

This account should end right here, but I am not writing a short story. I am putting down a personal record of fright and fear and an ideal.

Three days later, way farther up in the mountains of Lagting, Romblon, I had time to collect my thoughts again and put my feelings in order.

The tall, evil-looking Jap was a member of the murder gang of Toyama. What had melted his heart to set me free?

In a few more days his name was to spread throughout Romblon Island like a syllable of terror. In a few more days he was to spill blood on the uplands. In a few more days the live body of the young girl was to be thrown into the flames of her own burning house. In a few more days the tall Jap would be called *Pika*—his body was tattooed—

and would spread terror even to the surrounding islands.

What had softened *Pika* towards me?

Then I remembered. An hour before I was set free, he had come up the house with the other soldiers, jabbering in Nippongo. I was able to pick up two words: *kodomo... sense-i... kodomo... sense-i...* child... teacher. And the stern look had vanished from his eyes and he was smiling.

There are little things in life that can break even the hardest man. Did *Pika* way down in Japan have a child of his own? Did he remember the slow, quiet teacher of his childhood days in a little Japanese prefecture?

In these days of comparative peace, sometimes I can hug the idea that I am still able to write this because I am a teacher.



TWO PROBLEMS

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This is not to belittle the choice of the delegates to the Representative Assembly, but rather in the performance of such heavy duties we are faced with a problem! How far can our present Board of Directors carry through our objectives? We must only remember that the members of Congress are wise politicians and the influence of politics often times spoil big plans and honest objectives. The task ahead is heavy and numerous and unless those entrusted with these duties and responsibilities are wiser politicians too, and unless we teachers have a strong backing in Congress, our dreams and objectives will be far from realization. A Congressman from the ranks of schoolmen is the need of the hour.

Another obstruction we have to consider in the progress of the association is the possible lack of support of the community. The organizers of the association have anticipated beforehand to be able to create a better understanding and good will between teachers and the community. The Association is not secure unless we have the full support of the people, and its success depends very much on the success of Parent-Teacher Associations.