words were very soon understood by all Russia, for it was clear to everybody that the guidance of Russia in its most critical period of life had been put into the hands of an insane man.

Some members of the government felt the impossibility of being associated with Protopopoff, but the Czar prevailed upon them, against their wishes, to retain their places. Thus, all Russia was united in the conviction that it was impossible to leave the control of affairs any longer in the same hands, and that Russia's only hope lay in the Duma.

On February 14, 1917, the Duma was called for a new session. By this time it had the approval of the Imperial Council, some of the Ministers and seventeen members of the Imperial family. Again words of warning and rage addressed to the government rang out in the State Duma. The answer to these clamors was an order proroguing the Duma. But this time the Duma refused to abide by the Imperial orders. N. V. Rodzianko, at the head of the Executive Committee of the Duma, sent out information to all parts of the country declaring the existence of the new order of things. The Czar, realizing the situation when it was too late, signed the Act of Abdication in favor of Grand Duke Michael. The latter declined to accept the throne, and left all power to the Provisional Government appointed by the Executive Committee of the Duma. The Acts of Abdication of Czar Nicholas and Grand Duke Michael were brought by the Secretary of Justice, A. F. Kerensky, to the Senate. These were published by the Senate without question and were placed in safe custody to be kept as historic documents of utmost importance. From this moment a new era began for Russia.

IN MEMORIAM

JOSEPH H. CHOATE

On May 14, 1917, the Honorable Joseph H. Choate suddenly died, in the full possession of his great and splendid powers and in the performance of his civic duties. Born in Salem, Massachusetts, on January 24, 1832, he had rounded out more than the full three score years and ten, without losing interest in life and without finding the years weighing heavily upon him. By birth and ancestry he was of Massachusetts and he added distinction to the Commonwealth. By residence

he was a citizen of New York and greatly added to the distinction of the State of his adoption. He was, above all things, an American, and reflected credit upon the country, both as a citizen and as an Ambassador to Great Britain. Later, at the Second Hague Peace Conference, as Chairman of the American delegation, he upheld American ideals with a grace, a dignity, and a persuasiveness which gave him an international standing which time can only preserve.

It is stated that Mr. Choate was, at the time of his death, engaged in the performance of his civic duties. From the outbreak of the war of 1914 he felt very keenly that the United States should not only manifest sympathy for the Allied cause, but that the United States should exert force, if necessary, in order to maintain its rights against the unlawful attacks of the Imperial German Government, and that the United States should, in view of all the circumstances, unite itself with the Allies in defense not merely of the freedom of the seas but of the liberty of the world. He welcomed President Wilson's appeal to Congress and the declaration of the existence of a state of war by that body against the Imperial German Government. The events of the past two years and more had drawn him largely from the retirement to which his years and his labors had justly entitled him. He spoke from the platform in favor of preparedness, he lent the weight and dignity of his name to organizations calculated to advance the cause of preparedness. He welcomed, as New York's most distinguished citizen, the British Commission to the City of New York, and on the very morrow of the day on which he died he was to have addressed the students at Columbia University on the war and as to the duties which they should perform.

It was not the first time that Mr. Choate had welcomed distinguished visitors to the city of his adoption; and it seems almost beyond the span of a single life, and it shows how early Mr. Choate achieved distinction, when it is recalled that in 1860 he was chairman of that meeting at Cooper Hall where Abraham Lincoln, soon to be nominated for the Presidency, first spoke to his fellow countrymen in the East. A leader of the bar, as long as he cared to lead it, Chairman of the Convention of 1894 which revised the Constitution of the State of New York, Mr. Choate held, as it were, his position in trust to the cause of justice and his leisure at the disposal of every good cause. He took a citizen's interest in public questions and served his country when called upon without forcing himself upon his countrymen. Americans

were proud of, and Englishmen will long remember, his services as Ambassador to Great Britain, where his handsome person, his magnificent presence, his charm of speech as well as of manner, his unaffected and sparkling wit, endeared him in public and private, not only to the members of his profession — who honored him, as never an American before, by electing him a bencher of Lincoln Inn — not only to the statesmen of England with whom he came into official contact, but also to the people of England, to whom he represented the intelligence of the United States.

Greater could no man be than Mr. Choate at The Hague, and in no sphere and on no occasion did his great and splendid talents display themselves to greater advantage. He read but he did not speak French, and the eye was more accustomed to it than the ear. Nevertheless he followed the proceedings of the Conference; a few slight suggestions as to the course of the proceedings enabled him to grasp them in detail, so that, although he spoke frequently and on the spur of the moment and entered into details, he never misunderstood or misstated an address to which he replied in English. The addresses which he himself delivered during the Conference are models of public speech, strong yet graceful, dominant yet persuasive. There is nothing finer in the Conference than the following pointed reference to Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, the first German Delegate, who professed his love for arbitration in private but flouted it in public.

> I should like to say a few words in reply to the important discourse delivered by the First Delegate of Germany, with all the deference and regard to which he is justly entitled because of the mighty empire that he represents, as well as for his own great merits and his unfailing personal devotion to the consideration of the importans subjects that have arisen before the conference. But with all this deference it seems to me that either there are, in this conference, two First Delegates of Germany, or, if it be only the one whom we have learned to recognize and honor, he speaks with two different voices. Baron Marschall is an ardent admirer of the abstract principle of arbitration and even of obligatory arbitration, and even of general arbitration between those whom he chooses to act with, but when it comes to putting this idea into concrete form and practical effect he appears as our most formidable adversary. He appears like one who worships a divine image in the sky, but when it touches the earth it loses all charm for him. He sees as in a dream a celestial apparition which excites his ardent devotion, but when he wakes and finds her by his side he turns to the wall, and will have nothing to do with her.

Mr. Choate came into the world bearing a great name, to which he added dignity, luster, and affectionate regard. Like his kinsman,

Rufus Choate, he was an advocate, and always an advocate, of great, good, and worthy causes. He rarely held office, but he lived and died a public servant.

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