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SOME EMINENT FILIPINO LAWYERS

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JOSE ARRIETA

If the greatness of a man in any branch of learning could be measured by the number and importance of positions he has held and the manner in which he has held them, then José Arrieta y Mijares should be counted as one of those who may truly be called great lawyers, for only a few Filipinos of the past or of the present could boast of having occupied and fulfilled with honor the duties of as many important offices as he did. In rising to important positions, Arrieta owed more to his intelligence, his tact and unblemished honor than to mere good luck. In so doing he never used intrigue, hatred or flattery as instruments. Being a man prepared for every position he held by reason of his natural talent developed by long studies, in every case it was the position that sought the man and not the man, the position.

But Arrieta was not only intellectually great. He was also morally great. His conduct was plain, courteous, and unassuming. Possessed of a pure and religious character, his public and private life was marked by uprightness and integrity, and by lack of malice towards any one.

José Arrieta y Mijares was a son of Vicente Arrieta y Pobery and Doña María Manuel Mijares y Wilson. He was born in the city of Manila on February 19, 1816. This great legal mind was raised within the narrow bounds of these Islands, but though he did not have the splendid opportunities offered by the great universities of Europe, yet, like Pacheco, La Serna, and other great jurisconsults of his day, he succeeded in making himself a great expounder of the law. An orphan at an early age, he commenced his literary studies while thirteen years old in the University of Sto. Tomás, on the second day of July, 1824, and finished them in 1842, without having failed in one single course. He received the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy at eighteen and that of Bachelor of Laws at twenty-two. While a law student, he was under the care of the great *catedrático*, Dr. José Jugo, who was then the instructor in law. In those days, it was customary for the different *catedráticos* to offer "actos literarios" to the Governor-General and Archbishop of these Islands upon the assumption of their offices. For these "actos literarios," the brightest students were chosen to speak on important subjects. So when in 1830 his Excellency Governor-General Andrés García Camba took possession of his office, and Dr. Jugo's turn came, the honor of speaking on that occasion was conferred upon Arrieta.

In 1839, while yet a law student, even the government already recognized in him a man of no ordinary capacity, as was shown by his appointment by the "Gobierno Superior" of these Islands as "Catedrático Interino de Filosofía" in the "Real Colegio y Seminario de Nobles del Sr. San José." He took the oath of office on July 2, 1839, and remained in the position until December 16, 1844. On January 8, 1844, he was appointed "Catedrático Interino de Derecho Patrio" in the University of Sto. Tomás, and on the following day he was made permanent *catedrático* by the Superior decree of June 8, 1844, after he had successfully undergone an "oposición" or contest. This appointment was confirmed by the Royal Order of September 26, 1845. He held the position until October 31, 1848, when he was obliged to vacate it in order to occupy the office of "Tenencia de Gobierno y Juzgado de Primera Instancia de Zamboanga." While holding the position of "Catedrático de Derecho Patrio," he was appointed by the Audiencia of these Islands Promotor Fiscal of the "Alcaldía Mayor Tercera" for the Province of Tondo, taking his oath of office on January 15, 1846. In this capacity, he served for over two years. By Royal Decree of January 25, 1848, he was, for the first time, appointed by the Magistrate in charge of the "Juzgado General y Privativo de Bienes de Difuntos," "defensor general interino" of said court, which position he continued to hold until September 16, 1848, when he had to resign and absent himself from Manila in order to take charge of the Court at Zamboanga. On November 20, 1848, he took his oath of office as Lieutenant Governor and Judge of First Instance for the District of Zamboanga, to which position he was appointed by the Royal Order of May 12, 1848, and which he held for over three years. In 1854, owing to the numerous positions he had held and to the brilliant manner in which he had performed the functions appertaining thereto, he was awarded the degree of *Doctor en Jurisprudencia*. In 1855, he was, for the second time, appointed "defensor general interino" of the "Juzgado de Bienes de Difuntos" by the Magistrate in charge of said Court under authority given by the Royal Order of January 24, of said year. He held this position until March 1, 1856, when he resigned. On July 26, 1856, he was appointed, after an "oposición," *Catedrático Propietario* of Roman Law in the University of Santo Tomás by Royal Resolution of the Audiencia and Chancillería of the Philippines, which was the *Vice-Patrona* of said *cátedra* and which represented Her Majesty the Queen, who was the *Patrona*. His appointment was ratified by Royal Order of October 25, 1856. He commenced to perform the duties of this new position on July 24, 1856, and continued to hold the same until his death. In 1857, he was appointed by the Royal Decree of October 13, of said year, *Fiscal de Mariana* of this "Apostadero," an office which he held until March, 1873. On that month and year, the "Comandancia General" of this "Apostadero" handed him his appointment as *Fiscal de Mariana* for the "Apostadero" at Havana, said appointment having been made by the Board of Admiralty on January 7, the same year. He, however, declined to accept the position on account of physical deficiencies which affected his hearing. Having won the unlimited confidence

