A proclamation of the Mr. E. S. Otis major general of volunteers of the United States published yesterday in the newspapers of Manila, obliges me to circulate the present writing, in order to make clear to all that will read and understand the present document, my most solemn protest against all the contents of the referred proclamation, so compels me as my duty with my conscience of God, my political compromises with my beloved country and my particular and official relations with the United States of America.

The General Otis is called in the referred to proclamation, military governor of the Philippine Islands and I protest a thousand and one times and with all the energy of my soul against such authority.

I solemnly proclaim not to have had either in Singapore nor in Hong Kong nor here in the Philippines any pledge, neither by word nor by writing, for recognizing the sovereignty of America in this beloved land.

On the contrary, I say that I have returned to these Islands transported on an American warship, the 19th day of May of the year just passed, with the professed and overt purpose of making war on the Spaniards in order to reconquer our liberty and Independence; thus I consigned it in my official proclamation on the 24th of the already mentioned month of May; so I have published it in a manifesto directed to the Philippine nation on the 12th of June, when in my native city of Kawit I exhibited for the first time our sacred national flag as a sacred emblem of that sublime aspiration, and ultimately, thus has the proper American General Merrit, predecessor of Otis, confirmed it in the manifesto that he addressed to the Philippine nation, days before intimating to the Spanish General Jaudenes the surrendering of the plaza of Manila, in which manifesto I clearly and positively say that the armies of land and sea of the United States came to give us our liberty, overthrowing the bad Spanish government.

In order to tell it all at one time, natives and foreigners are witnesses of what the army and navy of the United States existing here, have acknowledged, although in fact, the belligerancy of the Philippines not only regarding but paying tribute to the national colors of the Philippines that were carried triumphantly in our seas before the eyes of all the foreign nations here represented by their respective consuls.

As in the proclamation of General Otis he aludes to some instructions drawn up by His Excellency the President of the United States, regarding the administration of affairs in the Philippines I solemnly protest in the name of God, root and source of all justice and all right, and who has conceded me the visible power for directing my beloved brothers in the difficult work of our regeneration and against the intrusion of the Government of the United States in the sovereignty of these islands.

I protest likewise in the name of the whole Philippine nation against the referred to intrusion, because in conceding me your vote of confidence, electing me, although undeserved, as President of the nation, it has imposed on me the duty of defending, until death, its liberty and independence.
And finally I protest against this action, so unexpected, of the rule of America in these Islands, in the name of all the antecedents, that I keep in my hands, referring to my relations with the American authorities which affirm in an unmistakable way that the United States has not drawn me out of Hong Kong in order to make war here against the Spaniards for their benefit, but for the benefit of our liberty and independence, for whose attainment the said authorities promised me verbally their cooperation.

And thus all of you have to understand, in order that all may unite in bonds that cannot be loosened as are the ideals of our absolute liberty and independence, that have been our noble aspirations, help to obtain the desired end, with the strength that gives conviction, already very well established, and not to turn back in the path of glory that we have gone over.

Signed, Emilio Aguinaldo.

Malalos, 5th of January, 1899.