

**RICHARD OLNEY.** Throwing aside all partiality, THE CONSERVATIVE commends to the thoughtful and patriotic, the lucid and logical article by Richard Olney in the Atlantic Monthly for March, as a clear and sensible statement of conditions and duties.

THE CONSERVATIVE pleads guilty to a great liking and admiration for Mr. Olney. But even those who may neither admire him nor agree with him in any respect, must admit the terseness and cogency of his style and logic. That he would make a courageous, splendidly conservative and wisely deliberative President of the United States no sensible citizen, who is acquainted with his professional and political career, will deny. Mr. Olney has every qualification for an efficient statesman, and very few of those which the successful politician must have. He is honest, strong, sturdy in courage and fearless in doing whatever he thinks the law requires to be done. He would make a great president. He would therefore not make a popular candidate. His independence and his exalted sense of the responsibility of public office would render his administration perfect and his candidature imperfect, because he would, in neither, stoop to deception and demagoguery. The American people would be indeed fortunate if they could secure for their president a man of Mr. Olney's ability, acquirements and experience. He would honor the position, though, THE CONSERVATIVE is certain, he would not abate his faith in any principle of government heretofore espoused, nor even pretend, for one second, to believe that which he does not believe, if by such renunciation and pretense he could be assured of two terms of the presidency. Mr. Olney is too brainy—too methodically logical and too unemotional in his politics and his patriotism to ever become a volunteer candidate for the presidency or any other office. The New York Sun of February 23, very fairly epitomizes Mr. Olney's article and says:

"He is glad that events have put an end to the long period of international isolation, and limitation of the political activities of the United States to the concerns of the American continents.

"He believes that although this country's emergence into the larger world was hastened by the war with Spain, it was inevitable, had been long preparing and could not have been long delayed.

"He believes that in spite of the Teller resolution, which he regarded as ill-advised and futile at the time of its passage, Cuba should be in point of law 'what she already is in point of fact, namely, United States territory.'

"He is doubtful about the expediency of Hawaiian annexation, but apparently accepts the accomplished fact.

"On the subject of the Philippines,

Mr. Olney's views are positive. He regards the far-eastern archipelago as a huge incubus which we have unnecessarily taken upon ourselves. He thinks that we had no call of duty there. Proper coaling stations and an adequate naval base are all he would have liked to see retained by this government.

"He insists upon the open door for American commerce in China, and holds that the acquisition of the Philippines weakens our position, instead of strengthening it in that important respect.

"Nevertheless, although Mr. Olney thinks that the Treaty of Paris was a mistake, so far as it made us responsible for the future of the Philippines, he says plainly that we are committed, that the Philippines are ours, and that how we shall deal with them is a domestic problem simply. There is no suggestion on his part of withdrawal.

"In his view, the immediate demands of the new position the United States government has assumed in the world's affairs are the strengthening of its diplomatic agencies and methods and means a powerful navy up to date in all respects.

"The great change that has come over us, he insists, does not affect in the least our traditional policy of non-interference in the internal affairs and politics of the European powers. That must be the rule of the United States for the future as it has been in the past.

"On the other hand, the primacy of the United States in the affairs of the American continents must be asserted as firmly in the future as in the past. The Monroe Doctrine is unimpaired.

"He believes that we are already caught, not by any formal compact but by the stress of the inexorable facts of the situation and our new responsibilities as an Asiatic power, in an alliance of the sort that used to be described as 'entangling,' and the ally is Great Britain. He deplors the circumstance, because we might be and should be friends with all the world, and intimacy with and dependence on one power is certain to excite the suspicion and ill will of the others; nevertheless if such an unwritten but entangling alliance had to be, he prefers that it should be with England, the power most formidable as a foe and most effective as a friend.

"In the new situation he sees the certainty of an enlargement of the nation's mental and moral vision and the abatement of racial prejudices; but without involving any decline of the old-fashioned American patriotism.

"Such is a hasty but fair summary of the opinions Mr. Olney advances in his article in the Atlantic Monthly for March. We are sure that no one can read it, no matter whether he agrees with Mr. Olney or not at every point, without increased admiration for the energetic intellect and character of this

interesting statesman, patriot and expansionist."

#### DECLINE OF M'KINLEYISM.

Not many months ago the re-election of President McKinley was looked upon as a certainty. Today it is not only doubtful, but the indications are almost as strong for defeat as a few months ago they were favorable to his success. What is it that has alienated from the administration the sympathy and support of thousands of its most devoted adherents? The answer is to be found in an investigation of recent history.

At the beginning of the trouble in the Philippines there was a strong feeling in this country of distrust as to the real motive of the administration. It was hinted, and not only hinted but frankly asserted, that its purpose was not merely to establish law and order but to assume an imperialistic policy and have a system of colonial dependencies. Then came the equally frank avowal on the part of the president that his purpose was not to wage a war of subjugation or conquest, but to extend to the people of the Philippines the blessings of liberty as we know them here, to give to them that which our constitution gives to us. Many were disposed to accept the word of the administration. They honestly thought the policy pursued meant only expansion, an extension of American territory, a greater area over which the constitution of the United States should be supreme. They were disposed to be patient, to let the war go on and permit the president to shoot the blessings of liberty into an unwilling people.

But the time for vague assurances came to an end. The problem of administration confronted our government. The establishment of the constitutional status of the new acquisitions had to be determined upon. The administration had come to the parting of the ways. It had to choose between expansion under the constitution and imperialism. Puerto Rico, whose pitiable poverty and intense industrial distress ought to have appealed to every impulse of humanity, was selected as the victim for this object lesson of republican policy. A republican ways and means committee recommended, a republican congress, at the urgent solicitation of the sugar and tobacco trust, passed, and a republican president has indicated his approval of, an act placing a duty upon imports from Puerto Rico.

The constitution specifically says, that duties and imports shall be uniform throughout the United States. The supreme court of the United States, in every case where this question has been in controversy, has decided that