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EDITORIAL

NO QUARTER.

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WHEN Adam Smith wrote his chapter on colonies he did not have the benefit of {the} United States{'} colonial system in the Philippine Islands, and of the effect thereof upon the colonial practices of other and older colonies-holding countries. Spicy would have been the paragraphs that Adam Smith could then have added to his quite interesting chapter on colonies, especially after reading Gen. Leonard Wood's recent advocacy of "No quarter" for colonial insurgents, be they male or female, adults or children.

Colonies are peculiar institutions of capitalist rule. At home, religious tolerance must be practiced; in a colony the religion of the natives, being different from the standard religions of the "mother country," becomes a pretext to outrage them, and the outrage is committed under the cloak of religion. At home, some semblance of fairness must be preserved towards the worker: in the distant colony the natives are treated with impunity as a conquered race. At home, favorites can not all be placed in comfortable sinecures: a colony furnishes golden opportunities for soft berths where favorites can make fortunes in a short time. All this, and much more to the same effect, do colonies mean to the capitalist alleged "mother," but more properly "step-mother" countries. And all this has been practiced before by France, by Spain, by England in their colonies.

But times progress. Of late the barbarian methods of old have been considerably held in check. "Opposition" parties in parliaments, availing themselves of the facilities for gathering news, have had a salutary effect upon the conduct of colonial officers. That meant a reduction of income. At this season Gen. Wood turns up in Europe, apologizes for and justified the "No quarter" conduct of Roosevelt's pets in the Philippines, and thereby gives a new lease of life, or rather promotes to life the worst practices that formerly blackened the records of colonial

administration. Quick was the ruling class of Europe to see their opportunity, and seize it. Gen. Wood's words were telegraphed all over and praised. If a republic finds it necessary to give no quarter to native colonial insurgents, why, "No quarter" can not be found fault with; "No quarter" is democratic, it is republican, it is Christian.

Capitalist rule in America is spreading its poisonous exhalations beyond our own borders. It is infecting Europe. It is becoming an international plague.

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