

phical point of view, it is interesting to trace the opinions of the writer, and to discern the extent to which he may have been instrumental in evolving or hastening the changes of which I speak, there is much in those papers to be read with profit at the present time; and in others are contained lessons as pertinent to the present conjuncture of public affairs as though they had been written yesterday. There are, indeed, many weighty political truths inculcated in these writings of Lord Metcalfe, the disregard of which has been rife with national calamity, of which we are only now beginning to fathom the uttermost depths.

The papers in this collection have, with one or two exceptions, been printed from the original drafts in Lord Metcalfe's handwriting, and may therefore be relied upon as wholly and exclusively his own—a reliance not always to be placed in the published minutes and despatches of statesmen who have benefited largely by ministerial assistance at different epochs of their career. Two or three of them have been printed, wholly or partly, before; but, with these trifling exceptions, the contents of the volume are now given to the public for the first time.

It should be added that the notes to which no initials are attached are wholly the Editor's. Lord Metcalfe's own are distinguished by the initials C. T. M.

J. W. KAYE.

*Bletchingly, March, 1855.*