of the different Commanding Generals of the "Apostadero" of these Islands by reason of his great work for the same, he was again, on five different occasions, appointed temporarily to the position of Auditor of said "Apostadero," on account of the absence or death of those who held it. Besides the positions which have been mentioned, Arrieta also held the high positions of Dean of the "Matrícula de Abogados de la Real Audiencia" of these Islands, Dean of the body of Professors of Literature of Sto. Tomás University, Dean of the Faculty of Law of said University, Associate Professor of the "Academia de Legislación y Jurisprudencia Matricense," and "Comendador" of the Royal and Distinguished Order of Queen Isabela I.

Heretofore I have mentioned only the important offices held by Arrieta. I am now going to mention a few of the minor positions he occupied, the functions of which he performed with the same zeal and interest. In 1844, His Excellency the Captain General of these Islands, having ordered the organization of a city militia (Milicia Urbana), found himself in need of a sergeant for the second company of that body. Upon the recommendation of the Manila Ayuntamiento, he was appointed to the place on January 21, 1844. In 1857, besides his appointment as Fiscal de Mariana, he was also appointed by the "Tribunal de Comercio" Assistant Consulting Attorney to act in case the Consulting Attorney could not be consulted by the Tribunal. He was a member of the Permanent Committee on Fishery (Junta Permanente de Pesca) which was created by the Commander of the Navy of this "Apostadero" in 1865 by virtue of a Royal Order commanding him to create such a committee. He was a member of a committee of professors appointed in 1871 by the "Rector" of the University of Sto. Tomás in order to formulate a plan and provisional regulations for the course of studies in that University.

From the time he passed the examination for admission to the bar until his death, with the exception of the short period which he spent in Zamboanga, he continuously devoted his time, working until very late at night, to making himself a master of the law, accepting the positions to which he was appointed in order to learn in practice as much law as he could. This desire to become an expert in law is apparent from the following story told about him. Besides the "oposiciones" which he underwent for the "Cátedras de Derecho," he also entered an "oposición" for the position of "Relator" of the Audiencia. The contestant who won the first place having declined to accept the position, the same was tendered to Arrieta. But he also declined, declaring that he had taken part in said contest not primarily to acquire the office but simply to test once more his legal capacity, and to obtain a further merit in his profession. Such merit he desired to increase by the publication of a work on Roman Law compared with Spanish Law which he had already begun, but which he was unable to finish by reason of his death, which took place on October 30, 1881, at the age of sixty-six.

Such was José Arrieta, the great lawyer, whose counsel was sought by eminent persons in authority, such as the Governor General, the Archbishop, and Commanders of the Navy, and who was ever found to be an untiring upholder of the toga, which he worthily wore for a period of forty years.*

* The whole of this biography was obtained from Manuel Artigas.

JOSÉ ENRIQUEZ BASA

On the sixteenth day of August, 1843, at Cavite, was born one of the greatest Filipino lawyers, José Enriquez Basa. His early school days were passed in the College of San Juan de Letrán, where he was considered as one of those of which the college could well be proud. After graduating from that college, he entered the University of Sto. Tomás, and there pursued the study of law with great zeal and success. He was admitted to the bar in 1870, and afterwards practiced his profession in his native town.

