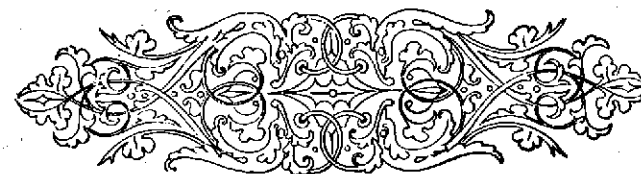


Such is the commercial past of the Philippines, sketched with a bold hand, faithfully showing the misfortune and vicissitudes which during the evolution of time have successively detained and retarded the development of the country and prevented the realization of its highest and most urgent necessities; but there is no reason to doubt that under the active and liberal Government of the United States all the aspirations of this privileged country will be realized and that the powerful vitality of the Philippines united to the energy of America, will result in a brilliant future.



Source: Commercial Directory of Manila (1901)



THE MANILA OBSERVATORY

The Manila Observatory began to work in a non-official manner in the year 1865, under the direction of Jesuit Fathers, employed as teachers in their college in the walled city, generally known as the *Ateneo Municipal*. They commenced to work on their own account, and their principal object was the study of the storms called typhoons, so common in these regions. The first Father who acted as Director of the new Observatory was the Rev. Father Faura, and by his direction a series of observations were diligently recorded from September of 1865, but a regular Monthly Review was commenced at 1870.

In the year 1880 telegraphic communication by the cable was established between Manila and Hong-kong, and this event gave a much greater importance to the already very useful typhoon warnings of Manila.

The declaration of the Observatory as an official department was entirely due to the recommendations of the Authorities of Manila, and some of its more conspicuous residents, especially of merchants and officers of the Navy. After several sessions, in which it was felt by all that he aforesaid was a well promising project it was finally determined that the private meteorological Institution of the *Ateneo Municipal* should be converted into an official establishment, with two Jesuit Fathers