

In this view we must give up our House of Commons ideas on preserving the integrity of China. We gave them up in practice, almost as soon as the Resolution of last February was passed, and under the pressure of circumstances we annexed Wei-hai-wei and Mir's Bay. We must, instead, remember that there are greater forces than our individual wills which rule the world, and that however fixedly we may make up our minds to do one thing, we are often driven by those forces to do precisely the opposite. From the beginning of the history of mankind there has been a force engendered by rivalry and competition, first impelling barbarous man to clear out the beast of the field from the best parts of the earth, then, driving on the more advanced to subdue the barbarous, and now urging the civilised either to oust or control the uncivilised.

That force it is which has caused the progress of the world, which has placed the strong above the weak, the good above the bad, which compelled a trading company, much against its own will, to take the whole of India, to our ultimate advantage and the good of the world, and which is driving us and other European