Hardly had he been three years in practice when the revolution of 1872 broke out. When it was suppressed, the Spanish government wreaked its vengeance even upon those whose participation could not be established to a certainty, and especially upon those Filipinos who, they believed, were enlightened to a degree inconsistent with the safety of an oppressive colonial government. Thus we find that José Basa, probably for no other reason than that he was a lawyer, was sentenced to banishment and imprisonment at the Mariana Islands, together with ten priests, seven lawyers, and five merchants.

By the Royal Order of November 23, 1874, he and his companions were pardoned upon the condition that they would never return to the Philippines. So Mr. Basa went to Hongkong, with the intention to reside there permanently. But in 1876, the Spanish government having permitted them to return, he came home and continued the practice of law in Cavite, until he was appointed *promotor fiscal* for that province. Not long afterwards, due to his excellent record as fiscal, he was made a judge of the Court of First Instance for the same province.

In 1892, he was obliged to change his residence to Davao, but after a few months, he returned to Manila and resumed the practice of law. In 1894, he wrote a commentary on rules for cockfighting. (Vol. 2, Retana, p. 684.)

When the revolution of 1896 broke out, and the Insurgent forces were successful enough to establish the ephemeral government of the Philippine Republic, and the different provinces were sending their representatives to the Malolos Congress, Mr. Basa and Mr. Ilagan, as the two best fitted men of Cavite, were chosen to represent said province. That government having divided itself into different departments, his recognized ability in law led to his appointment as chief of the Department of Justice (Renacimiento Filipino of July 7, 1910).

It was in this high capacity that the American army of occupation found him. So when in 1899 the Americans established a military government in the Islands, General Otis, then in command of the American forces, appointed him Judge of the Court of First Instance for the District of Intramuros. He held this office until July, 1901, when the civil government was established. Still desirous to practice his profession, in June, 1901, he presented to the Supreme Court his petition for permission to practice law. He took and subscribed the required oath of allegiance to the United States on June 28, 1901. In September, 1902, due to the vacancy

in the Bar Examination Committee occasioned by the resignation of Pedro Concepción, the Supreme Court, attracted by his activity in the Philippine Bar Association, his long experience and tried ability, appointed him a member of said committee.

This was his last service to the legal profession. After that, by reason of old age and a desire to retire from public life, he left the practice of law to lead a private life devoted exclusively to the taking care of his failing health, his family, and property. He died in 1905.

AMBROSIO RIANZARES BAUTISTA

It is to be regretted that the life of Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista can not be very completely related, as it is the consensus of opinion among the great Filipinos of today that he was one of the greatest lawyers of the Philippines. Of his "expedientes," which are Numbers 206, 406, 208, 616, 211, 986, only the last one can be found, and, in spite of the writer's efforts, he has not been able to know more about the principal events in the life of this man.

The date and place of his birth are unknown. It is a fact, however, that he spent the greater part of his life in Manila and Pangasinan. He was a law graduate of the University of Sto. Tomás.

As a lawyer, he first opened his law office on August 20, 1870. Of his work as such only a little is known. Any one, however, who considers the great fame he has won and reads his "Manifiesto" of June 8, 1900, can not but be convinced that Rianzares Bautista was indeed a great lawyer, for, as will be shown hereafter, he displayed in that work a perfect knowledge of American and European History, of the principles of American Constitutional Law, of Public International Law and the usages of civilized nations. After the Treaty of Paris, in the face of great opposition on the part of many prominent Filipinos, he sustained in his arguments the validity of the Treaty and the absolute authority of a conquering nation over the territory and inhabitants of the conquered one. By order of the Supreme Court dated August 20, 1877, he was appointed "defensor de oficio." (Expediente number 211,986; Manifiesto of June 8, 1900.)

Prior to the 8th day of July, 1901, he was a judge of the Court of First Instance of Pangasinan. His "Manifiesto" of June 8, 1900, declares that he accepted the position because of the great number of crimes committed in that province due to the war and the influence of the *Decalogues* of Mabini.

On September 1, 1901, he was appointed professor of Criminal Law in the "Liceo de Manila." (El Renacimiento of September 3, 1901.)

