

declared by Austria against France. In the autumn of that year the grand alliance was signed at Teplitz, and on the field of Leipzig, Metternich was raised to the dignity of a Prince of the Empire. In the subsequent conferences and treaties the newly created Prince took a prominent part, and he signed the treaty of Paris on behalf of Austria. He afterwards paid a visit to this country, and received the honor of a doctor's hood from the University of Oxford. This is worth mentioning, as we believe it is the only honor which he received from this country. He who received decorations from all the Courts of Europe obtained none from the English Court. The only very celebrated orders to which he could not boast that he belonged were the orders of the Bath and of the Garter. When the Conference of Vienna was opened, Prince Metternich, then in his forty-second year, was unanimously chosen to preside over its deliberations, and this presidency in the Congress may be regarded as typical of an ascendancy which, from this time, he exerted for many years in the affairs of Europe. When the shock of 1848 overtook Austria, the Government fell, in spite of the resistance of Metternich, who maintained his state policy to the last. A deputation of citizens made their complaints to the Archduke John, who calmed them by promising, first of all, the resignation of the Chancellor. Out came the Prince Metternich from the next room where the ministers had assembled to deliberate, and with all the tenacity of age—the tenacity of a minister who had directed the affairs of the empire some forty years, exclaimed “I will not resign, gentlemen, I will not resign.” Archduke John, without replying to the Chancellor, simply repeated his statement, “I have already told you Prince Metternich resigns.” “What, is this the return I get for my fifty years’ services?” he said, and the next day he left the city with an escort of cavalry. He came to England, and here remained till the old state of things began to return. Not till 1851 did he venture to appear again at Vienna, but in the autumn of that year he made a sort of royal progress to his palace in the Rennweg. The old man was never again asked to undertake the cares of office. He held such position in society as the Duke of Wellington, in his latter days, held in this country; and his advice was often taken in affairs of State, but really his power was gone, and many among us, perhaps, may be surprised to learn that the renowned statesman had lived until now. Renowned rather than great, clever rather than wise, venerated more for his age than for his power, admired but not lamented,—the oldest Minister of the oldest court in Europe has passed away.—*Times*.

VII. Papers on Physical Geography and Commerce.

1. THE COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS AND CAREER OF LORD ELGIN IN THE EAST.

On Lord Elgin's return from China and Japan the freedom of the city of London was conferred upon him by the corporation of that great commercial Metropolis. A banquet was also given in his favour by the Lord Mayor at which, in reply to the toast of the evening, Lord Elgin gave the following sketch of his career and experience in the East. “You can well imagine how gratifying it must be to a servant of the public who has been engaged for a considerable period of time in a distant part of the globe in the discharge of duties of a peculiar—and, perhaps without exaggeration, I may be permitted to say of a somewhat arduous—nature, to be greeted on his return home with a welcome such as has been accorded to me to-night by a company presided over by the Chief Magistrate of the chief city in the world, and comprising among other distinguished guests, that illustrious man on whom the freedom of the city has been this day conferred, and who is one of that noble band of heroes who, combining qualities the most dissimilar—the sagacity, the calmness, and the prudence of the statesman, with the fortitude, the quickness of vision, and the energy of the soldier—have contributed to replace more securely than ever on its foundations that mighty empire of England in the East which for one moment, and for one moment only, seemed to be tottering. (Cheers.) Ah! my Lord Mayor, I remember that moment. It was my task, in pursuance of what I believed to be my duty, to proceed to Calcutta at the critical period of August, 1857; and I shall never forget to my dying day—for the hour was a dark one, and there was hardly a countenance in Calcutta, save that of the Governor General, Lord Canning, which was not blanched with fear—I shall never forget the cheers with which the Shannon, the vessel which had been assigned to me as my floating mansion, and which I was then hastening to place at the disposal of the Government of India, was greeted as she sailed up the river, pouring forth her salute from those 68-pounders which the gallant but lamented Sir W. Peel sent up to Allahabad, and from those 24-pounders which, according to Lord Clyde, made way across the country in a manner never before witnessed. (Cheers.) I hope I may be pardoned if I own at this moment to a certain feeling of exul-

