

## THE AMERICAN MAN WITH THE HOE.

Buoyed up by every hope that animates  
The human breast he stands erect and firm,  
Amidst the fertile empire of his fields;  
Upon his face the light of promise like  
The burnished sun; within his armored limbs  
The pent-up earnest for all future time.  
Who built so wide and high the shell of bone,  
Which holds his teeming brain! who set  
his eyes

So wide apart? 'twas liberty, 'twas she  
Who ran the wires of energy along  
His sturdy legs and put the fires of hope  
Like blazing torches in his lifted eyes.

Behold him as he treads the loamy soil  
With independence such as kings might crave;  
The dawn to sound his reveille; the dusk  
To bring him peaceful rest; his only lords  
The changing seasons as they come and go;  
The gentle spring; the summer with her  
warmth

To woo the harvest, and that russet time  
The autumn with her rich rewards, and last  
Old winter with her snowy months of rest.

By every mark of toil within his hands;  
By every bead of sweat upon his brow  
The world may know he has the right to eat  
His honest bread and look to none for aid.  
He holds the keys to all the riches packed  
Beneath the generous sod, and wider still,  
He finds within the heart of nature hid  
The secrets, ages long have sought, and scans  
The heavens with knowing eye to read the  
clouds

Like open pages of a printed book.

This man of brawn and brain with upward face  
Sees visions in the stars and dreams his  
dreams

That kiss the gates of God; with eagle wings  
His strong imaginings leap up the skies,  
And o'er the face of all the earth, and deep  
Within her hidden mines, and yokes with toil  
The cheering comfort of a poet's song.

Nay, but Markham, the sodden man you sing,  
Was never whelped beneath the floating folds  
Of yonder flag, but bred in empires old,  
And crumbling to decay, whose walls were  
built

Upon the craven necks of slaves; but we  
Have reared a nation towering high upon  
The willing shoulders of such men as these—  
As strong as rocks that rib this changless  
earth;

Nor all the blatant tongues of anarchy,  
Nor fostered discontent, nor serpent wiles  
Of oily demagogues, can move the state  
Deep founded on this mighty adamant.

—WILLIAM REED DUNROY.

**JENSEN JESTS.** Hon. Peter Jensen, in an open letter, replied to an editorial of THE CONSERVATIVE, entitled "Decline of McKinleyism". THE CONSERVATIVE respects Mr. Jensen but disputes the correctness of his criticism.

Mr. Jensen asks whether we should have left the Philippines in the hands of Spain. The ratification of the treaty of peace made that impossible. The question is whether this extension of sovereignty shall be construed as in former purchases of territory, whether the constitution is to extend to the people with its guarantees of civil liberty or they be ruled by an inconstant and irresponsible congress, unbridled by constitutional restraint? The administration, in the case of Puerto Rico, has taken the position that the islands are not a part of the United States, and that they are subject dependencies. This is

imperialism. Mr. Jensen may call it by a different name and find consolation in so doing.

Speaking of THE CONSERVATIVE'S criticism of the president, relative to Puerto Rico, Mr. Jensen inquires: "does he not know that the president from the beginning advocated free trade with and for the island?" The President did, in the following message to congress, recommend free trade for Puerto Rico:

"Since the cession Puerto Rico has been denied the principal markets she had long enjoyed, and our tariffs have been continued against her products as when she was under Spanish sovereignty. The markets of Spain are closed to her products except upon terms to which the commerce of all nations is subjected. The island of Cuba, which used to buy her cattle and tobacco without customs duties, now imposes the same duties upon these products as from any other country entering her ports. She has therefore, lost her free intercourse with Spain and Cuba without any compensating benefits in this market. Her coffee was little known and not in use by our people, and, therefore, there was no demand here for this, one of her chief products. The markets of the United States should be opened up to her products. Our plain duty is to abolish all customs tariffs between the United States and Puerto Rico, and give her products free access to our markets."

Mr. Jensen's isolation, upon his Jefferson County ranch has no doubt prevented his perusal of the daily bulletins indicating the variable mental weather in the executive brain basin. Only a few days after the now famous presentation of the "plain duty," the president was working most tactfully for the passage of the tariff bill, or as Tom Reed said, "to make Puerto Ricans 75 per cent or ¾ citizens."

The Chicago Tribune says:

"At the last minute the influence of the President was thrown into the scale and it undoubtedly passed the bill."

The Chicago Times-Herald, owned by Mr. H. H. Kohlsaat, whose loyalty to the president is well known, under the caption, "The President's Momentous Mistake," says:

"Responsibility for the reversal of the Republican policy towards Puerto Rico is laid directly at the door of the President. The press dispatches from Washington all testify to the fact that one word from the White House reaffirming the President's declaration of last December would have rallied Republican Congressmen from every section of the Union to the performance of 'our plain duty' to Puerto Rico. The President failed to utter that word, which, like a blast from the horn of Roderick, would have carried dismay and consternation through the lobbies of sugar and tobacco in Washington. Instead of preserving what might have been pardoned as

a dignified silence, the President permitted it to be understood that he wished to see free trade with the United States denied to Puerto Rico. In this we think President McKinley committed the first almost irreparable mistake of his administration."

Either the republican press of the country or Mr. Jensen is in error. The newspapers all know that the president in the beginning advocated free trade. He reversed himself at the command of his directors, Hanna & Co.

Mr. Jensen further asks THE CONSERVATIVE: "Why attack an administration which will faithfully keep every promise made in regard to the territories just acquired?" THE CONSERVATIVE attacks an administration which kept no promise made at the outset of the war with Spain. The president began insular government by breaking promises, by trampling upon the constitution, by failing to do what he himself declared to be a "plain duty." Is it not reasonable to suppose that a similar disregard of moral and constitutional obligations will continue and that he will persist as a breaker of promises?

Mr. Jensen proclaims that in a choice between McKinleyism and Bryanarchy he will take the former, "even if mixed with a little expansion." Thereby indicating that he would prefer his McKinleyism without the new brand of expansion and fully corroborates all THE CONSERVATIVE has said about the decline of McKinleyism. The forecast of THE CONSERVATIVE was that the people might possibly come to their senses and that a man might be nominated representing neither Bryanarchy nor McKinleyism, a citizen who stood for Constitutional government.

Mr. Jensen's mind may be enlightened as to the decline of McKinleyism, by pensively perusing the opinions of very prominent republicans and many famous republican newspapers, which THE CONSERVATIVE patriotically reproduces from time to time. Mr. Jensen, while attending to his onerous duties as a Commissioner to the Paris Exposition, next summer, will find great solace and infinite consolation in such choice literature.

Ex-Senator Edmunds:—I believe that the Puerto Rican tariff bill is clearly unconstitutional and violates all our agreements with and pledges to the Puerto Ricans. If I were in the senate I should certainly vote against it.

A. P. Kent, of Indiana, who declined to permit the congressional convention to elect him delegate to the National Republican convention, says:

"I do not believe in the administration's stand on the Puerto Rico affair, and I do not want to accept the responsibility of going to Philadelphia."

The same congressional convention declined to endorse the policy of the ad-