Rianzares Bautista lent great aid to Rizal and other Filipinos in their patriotic labors. He was a member of the "Liga Filipina," a secret society alleged to have

been established by Rizal, and whose aims were to foster the growth and enlightenment of the Filipino people and to ultimately secure their emancipation from Spain. In 1888, he was a member of the propaganda committee, appointed by the Liga and intended to create among Filipinos widespread dissatisfaction against the religious orders, and to secure pecuniary aid. To this end, he travelled through many provinces. When Doroteo Cortez was attempting to secure from Japan assistance against Spain, his strong coworker in the Philippines was Rianzares Bautista.

He was intimately connected with, and was among the most conspicuous public men of, the Revolution of 1896, as well as of the period from 1896 to 1901. On the sixteenth day of September, 1896, he and nineteen other distinguished and wealthy residents of Manila were arrested for political reasons. He was a member of the National Assembly of the Philippine Republic, participating actively in its deliberations. He was one of the principal advisers of Aguinaldo when the latter returned from Hongkong and assumed the command of the Filipino forces.

In his character of adviser to Aguinaldo, he often had a clash with Mabini and the general himself. He, with other Filipino lawyers, pointed out to the general certain defects of the Mabini plan of government and of the organic decree of June 18, 1899, for the organization of the provinces and municipalities. He censured very severely the ideas of Mabini as they appeared in his Decalogues, contending that many of the crimes committed during the war were results of the anti-Christian principles therein contained.

One of the great works of Rianzares Bautista was his "Manifesto" of June 8, 1900, which stands as one of the important documents relating to the political conditions of the Islands from 1896 to 1900. In this book, he called upon his countrymen to lay down their arms and submit to American sovereignty. He censured the useless resistance of the Filipino forces on the ground that considering the wealth, population, and strength of both Americans and Filipinos, the unequal battle must prove disastrous to the latter. In order to allay the fears of the Filipinos that they would be enslaved by the Americans and in order that the former may trust the latter, he told his countrymen that the United States always had been the liberator of oppressed people, and that the greatest war in which she had been engaged had for its purpose the freeing of several million people from the bonds of slavery. He praised the first Philippine Commission for the early establishment of civil government, for organizing the municipalities and enacting an excellent Code of Civil Procedure. Lastly he requested his countrymen to stop the acts of hostility and employ their energy in the development of commerce, agriculture, and industry.

Of the later life of this man nothing on record can be found. But his reputation as a lawyer, scholar, statesman, pacificator, and patriot, will long live in the memory of his countrymen.

JUAN FRANCISCO LECAROS

One of the greatest legal minds which the Filipino people can justly be proud of was our last Representative to the Spanish Cortes, Honorable Juan Francisco Lecaros. He was born in Binondo, Manila, at the beginning of the nineteenth century. He belonged to one of the richest, aristocratic and most distinguished families of Manila at the time.

He received his education in the University of Sto. Tomás as an "alumno interno," graduating therefrom with the degree of Licentiate in Law.

Having passed the required examination in 1823, he was admitted to the practice of law, with the privilege of appearing and conducting cases before any court in every part of the Spanish monarchy. (Expediente number 207,411.)

Soon after his admission to the bar, he opened a law office with Joaquin Pardo de Tavera and attracted the attention of the juriconsults of the time on account of the activity and knowledge which he employed in the solution of the numerous cases presented to him. The increase in the number of his clients and his growing reputation excited the jealousy of his brother attorneys, who lost no time in procuring a sentence against him, by which he was deprived of his right to practice his profession.

After this incident, he was compelled to retire to his *hacienda* in San Pedro Macati. But his numerous friends and clients visited him even there to seek advice on the most perplexing points of law.

It was about this time that an event occurred which caused him to go back to public life. King Ferdinand VII of Spain died on September 29, 1833. Upon his death the Liberals again demanded governmental concessions as well as a constitutional form of government. As a result, the third Spanish Cortes of 1834-1837 was called. In the election in the Philippines on March 1, 1835, for Representatives to that body, the choice fell upon Brigadier Andrés García Camba and Licentiate Juan Francisco Lecaros, both of whom took their oath on November 24, 1835. They were unable to do very much for these Islands on account of their limited powers. They presented two petitions signed by both of them to the "Secretario del Despacho de Hacienda," in one of which they asked for a reduction of the excessive duties imposed on the importation of Spanish brandy into the Islands, and in the other for the reduction of the number of pensioners and inferior employees sent here, as their coming here injured the interests of Spaniards who were natives of the Philippines. Honorable Lecaros by himself presented a plan to Mendizabal, then provisional president of the "Consejo de Ministros," for the suppression of the tobacco monopoly in the Philippines, but it proved unsuccessful. (Vol. 51, Blair and Robertson, pp. 293-296.)

