

Mr. Watson introduced Mr. Chapleau as the principal speaker. He said: "This evening the Club has the honor to entertain a distinguished member of the Canadian Ministry, a gentleman who is by birth an orator and by education a statesman, who has held many important offices of state, and who, as a leader of the Conservatives, is admirably qualified to speak of Canada as she is, as she has been, and as he hopes she may be. I have very great pleasure in introducing the Hon. J. A. Chapleau, Secretary of State for the Dominion of Canada."

#### CANADA AS IT IS.

Mr. Chapleau said: "Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—The cordiality of the welcome you have given me reassures me against the natural fear which a stranger must experience in venturing to address, in a language foreign to his own, such an assemblage as I see before me. I had felt honored by the kind and flattering invitation tendered to me by your club; and now, even before I have accomplished the arduous task I have undertaken in accepting your invitation, I feel rejoiced and happy to have accepted it, when I look at the sympathetic faces—when I hear the sympathetic greetings with which you receive me.

"I understand now why I was not stopped by the American Customs officer in entering this country: that intelligent officer must have at once understood that my engagement here was not an alien labor contract but a most pleasurable visit to a beautiful and most hospitable city. Certainly I could not desire to have a more intelligent and representative audience of the American people than I have here to-night. Smallest of all among the States of the Union, Rhode Island, like the little tribe of Benjamin among the twelve tribes of Israel, has always stood among the foremost of the brotherhood of the republics of the Western Continent. Foremost in order of history, for was it not here that the Northmen settled five hundred years before Columbus crossed the ocean? Foremost in the gay world of fashion, so long as Newport remains the crowned queen of society. Foremost in manufacturing enterprise, in proportion to its population. Foremost in its unequalled library, to which students of American history throughout the world must come, and in the front rank of intellect by its university, the Alma Mater of so many

#### BRILLIANT AND DISTINGUISHED MEN.

That splendid pile of university buildings, your public library, your atheneum, all with their magnificent collections of books, going up into high scores of thousands, are monuments of your greatness that put to shame populations of five times your magnitude. (Cheers.) Your state enjoys the proud distinction of having inaugurated the real development of the cotton manufacturing industry on this continent, an industry that has grown to proportions so colossal, since Samuel Slater's modest initial efforts at Providence and at Pawtucket Falls. Standing here and looking back into the pages of history, I am reminded that this city of yours is on