

—Metternich speaks from the grave; but it is little that the renowned shade has to say, for nothing is so dead as the diplomacy of the past. It is unlucky for him that Napoleon, for whose knowledge of man he avows his high respect, speaks from the grave at the same time. "M. de Metternich approaches to being a statesman—he lies very well." This a little spoils the Prince's flourishes about high principles of statesmanship and a society of nations based upon Christianity. In a characteristic passage Metternich describes history as made up of two factors, political events and cabinet secrets. Of the really great elements of history, the moral and intellectual forces which move the world, he had no conception, and the French Revolution seemed to him nothing but a revolt got up by the Jacobins. The consequence was that "the deluge" came not "after" him, but upon him; and he lived to see the wreck of his Holy Alliance and other conservative arrangements floating about like haycocks on its waters.

—A vigorous debate continues on the question Whether, if Religion falls, Morality can stand. The negative was not maintained by the writer in the *Atlantic Monthly* "On the Prospect of a Moral Interregnum," whose paper has supplied a text or rather, perhaps, a cockshy, for the discussion, on this side of the water. What that writer said was that, in the past, religion, though not mythology, had formed the support of morality; that the moral systems of the world so far had always assumed a religious form; and that the ages of religious unbelief had been ages of moral disintegration. This is an historical proposition which no one has yet attempted to confute. If it is true, there is reasonable cause for apprehension that the present break-up of religious belief may be followed by a corresponding disturbance in the moral sphere, at least so far as mankind in general is concerned; and the writer in the *Atlantic* pointed to symptoms of a relaxation of principle which seemed to show that something of the kind was at hand. He is not alone in his view. Some of the strongest of the European Agnostics,