Upon his return to the Philippines, he was appointed Government Assessor for the years 1843 and 1844. In 1854, he was made "Conciliario" of the Spanish-Filipino Bank, which is now known as the Bank of the Philippine Islands. (Vol. 2, Retana, p. 630.)

For a second time, he went to Europe, residing in Madrid in 1861, where he died in the year 1868.

JOAQUIN PARDO DE TAVERA

Don Joaquin Pardo de Tavera was a man of noble and ancient lineage. He was related to many families of noblemen. His family had borne this surname from as ancient a date as 1460 when Cardinal Pardo de Tavera became Archbishop of Toledo. He was born on September 19, 1829, in the historic province of Cavite. (Sucesos de 1872, p. 242; Expediente number 205676.)

Like his brother, Felix Pardo de Tavera, he was educated in the University of Sto. Tomás where he was an "alumno de beca." He matriculated in said University for the course of Canon Law on July 2, 1849, and completed it on March 6, 1852. In this course he was under the professorship of the celebrated Dr. Jugo. He took up the course of *Derecho Patrio*, which was taught by the great *catedrático* Don Francisco de Marcaida on July 2, 1853, and completed it on March 6, 1857. He must have been an exceptionally bright student, for when his professors were unable to attend their classes, he was allowed to substitute them temporarily. (Expediente number 205676.)

He was admitted to the bar on August 7, 1857. His popularity began to spread rapidly. He was appointed on December 15, 1857, by the Real Audiencia, "Relator" of that body and Lieutenant Governor for the Batanes Islands. He, however, declined the position of Relator on account of his declining health, and accepted only the position of Lieutenant Governor, which he held only for a short time. On February, 1861, the position of "Promotor Fiscal" of the Hacienda of Manila, having been left vacant by the resignation of Vicente Arrieta, Pardo de Tavera was appointed to fill the place for that year. His work was, however, so satisfactory that on August 1, 1862, he was reappointed for the following year. On May 12, 1864, the *Gobierno Superior Civil* of these islands appointed him "Teniente Fiscal of the Real Audiencia." In December, 1864, his brother Felix Pardo de Tavera, who was then holding the respectable position of "Consejero de Administracion," died. For this vacancy, the authorities in the Philippines as well as in Spain finding no one else better qualified to fill it, Don Joaquin Pardo de Tavera was appointed by the Royal Order of December 6, 1864. In 1860 he was appointed "Regidor" of the Manila Ayuntamiento (Expediente number 205676; W. Retana, p. 808.)

About this time, the position of *Catedrático de Derecho Patrio* of the University of Santo Tomás, a position which could be held by, and was given only to, men of such rare ability as Dr. Jugo and very few others, became vacant owing to the resignation of the great *catedrático*, Francisco de Marcaida. In those days, aspirants for the position of *catedrático* had to submit to a most searching and difficult examination before the public. Confident in his long-trying ability, Don Joaquin Pardo de Tavera did not hesitate to submit to the trial. His examination took place in the Church of Sto. Domingo, where, owing to the extraordinary solemnities which attended it, a select and numerous representation of Manila society had gathered. As was expected by all, this great master of the law came out triumphant from the trial,

obtaining an excellent grade. (Sucesos de 1872, p. 244.) Shortly afterwards, he was given the degree of Doctor of Laws. His appointment by the Gobierno Superior Civil of these islands as *Catedrático de Derecho Patrio* of the University of Sto. Tomás came to him on September 2, 1865.

