

to foreign relationships, an intense antipathy to foreign travel; and this spirit, acting on the nation as a whole, would affect it in its domestic life. We should naturally expect to find the East essentially the land of classes—of classes hemmed in by barriers as unchanging and impassable as the everlasting hills themselves.

Another cause operating upon national character may be found in the monotony of the country thus shut in within those mountain peaks. There were no pleasing changes from sloping valley to sunlit hill, but one long expanse of plain. And here let me remark that the highest development of the human race seems to be reached in a condition of surroundings, mental, moral, and physical, in which variety is the prevailing law. There is something in variety which stimulates the senses to a keener activity, quickens the moral energies, and brightens and sharpens all the powers and faculties of the mind; the continual change from one condition to another, requiring continuous forethought and renewed physical and mental exertion to adapt oneself to the change of circumstances; the continual variety of scene and surroundings, requiring fresh intellectual effort to comprehend and appreciate them. All these benefits of variety were lost to the inhabitants of those Eastern plain countries, and thus we should expect to find their character and their history alike bearing the stamp of monotony. And do we not find, in the actual history of these people, that such has been the case? You all know how intensely exclusive has been, till within very late years, the policy pursued by the Empires of China and Japan; so that it was only when almost forced to it at the cannon's mouth that they opened their ports to commerce and intercourse with foreign nations. We have all heard of the system of caste in India, and of its rigid exclusiveness; and in the fact of these nations being so shut out from one another, combined with the monotonous character of their country, we can find a reason for the stationary nature of their history, and the traditional character of their institutions. Away back into the dim and distant past, with hardly a way-mark on the great march of time to distinguish from each other the centuries as they rolled by, stretch the annals and records of those oriental peoples. While one political earth-

quake after another was changing the whole social, civil, and religious aspect of Europe, these peoples remained essentially the same.

And now let us follow the course of the Western peoples—those who, descending the western slopes of the Bolor and Hindoo Koosh mountains, took their way towards the setting sun. Upon entering Europe they at once found themselves in a land which, from its character, was well fitted to develop to the full all the faculties and powers of the race. Nature yielded none of her treasures save at the summons of earnest labour. Lying as it does almost entirely within the temperate zone, Europe is the natural home of energy and progress. Nature, while calling out man's energies to the full, gives him the promise of something beyond the bare necessities of life; so that, having thus, by labour and perseverance, provided for his merely physical wants, he may have leisure to cultivate the higher faculties of the intellectual nature. To the fathers of our race nature proved herself, on the one hand, no over-indulgent mother, by the lavishness of her gifts killing out all energy of action, all force of character, all earnestness of purpose; and on the other, no stern and unloving parent, denying to her children all save the bare necessities of existence. She was rather the thoughtful and considerate mother, assisting and sustaining the first steps of her children, while encouraging them to independence of action and self-reliance, stimulating to fresh exertions by holding out to them the hope of great and yet greater rewards awaiting on energetic labour, aided by skill and forethought; and not only the climate and character of the soil, but the formation of the country as well, favoured the first settlers. The immense proportion of seaboard that Europe possesses, as compared with the other continents of the old world—arms of the sea running into and penetrating the land to an extent not even approached in any other part of the world—with the mountain ranges so situated as, on the one hand, not to hinder the different countries from having free intercourse with one another; and on the other, to afford that diversity to the surface of the country which has such a beneficial effect on the character of its people—with an atmosphere as far removed from the dryness which prevails in lands too far remote from