

## **In Memoriam**

RICHARD OLNEY

The American Society of International Law lost in the death, on April 8, 1917, of the Honorable Richard Olney, as in the case of Mr. Choate, a Vice-President and an interested member from the date of its foundation. Like Mr. Choate, he was born in Massachusetts (September 15, 1835) and added great distinction to the State of his birth, but, unlike Mr. Choate, he was willing to be the first citizen of his Commonwealth and to lead the bar of his native State, instead of wandering to New York to become the first citizen of New York and the leader of its bar. Like Mr. Choate, he was preëminently a great citizen; again like Mr. Choate, he rarely held a public office, but as Attorney General of the United States he won the confidence and admiration of his countrymen by the bold and unhesitating way in which he advised President Cleveland as to his rights and as to his duty in calling out the army to protect the federal mails in Chicago, and as Secretary of State he won the admiration of his countrymen by his uncompromising attitude in the Venezuelan question, which caused Great Britain to submit that dispute to arbitration—and it is not too much to say that there never was and there could not well be a more efficient Secretary of State than Richard Olney.

Mr. Olney was great in himself and derived and owed nothing to his surroundings. He was a member of the bar yet hardly of the bar, for he practiced law, as one might say, from the outside. He did not associate on intimate terms with his professional brethren; he rather dwelt apart—entered the court house as one intent upon business, and did not linger when the work was done. He did not build up a large firm of which he was the head and whose numerous members acted in accordance with his slightest suggestion. His law firm consisted of Richard Olney, the brain of this firm was Richard Olney, and there was hardly a book, bound in sheep or calfskin, to suggest that Richard Olney needed aid of other men. Quiet, reserved, dignified, sparing of speech, firm in his views, dominated by the strength of his character and by the force of his intellect, he did not charm, he did not persuade; and yet he could be charming and persuasive on occasion. He

compelled attention, and there could be but one master in his presence. The Honorable John W. Foster said all in a single phrase when following him at the first meeting of the American Society of International Law: "What shall the man say who comes after the king?"

JAMES BROWN SCOTT.