

over a hill and is then run through

lizer.
From what I can learn there have been only two deaths from cholera among Americans on all the islands, which is remarkable when it is considered the large number of deaths among the natives.

The natives here are helplessly going about their work, expecting any hour to be attacked. They huddle in groups and talk of nothing but cholera. They are trying to be careful of their diet, but they have not got a commissary to draw provisions and must subsist on native products, from which the disease is contracted. One family, parents and three children, were buried together.

The dead are not allowed to be buried in the cemetery, nor are they granted the priest's blessing, which is something the people cannot understand, as it is firmly rooted into them that without these ceremonies it is impossible to go to heaven.

The priests lose considerable by this, as deaths and marriages are their main source of revenue. A young lady told me that about eight years ago, when the smallpox swept this island, the people of this town died off like crickets, and as the padre blessed them all he made as high as a thousand dollars a day.

This morning we thought the cholera had died out, as there was not a case in town. We have just received news of two deaths this afternoon, and the gloom has settled on the town again. The church has been crowded all day with frightened women. All last night they sang and prayed in many houses to drive the cholera away, and now as I write I hear their mournful voices calling on the Almighty to relieve them in their distress.

Deserters.

It has been ~~known~~ ^{known} that when a regiment is ordered to the "states" all the long-time men are transferred to other regiments which have not been very long here. This rule is not always carried out; instead they transfer all the toughs and guard house "bums." This command recently received one of these consignments. Eight of the twenty-five men were serving sentence, and at once took up quarters in the "mill." In a very few days more followed, and out of the entire lot there are probably a half dozen men who intend to serve honorably.

One of the prisoners was a "tough proposition." Upon being searched two revolvers were found upon him. After being here ten days he refused to work, together with his "bunkie," and they were given solitary confinement on bread and water. Special quarters were made for them, with a heavy chain and lock.

The "tough" broke the chain the first night and got away without the guard seeing him. He took his blanket with him, and we have heard that he also had a revolver, but where he got it is a mystery. It was thought he would return by morning, as this is not a hospitable country for a deserter; and where can they go on one of these islands? He went, nevertheless, and is still gone.

He called on the commanding officer of Salcedo, where there is a company of Philippine scouts, and told quite a story of being an American in search of a business proposition. Salcedo is only thirteen miles from here. The lieutenant partly believed him and let him go on his way. After the man was gone the officer felt that he had done wrong, and tried to intercept the pedestrian, but it was too late.

The same day three other Americans called on the lieutenant, stating they were in search of business chances. This in the wilds of Samar will cause suspicion, so when the men were gone he sent messengers here with the information. Later on he was notified to hold these four men, as they were no doubt deserters or escaped convicts. Several parties were sent out without success.

During the insurrection on this island it was stated that Lukban was willing to surrender, but that he was held from doing so by the American deserters in the ranks. In one of his propositions to Gen. Smith he expressly requested favorable terms for these curs, which were, of course, not granted.

I was always under the impression that there were at least a dozen with Lukban, which included several negroes. There was