

Marcelo H. del Pilar, indomitable champion of Filipino liberties, who succeeded Lopez-Jaena as editor of the *La Solidaridad*, was forced to flee from the country because of religious and political persecution. He suffered untold privations and died of starvation in Spain where he continued the fight for reforms. In the hour of his death, his last consuming thought was the freedom of his country. His dying message to his compatriots was: "Go ahead with the work and seek the happiness and liberty of our dear country".

General Gregorio del Pilar's valiant defense of Tirad Pass is another example of heroism and love of country. Barely out of his teens, he had already distinguished himself for valor and daring on the field of battle. Called upon to defend Tirad Pass with a handful of ill-equipped soldiers, he wrote in his diary on the fateful morning of December 2, 1899: "I understand that the task given me is a difficult one. And yet, I feel that this is the most glorious moment of my life. I do it all for my beloved country. No sacrifice can be greater." Only eight of his brave band of sixty men survived, and General Del Pilar perished with the rest of his command, but the advance of the American troops was delayed. And in recognition of his bravery and heroism, he was buried with full military honors by the Americans near the spot where he had made his last stand. The following valedictory was also found in his diary: "I submit to the terrible fate that overwhelms me and my brave men; but I am glad to die fighting for my dear country."

When Rizal returned to the Philippines in 1892, he knew that his life was in danger and his letter of farewell to his countrymen, written at Hongkong on June 20, 1892, which he asked to be published after his death, is an edifying example of self-effacement. He said: "Besides, I wish to show those who deny us patriotism that we know how to die for duty and principle. What matters death, if one dies for what one loves, for native land and those dear to one?... Always have I loved our unhappy land, and I am sure I shall continue loving it until my last moment, in case men should prove unjust to me. Life, career, happiness, I am ready to sacrifice for it. Whatever be my fate, I shall die blessing it and longing for the dawn of its redemption." And on the eve of his execution, he wrote his last Farewell which begins thus:

"Farewell, dear Fatherland, clime of the sun caress'd.

Pearl of the orient seas, our Eden lost!
Gladly now I go to give thee this faded
life's best,
And were it brighter, fresher, or more
blest,
Still would I give it thee, nor count
the cost."

Love of country is best exemplified by the self-sacrifice of Marcelo H. del Pilar, the undaunted courage of General Gregorio del Pilar, and the sublime self-immolation of Dr. Jose Rizal.

Service to the country is our inescapable obligation "and in the fulfillment of this duty all citizens may be required by law to render personal military or civil service." (Section 2, Article II, Philippine Constitution.)

We are engaged in the task of nation-building. For this purpose we must be united. As Rizal said, "The isolated drib of the *huri* palm is easily broken, but not so the broom made of the ribs of the palm bound together." We have one flag, one land, one heart, one purpose, one nation ever and forever.

III

RESPECT THE CONSTITUTION WHICH IS THE EXPRESSION OF YOUR SOVEREIGN WILL. THE GOVERNMENT IS YOUR GOVERNMENT. IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR YOUR SAFETY AND WELFARE. OBEY THE LAWS AND SEE THAT THEY ARE OBSERVED BY ALL AND THAT PUBLIC OFFICIALS COMPLY WITH THEIR DUTIES.

The Constitution is the expression of the sovereignty of the people. Its primordial aim is the welfare of all. "The welfare of the people," in the fiery language of Andres Bonifacio, "is the sole purpose of all the governments on earth. The people is all: blood and life, wealth and strength, all is the people."

Reverence for law as the expression of the popular will is the starting point in a democracy. According to Bonifacio, "He who obeys the power conferred by the people obeys the people and identifies himself with the will of all the citizens that compose the people, which identification or accord is necessary for the very life of the people."

The foundation stone of all governments is law and order. Without them it would be impossible to promote education, improve