From that moment the laurels he had won gained for him the admiration of all classes of people in and out of the government. As proof of this fact, a great number of associations deemed it a high privilege and honor to make him an honorary member. Among those associations were the Obras Pías, the College of Sta. Isabel, the Real Hospicio de San José, and the celebrated "Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País"

In the meantime, the popular dissatisfaction which culminated in the Revolution of 1872 was beginning to spread. As had always been the case, the seeds of revolution found fertile soil in the historic province of Cavite. Mr. Pardo de Tavera, then considered as one of the most prominent men of the liberal party among the Filipinos, a true son of Cavite and a real Filipino patriot, participated in the movement as a member of the *Comité de Reformadores* (Sucesos de 1872, p. 246.) The Revolution having proved unsuccessful, its leaders, including those who were merely suspected of being participants, incurred the penalty imposed by the government. Mr. Pardo de Tavera was sentenced to banishment and imprisonment for six years at the Mariana Islands, (Vol. 2, Retana, pp. 792, 808). He did not have to stay long in this penal colony, for he was granted pardon by the Royal Order of November 23, 1874. On the same year, he embarked for Paris, France, where he resided until his death, which took place in 1883. ((Los Sucesos de 1872, p. 246).

Mr. Pardo de Tavera was a man of imposing and dignified appearance. Wherever he went, he was admired by all who came in contact with him. Being a man of deep convictions, he never let an opportunity pass by without revealing them. His strength of character enabled him to defend, with a firmness to be admired, those causes which he believed were just, and to study with his characteristic democratic criterion and earnestness the vital problems concerning the Philippines. Whenever such questions were to be discussed, he always placed himself in the lead, employing all his activity and ability in favor of the cause of liberty. (Sucesos de 1872, p. 245.)

As a great lawyer and as a man of strong character, he was well described by the Rector of the University of Sto. Tomás in the recommendation of said Rector to the "Gobierno Superior Civil" prior to his appointment as *Catedrático de Derecho Patrio* of said University. The recommendation runs as follows: "Don Joaquin Pardo de Tavera is a man of great learning, just, versed in the school of the world, of sound and upright convictions, of a pure life and of strict principles of morality." (Expediente number 205676).

JOSE JUAN DE ICAZA

Among the most prominent Filipino lawyers and public men during the last days of the Spanish régime was José Juan de Icaza, who was born in Manila in 1856. His father, José Ignacio de Icaza, was himself a great lawyer.

The early school days of José Juan de Icaza were spent in the "Ateneo de Manila" (afterwards by Royal Decree changed to "Ateneo Municipal de Manila,") where he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts with excellent grades. He then matriculated in law in the University of Sto. Tomás, graduating therefrom in 1877 with the degree of Licenciado in Law. (*Expediente* No. 205,502.)

During the last days of Spanish rule, the most brilliant trinity among the glories of the forum in the Philippines was composed of Icaza, Chief Justice Arellano, and Moreno Lacalle. In the law office of Icaza, some of the great lawyers of the present worked as "pasantes," among them being Messrs. Gregorio Araneta (Ex-Secretary of Finance and Justice), Felix Roxas (Alcalde de Manila), and Francisco Ortigas (Chairman of the Code Committee). Icaza, according to Retana, was a lawyer of no common ability. To his great talent was added the advantage of being an eloquent orator, a brilliant writer and poet. (Vol. 3, Retana, p. 1337.)

Although he had the appearance of a simple and common person, yet, in reality, he was the opposite kind of a man, for he had the greatest confidence in his profound knowledge of legal matters and in his prodigious memory, which served him well on many occasions. It is said of him that he was once called upon to argue an important case with only a preparation of three hours prior to the commencement of the hearing before the "Real Audiencia." He, however, successfully presented arguments, which would fill a considerable number of pages, with such eloquence, force, and logical arrangement of facts that the counsel of the adverse party and the judges believed that he had previously made a detailed study of the case. His extraordinary ability was such that oftentimes he would write his legal correspondence for Spain just two hours before the mail left, and yet he could give facts and conclusions which met the approval of even such a great man as Minister Antonio Maura.

For the benefit of the public service, he discharged the functions of many important offices. He was appointed *defensor de officio* numberless of times. He was made Dean of the "Colegio de Abogados," "Consejero de Administración," Councillor of the Ayuntamiento of Manila, and had the great honor of being appointed "Jefe Superior de Administración."

In the foregoing paragraphs, I have described Mr. Icaza as a lawyer and as a public official. I will now describe him as a writer and as a poet.

