

civilization which was in advance of that of Europe in the fourteenth century, but who exhibit little of that dread of innovation which has so singularly arrested the development of the national intellect of China. The American Commodore found he had to deal with a government, shrewd, intelligent, firm of purpose, and far-seeing in its policy ; while the acquirements in mathematics, geography, and languages, and the general knowledge of the sciences, were such as would discredit no European Court. It became manifest moreover, in the course of his intercourse with this interesting people, that they too have their conservative and liberal parties in the State : the sticklers for precedent and routine, who adhere to the "good old ways," and devoutly protest against all innovation ; and the advocates for progress who, in replying to the President's letter, protest against a bigoted adherence to ancient laws as unworthy of *the spirit of the age*. In effecting satisfactory arrangements with the Japanese Government, accordingly, great tact and skilful diplomacy were found absolutely requisite. "Not an article of the treaty was made but upon the most serious deliberation by the Japanese.....probably nothing but the exercise of the most perfect truthfulness and patience, would ever have succeeded in making with them a treaty at all." How far the official explanations, processions, and formal state ceremonial and parade, in which the Commodore deemed it politic to indulge, precisely merit so superlative a designation as that of "the most perfect truthfulness," may surely admit of question. When, for example, we read of his reply to the inquiries of the Japanese Commissioners relative to the number of his proposed official retinue, that "It is the custom of the United States, when an officer of high rank bears a communication from the President to the Sovereign of another country, for him to go with such an attendance as is respectful to the power to which he is sent : " it is difficult to avoid some remembrance of republican state-official battles with European Court lackeys, on the all important questions of regulation small-clothes, yellow waistcoats, and round hats ! Here is the manner in which the same republican simplicity manifested itself when it was desirable to produce a "moral influence" on an Asiatic Court :

"The marines led the way, and the sailors following, the Commodore was duly escorted up the beach. The United States flag and the broad pennant were borne by two athletic seamen, who had been selected from the crews of the squadron on account of their stalwart proportions. Two boys, dressed for the ceremony, preceded the Commodore, bearing in an envelope of scarlet cloth the boxes which contained his credentials and the President's letter. These documents, of folio size, were beautifully written, on vellum, and not folded, but bound in blue silk velvet. Each seal, attached by cords of interwoven gold and silk with