

THE TREATY WITH SPAIN *

COMMODORE PHILIP: It is peculiarly pleasant to me to present you with this sword, for one of my last official acts, as assistant secretary of the navy, was to break through regulations in order to give you the chance to have the turrets of the *Texas* so geared that her great guns could be used to the best possible advantage; and the sequel showed how well it was for the service, that you should be given the opportunity to get the utmost service from the mighty war-engine intrusted to your care.

When a commander-in-chief, afloat or ashore, has done the best possible with his forces, then rightly the chief credit belongs to him, and wise and patriotic students of the Santiago sea-campaign gladly pay their homage first to Admiral Sampson. It was Admiral Sampson who initiated and carried on the extraordinary blockade, letting up even less by night than by day, that will stand as the example for all similar blockades in the future. It was owing to the closeness and admirable management of the system of night blockades which he introduced, that Cervera's fleet was forced to come out by daylight. In other words, it was the success of his system which insured to the splendid sea-captains, under him, the chance to show their prowess to the utmost possible advantage. But the actual fight, although Admiral Sampson was present and in command, was a captains' fight, and in this actual fighting,

* Address on the occasion of the presentation of a sword to Commodore Philip, New York, February 3, 1899. *Public Papers as Governor*, Albany, 1899.

each captain did his work according to his own best judgment.

You, sir, by your conduct, alike during and after the fight; by your courage, by your professional skill and by your humanity, reflected honor upon the service to which you belong, upon the State in which you were born, and upon the mighty nation on the roll of whose worthies you that day wrote your name with your sword. I give utterance to the sentiment of all New York State—a sentiment from which no man in the Commonwealth will dissent—when I ask you to take this sword as a token of the high esteem in which we hold you and of our grateful acknowledgment of your having done a deed which has added to the long honor-roll in which all Americans take lasting pride.

You and your comrades at Manila and Santiago did their part well, and more than well. Sailor and soldier, on sea and on land, have bought with their valor, their judgment, their skill, and their blood, a wonderful triumph for America. It now rests with our statesmen to see that the triumph is not made void, in whole or in part. By your sword you won from war a glorious peace. It is for the statesmen at Washington to see that the treaty which concludes the peace is ratified. Cold indeed are the hearts of those Americans who shrink both from war and peace, when the war and peace alike are for the honor and the interest of America. To refuse to ratify the treaty would be a crime not only against America but against civilization. We cannot with honor shrink from completing the work we have begun. To leave the task half done whether in the East or the West Indies would be to make the matter worse than if we had never entered upon it. We have driven out a corrupt mediæval tyranny. In Cuba

and Porto Rico we are already striving to introduce orderly liberty. We shall be branded with the steel of clinging shame if we leave the Philippines to fall into a welter of bloody anarchy, instead of taking hold of them and governing them with righteousness and justice, in the interests of their own people even more than in the interests of ours. All honor to you and your comrades, to the generals and admirals, the captains and the men of might who showed such courage on the high seas and in the tropic islands of the sea! All shame to us if the statesmen flinch where the soldiers have borne themselves so well, if they fail to ratify the treaty which has been bought by such daring and such suffering, and which will fittingly crown the most righteous war the present generation has seen!