

**EVERYTHING ABOUT OUR NEW
POSSESSIONS: BEING A HANDY
BOOK ON CUBA, PORTO RICO,
HAWAII, AND THE PHILIPPINES**

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Everything about Our New Possessions: Being a Handy Book on Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii, and the Philippines by Ruel P. Smith & Thomas J. Vivian

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RUEL P. SMITH & THOMAS J. VIVIAN

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ABOUT
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BEING A HANDY BOOK
ON
CUBA, PORTO RICO, HAWAII,
AND
THE PHILIPPINES.

BY
THOMAS J. VIVIAN AND RUEL P. SMITH.

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INTRODUCTION.

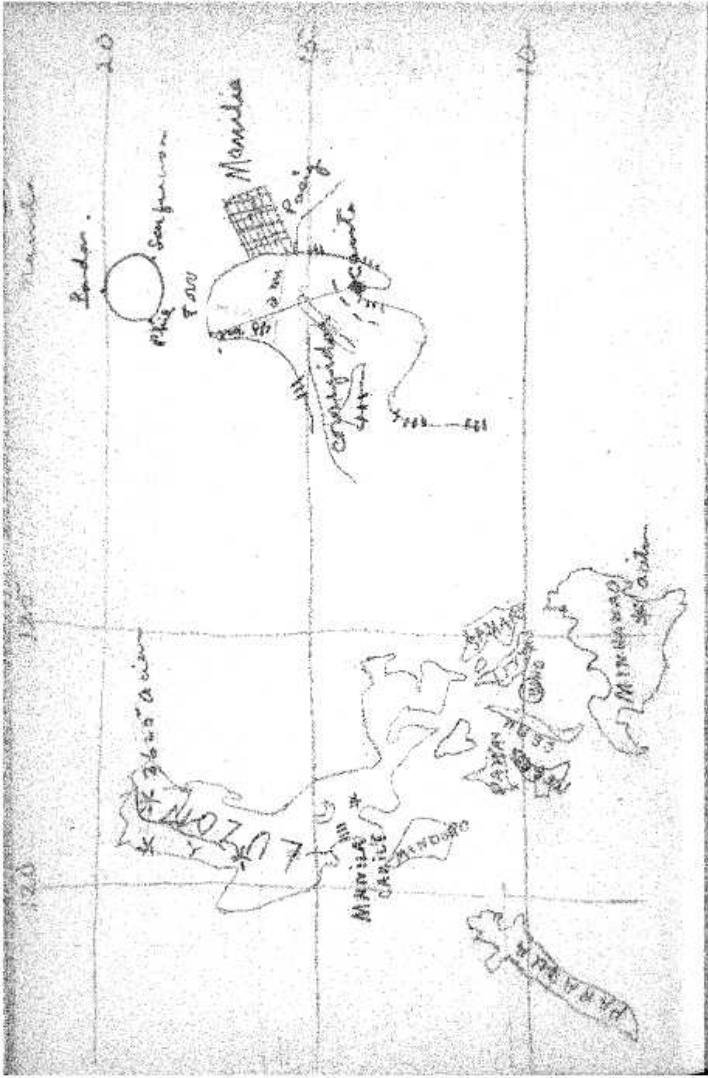
THERE is not one fact nor statement in this book that cannot be found in some other authoritative book or official document.

BUT the books and documents from which these facts and statements are taken would form a library of scores of volumes, with thousands of pages, and costing many dollars; while this is a handy book of but a few pages and costs but a trifle. Yet it contains all that is of value to the man who seeks information on our New Possessions.

The search for, extraction and arrangement of that information have taken months of hard, troublesome, tiring work.

BUT from this handy book a man may get that information in a minute, at a glance.

It is for these reasons, because it means the saving of time, labor and money, that it is believed this little volume will be valuable.



PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

As to NUMBER and AREA.

It is estimated that there are about 2,000 islands in the group.

New ones are being continually added to the maps.

A part of the archipelago is unexplored.

The principal islands are: Luzon, Mindanao, Palawan, Paragua, Samar, Panay, Mindoro, Leyte, Negros, Cebu, Masbate, Bohol, Catanduanes, Polillo, Marinduque, Tablas, Burias and Ticao.

Luzon, the largest, has.....	41,000	square	miles
Mindanao has.....	37,500	"	"
Palawan has.....	10,000	"	"
The next four have, each.....	10,000	"	"
Aggregate land area of the group.	<u>114,356</u>	"	"

For comparison:

Virginia.....	42,450	square	miles
Pennsylvania.....	45,215	"	"

The total area of the group is equal to the combined area of Pennsylvania, Virginia, New Hampshire, Maryland and Connecticut, and is about a thousand square miles larger than the Territory of Arizona.

The area of the mainland of Spain is 191,365 square

miles. The comparative figures give an adequate idea of what that country has lost in the Philippines.

The Philippine Islands form a great part of the vast archipelago lying southeast of Asia. They cover about 1,000 miles north and south and 600 miles east and west. They extend from 5 degrees 32 minutes to 19 degrees 38 minutes north latitude, and from 17 degrees to 126 degrees east longitude.

On the north and northwest the islands are separated from China by the China Sea and the Indo-Chinese Peninsula. Toward the east is the Pacific. On the north small islands stretch out toward Formosa. On the south a double connection is formed with Borneo by the line of the Palawan, Balabac and Sulu islands.

As to POPULATION.

Total estimated population of the islands.	8,000,000
Spaniards.	20,000
English, American and other foreign people (about).	5,000

Most of the tribes are of Malay origin. Besides these are Tagalos, Ygorotes, Aetas, Negritos, pure blacks, Chinese, Japanese, Indios, Moors and mixed races.

Some 500 languages and dialects are spoken.

In the as yet inaccessible parts of the islands there are unsubdued savage tribes, estimated at about 600,000 in number.

The most primitive are the Negritos, a race of

dwarf blacks. They are confined to the higher mountain ranges in Luzon and Negros.

On first arrival the Spaniards found a part of the natives somewhat civilized; but while they had a written language, of which some specimens have been preserved, it proved to be of no value in throwing light upon their early history.

Their traditions are few and their folk lore has not impressed itself on any Spanish historian. The Philippine Malays are a superior race to many other Asiatic peoples; they take life easy and are in the main easy of control, when not wrought upon by scheming leaders.

The natives are all born gamblers, and cock fighting is their principal pastime. Every town has its cockpit. The Spaniards have taken advantage of this passion as a means of extorting heavy taxes, and the government has conducted a lottery to take advantage of the islanders' habit of gaming. They are fond of music, dancing and amusements of all kinds.

As to CLIMATE.

IN THE REGION OF MANILA.

Hottest season.....from March to June
Hottest month.....May
Maximum temperature in May, from 80 to 100 degrees
Coolest season.....December and January
Temperature in coolest season,
from 60 to 65 at night; 75 by day
Most delightful season..from November to February