tation, tempered, I trust, with a devout sentiment of gratitude to Almighty Providence, when I am reminded by the vicinity in which I have the good fortune to find myself to-night, that it was from the force destined for China, and by a stretch of authority on my own part which was perhaps unprecedented, that the two regiments which were then holding Bengal against the rebels, and which were panting under the command of the dauntless Havelock to proceed to the relief of Lucknow and of that brave warrior Col. Inglis, with his noble wife, the sharer not of danger alone, but also of his courage and fortitude, were reinforced and enabled to achieve the prodigies of valor which have rendered them illustrious. (Cheers.) I have, my Lord Mayor, accepted your invitation on this occasion with great gratification. It has been my lot to live for some time in a country boasting of laws and of usages some of which are not wholly unworthy of our imitation, together with a morality which, to judge from precepts contained in its books, should be of a pure and elevated character. In that land, however, one thing is wanting; and this defect neutralizes all the merits of its system. The integrity of the administrators of its laws in dispensing what, by a little touch of irony, is sometimes denominated justice—(a laugh)—is certainly not entirely above suspicion. Thus a moral gangrene eats into the heart of this social system, introducing a wide-spread corruption and decay. The wandering Englishman—and I am sorry to say I belong to that category—when he returns home, after an absence, however protracted, finds that not only in respect of disinterestedness and impartiality, but of wisdom, learning, and independence, the judges of this country hold as high a position as they ever did; and whatever may have been the case with public men in other spheres of activity, the judicial bench at least have lost nothing in the estimation of their fellows. But if I have passed a somewhat severe sentence on China, I must say it possesses some securities against maladministration which ought, according to received opinion, to prove highly efficacious. In the first place, all its public functionaries of every class pass repeatedly through that ordeal which many ardent reformers in this country believe to be an infallible test, not only of capacity, but of every other qualification—viz, through a competitive examination. (Laughter.) I think it is a matter of custom rather than of positive enactment, but the practice in China is for every official of high rank placed in a position of great difficulty to accept it with the comfortable assurance that if he fail to extricate himself creditably from his embarrassments, he is perfectly certain sooner or later to terminate his career by decapitation. (Laughter.) That is a system no doubt attended with some inconveniences. It presses sometimes rather hardly on individuals. But it provides vacancies, and operates in that way unquestionably as a powerful encouragement to enterprising young men desirous of entering the public service. (Renewed laughter.) Still, if that practice were introduced into this country, I cannot help thinking it would create considerable perturbation among the heads of departments. At any rate, it would have a great tendency to reduce that plethora of Prime Ministers, and that kind of determination of blood to the head which now appears to be the disease from which England is likely to suffer. (Laughter.) The result of my experience in the East is that competitive examinations, even when supplemented by decapitation, is not an adequate substitute for that manly morality which is the product of our free constitution, and of the characteristic training of our countrymen. (Cheers.) The late Parliament, which died an unnatural death, although it was elected for the express purpose of looking after affairs in China, nevertheless observed during the whole of its existence so discreet a silence on that subject as neither to have asked for or received any communication whatever with respect to our proceedings in that quarter of the world. (A laugh.) The consequence is that if, in obedience to your invitation, I were now to begin to open my heart on the question of our diplomatic relations with China, I might unwarily and unwittingly betray some secrets of State, and, after dining so luxuriously under your Lordship's auspices, I might breakfast to-morrow much more frugally under the auspices of the Constable of the Tower. (A laugh.) I am anxious, however, that over sanguine expectations should not be raised respecting the issue of recent events in China and Japan. On a former occasion, after a much more partial opening of China, it was stated that Manchester would not be able to provide enough goods for one province of that country; and those in whom these hopes were excited were subsequently disappointed. I am anxious that the error should not be repeated. Yet, when they talk of 400,000,000 of people, it is really difficult to avoid statements that seem to savour of exaggeration. I have been told that the best way to calculate the future extension of our commerce in these regions is to reckon how much cotton it would take to provide nightcaps for these 400,000,000 of Chinese, and then send an order to Manchester accordingly. Now, really, my acquaintance with the Chinese and Japanese does not enable me to say whether they wear nightcaps or not; but if they do, certainly the quantity of cotton that would be required to pack up their long tails would be somewhat enormous.