If you will read the last of the 'whereases', you will see that the 'Member States' only 'pledged' themselves to 'achieve...the promotion of universal respect for and observance of' these so-called rights.

"According to the paragraph which follows this, the Declaration itself states that these so-called rights are proclaimed only as a 'Common standard of achievement', something to 'keep in mind', something to 'strive... to secure the universal and effective recognition' of, — *sometime*.

"So, you see, the Philippines is not committed to anything much. We'll just keep these things in mind. Oh, we'll *strive* all right. But give us time. We want to do a little discriminating first. Our Government may have joined the other nations in authoring and proclaiming the Declaration, but that was mostly for show. You know how it is."

And so some of our judges and law-makers seem to think they can uphold the dignity and international good name of the Republic.

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