As a writer, he had been *redactor* of "El Comercio" for which, due to his membership in the "Real Sociedad Economica de los Amigos del País," he wrote excellent articles touching on great economic questions. One of them, which he wrote specially on the occasion of the inauguration of the *Compañía Marítima*, discussed the question of the rights of aliens to acquire real estate in the Philippine Islands, in which he

was of the opinion that they could. He had also been *redactor* of the newspaper "La Ilustración del Oriente," writing under the penname of "YO" and *redactor* and *colaborador* of the magazine "El Liceo Artístico-Literario de Manila." (Vol. 3, W. E. Retana, p. 1573.)

As a poet, he contributed a great number of poems to the above publications. It was through his great interest in poetry that he came to know and admire Julia Moratinos, who was herself a poetess, and who later on became his wife. The magazine "El Liceo Artístico-Literario de Manila" was full of the poetical works of Mr. and Mrs. Icaza, both of whom obtained prizes given in contests held under its auspices. Probably the best production of Mr. Icaza as a poet was his splendid tribute to Don Miguel Cervantes de Saavedra, written on the 260th anniversary of the death of this great writer, entitled "Artístico de los Ingenios Extranjeros," (Vol. 2, Retana, p. 835; Vol. 3, *Ibid.*, p. 1587.)

Mr. Icaza, being of a democratic character, had many Filipino friends. It was for this reason, as well as for his wisdom and wealth, that when the Revolution of 1896 broke out, he was among those denominated as Filibusters, and against whom numerous charges were made. In reality, however, he had no connection at all with the movement, although he was a true and progressive Filipino and a constant admirer of popular liberties.

Such in brief was the life of José Juan de Icaza, who, in spite of the fact that he never went out of these islands, and, therefore, never had the opportunity of studying in European Universities, was yet able to make for himself a name as great as that of other Filipinos who studied abroad.

ANTONIO MARIA REGIDOR

Antonio María Regidor, a great Filipino lawyer and one of the greatest of all Filipinos, was born in Manila, on April 16, 1845. His early schooldays were spent in the College of San Juan de Letrán. From that college, he entered, as a "colegial de beca," the University of Sto. Tomás. There he finished the course in civil law with an excellent standing and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Civil Law. Impelled by a great desire for more learning and for travel, he went to Spain and studied in the "Universidad Central de Madrid," where he obtained the degree of Doctor of Canon Law. (*Los Sucesos de 1872*, p. 226.)

On account of his great learning and ability, Mr. Regidor was appointed to many public positions. He had been Secretary of the Audiencia, "Fiscal de Artillería é Ingenieros," "Consejal Síndico" of the Ayuntamiento of Manila, Inspector of Schools, President of the Board of Public Instruction, Secretary of the special committee for the entrance of natives into the career of civil administration, President of the Committee on Statistics of Quiapo, Manila, and attorney for General Carlos La Torre. (Vol. 2, Retana, p. 799.)

As lawyer, Mr. Regidor is considered as one of the best the Philippines has produced. His fame in the field of the law spread not only in the Philippines, but also in Spain and in England. In London, where he spent many years of his life, and where he occupied an important position in the London Chamber of Commerce, he was a leading member of the bar. One of the greatest cases he handled in that city was a suit based upon a breach of contract by a ship-building company of England which had promised to undertake to build certain warships for the Spanish government. The case was decided in his favor, a large amount of damages having been awarded. (*Los Sucesos de 1872*, p. 231.)

But Regidor's title to fame rests not only upon his success in the legal profession but upon his literary achievements as well. He was a contributor to *El Comercio* for many years. He frequently wrote articles for the *Diario de Manila*, using the penname of Luis V. Pancé. In 1906, he published an interesting article on the life of Rizal in the *Filipino Students' Magazine* (No. 4, Vol. II, of December, 1906, pp. 36-38). At the time of his death, he was preparing a book of biographies of leading Filipinos. (*Los Sucesos de 1872*, p. 233.)

