

moderated, when a vessel apparently in distress was observed on the horizon. Our course was altered, and as we neared the stranger, grand visions of prize-money or salvage flitted through our brain; but on closing it was found to be a miserable old brig of some 50 or 60 tons, without either masts, cargo, or anything else, all having been cleared out before being abandoned. Still we took her in tow, passing along the west coast of Luzon, its bold outlines and rugged volcanic ranges, covered with luxuriant tropical vegetation, in full view.

The next day, January 11th, we entered the harbour of Manilla. Soon after anchoring we were visited by the various officials, and by representatives from the Spanish, Russian, and Prussian vessels in port. One of our own vessels was also here, H.M.S. *Elk*, homeward bound from the China station. Just before we left Hong Kong, Admiral Shadwell had received a telegram from England announcing the proclamation of Don Alfonso as King of Spain, and we were the first to bring the news to the Philippines. It was difficult at first for the Spanish colonists to really credit the news, coming on them so unexpectedly. It caused no excitement, nor were there any steps taken by the authorities to make it public.

The city of Manilla (proper) is surrounded by ramparts, and has running through it a broad river, navigable for ten miles, up which we went in the