

war with her on account of her cruel administration. For many years we supported Persia with officers, money and arms, but when Russia attacked the northern provinces we did not think it worth while to support Persia sufficiently to prevent her taking them, and we eventually had to go to war with Persia ourselves. And in regard to Afghanistan we should, I am sure, like to be a good deal more certain than we are that all the money and patience we have spent upon it have not been thrown away.

On the other hand, wherever either ourselves or the Russians have assumed control over semi-civilised states, progress and improvement have invariably resulted, and, taken as a whole, our respective positions have been strengthened, not weakened. We are not weaker for our advance through India, and the Russians are not weaker for their advance into the Caucasus and Central Asia. At the same time the people in both are better off than they have ever been before.

We should then take into consideration the almost irresistible tendency of the times for the civilised nations of Europe to control the less civilised peoples of Asia. Still more seriously