

upheld in Manchuria, our task in afterwards upholding them in North China and the Yangtse Valley will be doubly increased. I have assumed that in these days of hungry competition among the nations it is even more difficult than before to support a weak uncivilised state against the advance of European Powers, and that when the former owns undeveloped estates, the exploitation of which is of vital importance to mankind in general, to attempt to impede that advance is scarcely less immoral than futile. The problem, then, has been how to preserve our interests without pig-headedly impeding the legitimate advance of Russia. The solution I offer is, that finding it impossible at present to come to an understanding with her, we must exert our energies to compel her to come to such an agreement—not, however, by supporting China to resistance, but by making Russia realise that advances on her part which are accompanied by the exclusion of British trade and the cancelment of our rights, only necessitate counter-advances on our side; that we cannot possibly sit still and see our trade driven out of country after country, province after province, and port after port.