

pointed to negotiate. The "dreary drip of dilatory" negotiations succeeded; naturally it was the policy of the Chinese to interpose every imaginable objection. Whether the Concert of Europe showed the requisite firmness and promptitude remains to be proved. Note after note has been discussed and agreed to, but never actually signed. At first the capital punishment of certain Imperial Princes whose murderous guilt had been demonstrated was demanded; but this demand after remonstrance was mitigated. A strong European garrison at Peking was insisted on; after this had been objected to it was limited to adequate guards for the Legations. The only point that has not in any degree been yielded is the holding of the line by European military strength from Peking to the coast. The financial demands for indemnity and compensation do not seem to have been much resisted by China. Nothing is known for certain regarding the future settlement of the Manchu dynasty in China. The character of the Emperor has been already described; he is well-meaning, but wholly wanting in moral power. It is hoped that the Dowager Empress will be permanently set aside, as few women in human annals have wrought such mischief as she. The protraction of negotiations is for one reason not to be regretted, because it shows that the Allies mean to stay till the work is really done, however long that may be. The undue haste in departing after victory in former wars, and so leaving China too soon to her-