

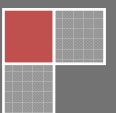
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La Masonería en el mundo – Filipinas

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Freemasonry in the Philippines.

From Collier's Weekly.

The "Siglo Futuro" ascribes the native revolution in the Philippines to Freemasonry. The statement has seemed quaint, but it has the merit of being exact. At Cavité there is—or was—a lodge known as the Primera Luz—the First Light. Affiliated branches are encounterable throughout the archipelago. In all there are nearly 200. Each branch is a revolutionary centre. In earlier days the fragmentary state in which the tribes subsisted precluded any idea of national unity. The solidarity which was lacking Freemasonry brought. To the natives the rites represented a form of sorcery fresher and even more mysterious than ancestral superstitions. The enthrallment of the unknown, attractive to all but irresistible to primitive natures, captured the most influential among them at once. They found in the brotherhood dignities which they craved, ceremonies which appealed, and therewith unimagined opportunities to rebel.

In her 300 years of dominion Spain failed to touch the native heart. There is one of her oversights. Where she has not massacred she has alienated. She repels and never endears. As a consequence, when it was found that Freemasonry, in addition to other charms, offered opportunities at table-turning, the latter were not suffered to go to waste. Once introduced—and introduced through processes too complex for recital here—it spread, and, in spreading, developed into a vast association known today as the Katipuan, which in some respects presents a curious resemblance to the Ku-Klux-Klan, and of which the watchword is *Hasta la muerte*, and the significance *Hatred of Spain*.

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