

Transcription, January 2015:

*New York Times* 48 (15310) (3 Feb. 1899): 6d-6e (anon.).

[p. 6d]

One of the few Englishmen of real eminence who has seen fit to discuss American “expansion” in the tone of pitying superiority with which Boston has made us all more than sufficiently familiar is Alfred R. Wallace, the man who would have announced the theory of evolution to the world if Darwin had not formulated that theory just when he did. It may be that Mr. Wallace has never recovered from the disappointment of having narrowly missed the acquisition of deathless fame, and therefore looks with a yellowing eye at the prompt undertaking of great enterprises either by individuals or by nations. However that may be, he is now in a most lugubrious state of mind over what, in a letter to *The London Chronicle*, he calls our abandonment of the noble principles on which our Republic was founded. With the calm disregard for facts characteristic of his mental condition, Mr. Wallace discusses Cuba and the Philippines as equally threatened by our newly awakened land hunger, and he assumes that the East and the West Indians are equally competent to set up free Governments for themselves. He utterly ignores our promises and our preparations for getting out of Cuba and talks at great length of our ruthless suppression of aspirations for liberty in both hemispheres. For a wonder, Mr. Wallace has suggestions as well as criticisms to make with regard to the Philippines. “Surely,” he says, “it is possible for the Americans to revert to their first expressed intention of taking a small island only as a naval and coaling station, and to declare themselves the protectors of the islands against foreign aggression. Having done this, they might invite the civilized portion of the natives to form an independent Government, offering them advice and assistance if they wish for it, but otherwise leaving them completely free. It might be advisable at first to leave the great island of Mindanao, mostly inhabited by Mohammedans, to form its own separate Government, and some guarantees might properly be asked for the fair treatment of the uncivilized portion of the population, such as the presence of a few American residents as protectors of the aborigines.” Now isn’t that a fine scheme—a scheme sure to work well and to please everybody!

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*The Alfred Russel Wallace Page*, Charles H. Smith, 2015.