

RADICAL AND CONSERVATIVE.

Few words are more often used; few are so often abused. If a man be merely a mossback, he is regarded as a type of conservatism; he may so regard himself. If a man be a mere blatant demagogue, we are apt to call him a radical, and he may rejoice in the epithet.

Referring to these two words, the San Francisco Star makes this distinction, that a radical "is a man who seeks the right, and having convinced himself, is consequently outspoken in doing what he believes is right, though all the world beside were against him;" whereas, a conservative "is a pusillanimous creature, afraid of his own shadow, never outspoken or candid." This distinction does not seem to us to be satisfactory.

A radical is one who seeks the root of things, who tries to bring political conditions into harmony with fundamental principles; while a conservative is one who adheres to the existing order. Upon reflection, we shall learn that both are necessary to human progress.

True progress is doubtless toward adaptation to fundamental principles. The radical, therefore, would be progressive, if he were not human and liable to err. But he is human, and he does err. Often what seem to the radical to be first principles, are no principles at all. All unconsciously, instead of being progressive, he is retrogressive.

It is this fact that makes the conservative mind as important a factor in progress as the radical. Clinging to the existing order, the conservative does in truth obstruct progress, but he also and most effectively obstructs retrogression.

Like the pawl to the ratchet wheel, conservatism secures the advances that radicalism makes.

The radical mind constantly seeks changes. It is the discontented mind. In physics, it invents new machines and methods. In politics it urges on to better social conditions. Though radicals may in their ignorance drift far away from true radicalism, they never become mossbacks. They always want change, are always restless, are always in

search of the holy grail of first principles. Left to itself, this restless type of mind might as well carry the world backward as forward. Deceived by appearances, it might turn in its tracks and imperil the very advances it had made. But the conservative mind prevents that.

There is more power in truth than in falsehood. Consequently, when radical tendencies are backward, conservatism, resistance to change, is apt to be effective; but when radical tendencies are forward, conservatism, though it makes much friction, much difficulty, is ultimately ineffective. Radical energy, turned by the inertia of conservatism in the right direction, is in the long run irresistible.

These two forces operating in the great mind of human society, like the centrifugal and centripetal forces in physical nature, establish equilibrium and promote permanent progress.

Where conservatism is most stubborn, radicalism is most hardy. For an example of the more wholesome radicalism we shall turn not to France, where conservatism is weak, but to England, where it is strong.

NEWS

A startling rumor has been current, to the effect that the peace negotiations between Spain and the United States have been broken off by Spain.

The joint peace commission was to have resumed its sessions on the 19th, as we reported last week; but at the request of the American commissioners the meeting was postponed until the 21st. The object of the postponement was to enable the Americans to perfect their reply to the argument submitted last week by the Spanish in opposition to the American proposition for the cession to the United States of the Philippine archipelago. Upon the assembling of the joint commission on the 21st the American reply was presented. It declared that the United States must have the entire archipelago; offering, however, to pay Spain therefor the sum of \$20,000,000 and pledging equal rights to the world's commerce—the "open door," as it is called. The proposition Spain had made to arbitrate the Phil-

ippine clause in the protocol was positively declined, and November 28 was fixed as the date on which the American commissioners would expect a definite response to its propositions. Along with the report of this meeting came a positive statement from the Associated Press that Senor Montero Rios, the president of the Spanish commission, had refused to continue the negotiations.

But the statement that Rios had withdrawn was afterwards denounced by the Paris correspondent of the Associated Press as a stock jobbing trick. He said he had sent no such statement, and that Senor Rios declared the statement to be untrue. It is now believed that the Spanish will not wait until the 28th to make their reply; but that they will make it on the 23d, and that it will be an acceptance of the American conditions. They applied to the American commissioners on the 22d for a further elucidation of the American conditions. One of their requests was to know whether, if the Philippines be ceded, America will take them free of subsisting obligations. Other requests related to the "open door" policy, the release of political prisoners, and the revival of previous treaties. The final request was to know whether the American suggestion that conferences on other points will follow if Spain finally and definitely accepts the American conditions, means that if the conditions be not accepted conferences will not follow.

While the peace commissioners negotiate regarding the Philippines, the American authorities are extending their occupation from Manila, on Luzon island, to other islands in the group. Admiral Dewey telegraphed on the 18th that the entire island of Panay was in possession of the insurgents, except the town of Iloilo, which was defended by 800 Spanish troops, and that the island of Negros had declared independence and asked for an American protectorate. Since then it has been reported from Manila and denied from Madrid that the insurgents have captured Iloilo. In response to Dewey's telegram, the president, after conferring with the cabinet, instructed Gen. Otis to send enough American troops to the islands of Panay and Negros to protect life and property and to subdue the insurgents. The president at the same time instructed Admiral Dewey to send part of his fleet to those islands