

A LONG HIKE IN SAMAR.

Dismal and Dangerous Encounters by United States Troops in the Island.

The expedition just returned comprised about 450 men moving in eight columns, all under command of Capt. Jackson, First Infantry, who commanded the main column.

The columns were ordered to converge toward Mount Puro, a watered about 30 miles from the west and 80 miles from the north coasts of Samar.

The hike was resumed early the next morning, and on this day I had a chance to see what hiking in Samar was like.

On the next day, November 17, the leeches made their appearance in force. These little pests are found only on the mountain slopes—never in the valleys.

In addition to the pest of leeches, says a correspondent in the Manila American, we now begin to find many man-traps.

The cosmopolitan nature of the population of Manila is shown by an incident recently in the police court there.

CRUELTY IN PORTO RICO.

At present Americans stand aghast at the treatment of animals in Porto Rico, and even now the condition of affairs is not as bad as it was a few years ago.

It is by no means a common sight to see a pig vendor carrying, back and forth, a load of four legs of which are tied together.

One cruel sport, which the Hartzell bill is intended to abolish, is cockfighting. Every Sunday, within a short distance of San Juan, this time-honored form of recreation for Porto Ricans attracts a crowd of natives and a sprinkling of Americans to Catano, Bayamon, Santurce or Rio Piedras.

FILIPINO ILLITERACY.

Aside from the public schools and the churches, there have been no other important sources of enlightenment, says Frederick Atkinson, superintendent of education, in Atlantic.

Church in Danish West Indies. With the accession of the three West India islands from Denmark will come accession to the religious forces of the United States.

Philippine Education System. All employment of natives in the Philippines is on the padrone system. No American can walk out and hire a dozen Filipinos to go to work for him.

STONE'S FIERY HEART.

Now that opals have been restored to favor, and it is understood that instead of being omens of ill fortune they are really "lucky stones," it is easy to understand why supernatural agencies have been ascribed to the fascinating gem.

There is probably no other stone so susceptible to outside influences as an opal. The stone is soft, compared with other gems, and the flashing of its colors is due to the refraction of light on the tiny scales and almost invisible fissures within the stone.

It is a curious fact, too, that there are vapors emitted from the human body in certain diseased conditions that are capable of rendering the stone dull and opaque.

Most of the finest opals come from Hungary, but the principal vein has been exhausted lately, so that the gem in its finest variety is exceedingly rare.

INTRODUCING A FASHION.

Andries De Villiers, a Boer, was the person who first introduced hats among the South African natives, says the Hatters' Gazette.

When he reached Tembuland he unloaded his stock, opened his kegs of liquor, without which no trade was made in those days, and began business.

At Liverpool street railway station recently, just as the train was about to go out, a boy ran up to a ticket collector.

HOW TO WOO SLEEP.

After all the experienced sleepers who have told in the papers of the last century or so just how to sleep when you can't sleep, there now comes one with a new method.

He is true to his city. He prefers a front room somewhere in the middle of the city to a back room uptown.

The sleeper's explanation is that noises of different sorts, recurring at irregular intervals, take his mind off deep and continued thought on any one subject, which might keep him awake.

As to the value of sounds, many doubtless would prefer some sort of sound to the absolute quiet which seems essential to others.

On the occurrence of a plague scare in one of the afflicted cities of the Punjab, the clerks of a public office took flight, leaving behind them the following application:

The chief pang of most trials is not so much the actual suffering itself as our own spirit of resistance to it.

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FOREIGN GOSSIP.

The last census taken in Germany showed that 16,173 British subjects were residing there.

The Illinois will represent the United States as being the best vessel which we can furnish for the occasion.

The cutters of the great glove houses at Brussels and in France earn even higher wages than the cutters of the most fashionable tailors of London and New York.

FELL BESIDE HER MASTER.

Nominally, Towser belonged to his master; actually, he owned the regiment.

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Lethal Chamber for Dogs.

A lethal chamber for the destruction of lost dogs has been provided for the Paris pound.

Smoke Made Useful in Berlin.

In Brussels, Milnes and other Belgian towns a novel method of not only getting rid of smoke but turning it into use has recently been employed.

BUT ONE SHIP INVITED.

Great Britain has invited this government to send but one vessel to join in the naval celebration on the occasion of the coronation.

There is more or less entertaining in these officers, and the presence of a large number of ships would mean a good deal of expense to officers in maintaining the proper social intercourse.

GIVES BOY A GOOD MOTTO.

A short time ago the pupils in the Broadway school were instructed to choose and adopt a motto to be used as a guide through life.

The teacher suggested a letter to President Roosevelt, narrating the circumstances, and the boy added: "I can't be a president, for I have to be a doctor like my papa, but I will keep the motto."

TO STUDY LAKE FISH.

Senator McMillan has made a favorable report, by direction of the committee on fisheries, on the bill to authorize the establishment of the biological station on the great lakes at some point in Illinois.

Prof. Jowett, the great master of Balliol college, commenting on the crucial topic of growing old, wrote to a friend: "The later years of life appear to me, to be the best. They are less disturbed by care and the world; we begin to understand that things really never did matter so much as we supposed, and we are able to see them more in their true proportion instead of being overwhelmed by them."

Result of Good Times.

Burlington (Kan.) papers boast that within the past year monuments costing more than \$28,000 were erected in the local cemetery.

Western Europe Will Soon Have a Complete Long-Distance Telephone Service.

Plans are under way for an unbroken electric railway across the state of New York.