When the Revolution of 1872 was suppressed, it was only natural that the Spanish government should wreak its vengeance upon the leading natives, among whom was Mr. Regidor. So feared was he that in the accusation he was denominated the guiding spirit of the revolt. Like other Filipino patriots, who worked for the acquisition of reforms, he was sentenced by a military tribunal to banishment and imprisonment for eight years. (Vol. 2, p. 799, Retana.) Accordingly, he was sent to the Mariana Islands, the place of confinement for political offenders.

He had only been a short time in that place when an agreement was made with the Captain of the American vessel, by virtue of which the latter took him to the island of Yap from where he was transferred by an English vessel to the island of Solomon, and from there to Palaos. In the last place, he remained two months, and he would have surely died there had it not been for the coincidence that the principal partner of the Hongkong firm of Anthony Brothers was the "Venerable" of the great Lodge of "San Ignacio de Agaña." Being a mason like Regidor, upon the latter's petition the American vessel, *Rupax*, was sent to the Mariana Islands. It clandestinely carried Messrs. Regidor, José Basa, Máximo Paterno and Joaquin Pardo de Tavera, all prisoners, to a German vessel, which took them to Hongkong. From this place, our hero went to Marseilles, to Bourdeaux, and then to Paris, where he presented himself to the Spanish Vice-Consul. On April 11, 1876, the pardon given by the Royal Order of November 23, 1874, was extended to him upon the petition of Messrs. Rafael Labra and Manuel Regidor. (*Los Sucesos de 1872*, p. 228.)

Though Mr. Regidor suffered much from the Spanish government, he never nursed any feeling of hatred toward Spain. On the contrary, as was declared by him at a banquet given by the Filipino Colony of Madrid on September 7, 1893, he never would have a word of censure against the happenings at Cavite nor against the injustices of which he had been a victim, because both of them marked an important evolution in the history of his country.

His long absence from his native country caused him to make his last visit to these Islands in 1906. The fame which he had, his political antecedents, and his vast learning made his return an event of great importance to Americans and Filipinos alike, who expected from him important declarations, especially with regard to the political condition of these Islands. The disappointment was therefore great when he remained silent. His silence, however, was justified; for, although he was a wise old statesman, he had been absent from the islands for so many years that he did not consider himself a competent judge of Philippine conditions upon his return, and as he did not wish to rely on secondhand information, he preferred to remain silent. (*Los Sucesos de 1872*, p. 232.)

After a short stay in the Philippines, he went back to Europe, where he died in January, 1912.

CONCLUSION

Something may here be said of the great difficulties that these eminent men of the past encountered in their legal studies.

First.—In their times, Spanish was not yet taught. The primary and secondary courses, and even Roman Law and Canon Law, were taught in Latin. The Spanish government, for the purpose of putting the Filipinos in the ridiculous situation of not being able to speak and write Spanish, which was the official language, when they came to the practical exercise of their profession, gave the privilege of teaching only to the Dominican order, which was not very friendly to the natives. It was not as today when, although the government has made English an official language, the same government imposes upon itself the duty of teaching it, and, as far as possible, encourages its study even in private schools. There was but one exception to this first difficulty which Filipino law students in those days had to meet, and that refers to the case of those law students whose fathers were Spaniards, and who naturally learned the Spanish language from their childhood.

The Spanish language was not taught as a subject in the secondary course until the Jesuits founded the "Ateneo de Manila," which was afterwards denominated "Ateneo Municipal de Manila" by Royal Order issued in 1866, a date posterior to the time when the prominent men above described took up the study of law.

The course in law before the year 1866 was composed of three years of Canon and Roman Law in Latin and four years of the so-called "Derecho Patrio," which consisted of the following subjects: Civil Law, Penal Law, Mercantile Law, and Forensic Practice.

Second.—The laws then in force in the Philippines were not codified, but were scattered in the Laws of the Indies, in the *Novísima Recopilación*, and in the *Siete Partidas*. These laws were neither published in the Philippines nor sold in the few book-stores of Manila, and, though they could be secured from Madrid and other parts of Spain, one had to pay an exorbitant price, ranging from ₱1,500 to ₱2,000 for each book. As a consequence, only the exceedingly rich students were able to secure them.

These Filipino lawyers, who, besides having overcome the difficulties incident to the study of the elevated science of the law, had met with success the unfavorable circumstances above narrated, must, therefore, with reason and justice be pronounced great.