

be a frequent attendant at the mess. To him application was first made in disputed points of professional etiquette, and he was expected to watch over the interests, character, and conduct of the circuit. Graver cases were reserved for the consideration of the whole body; our law was unwritten, and our decisions were neither recorded nor reported, but obeyed on peril of expulsion from the mess.

The judges, I have said, travelled with their own four horses. I may mention also as a little circumstance now passing into oblivion, that they travelled with their own "four wigs also:" the brown scratch for the morning when not in court; the powdered dress-wig for dinner; the tye-wig with the black coif, when sitting on the civil side of the court; the full bottomed one, which was never omitted, for the crown side. Those were days, you know, when gentlemen in common life wore coats of every colour; but we always dined with the judges in black. Some judges, indeed, were strict in their notions as to the dress of the bar at other times. I remember once, when a party of us halted at Blandford for luncheon, on our way from Salisbury to Dorchester, at the same inn at which their lordships were resting for the same purpose. We strolled out while our repast was being prepared, and met them. One of our number had a black silk handkerchief round his neck, and a blue cloth cap with a gold-lace band on his head. We observed that one of the judges drew up at this. It chanced that, a few minutes after, a recruiting party marched down the street with drum and fife, and at our luncheon the butler appeared with a demure face to say, with his lordship's compliments to the gentlemen of the bar, that as some of them seemed to have a military turn, he sent to say that there was a recruiting party in the town, and they might like, perhaps, to take the opportunity of enlisting.—*The Right Hon. Sir J. T. Coleridge.*

#### PRINCE METTERNICH.

THE appearance of a Metternich as the representative of Austria at the Congress of Paris carries the mind back to the Congress of Vienna, where the Allied Powers, under the presidency of the old Metternich, revised the map of Europe, and decreed the extinction of the Buonaparte dynasty. Metternich, the father, just lived to see Napoleon *redivivus* in Italy once more, renewing, as it were, that war with Austria which first brought his own talents into notice, and opened to him the illustrious career which closed, if not in disgrace, in profound humiliation. He survived himself, we may almost say, only to see all his schemes reversed. "What you build, I will destroy; what you plant, I will pluck up." Such might be the epitaph on many a great man's tomb.

"Après moi le déluge," said Prince Metternich, a few years before the revolutionary deluge of 1848 swept over Austria, and cast him a banished exile on the shores of England. In this saying, as in one or two remarkable acts of his life, he showed that he was gifted with a very keen foresight of

future events. Yet partly, perhaps, from the selfish consideration expressed in the words "après moi," he was throughout his whole career the very incarnation of the principle of immobility. He has been often, nevertheless, compared to Talleyrand; but, except that both these celebrated men were endowed with extraordinary diplomatic ability, there was at least no outside likeness—rather a complete contrast—between them. The Voltairian ex-priest could assume every shape, adopt every party, serve every dynasty, and accommodate himself with surprising readiness and aptitude to every change. But Metternich never changed; he served the same cause, and devoted himself invariably to the promotion of the same interests, as he conceived them, of his country. There was, in fact, as much uniformity of purpose in the life of the German as there was versatility in that of the French statesman; yet the narrow consistent inflexibility of the one, and the unprincipled flexibility of the other, had perhaps this resemblance—they may have arisen out of the same time-serving motives.

Metternich was born at Coblenz, in May, 1773. At his death, last year, he had thus completed his eighty-sixth year. The Metternich family was originally from the banks of the Rhine. They were at first baronial, and had even then the right of a seat in the imperial Diets. They were afterwards made counts, and in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the family gave to the empire three electors, two of Mayence and one of Trèves. The father of the prince lately deceased was Envoy Extraordinary at the electoral courts of the Rhine, and fulfilled other important missions.

Of the early youth of his renowned son, we only know that he was a fellow-student with Benjamin Constant, at a college of Strasbourg, and that a friendship sprung up between the two young men; which their opposite careers and still more opposite characters never afterwards interrupted. Young Metternich was introduced into public life as a master of ceremonies at the Imperial Court of Vienna. At the age of twenty-one, he was appointed ambassador at the Hague. Holland, however, being conquered by France, he did not fill that post, but became representative of Austria at Dresden, and afterwards at Berlin. He took a leading part in all the most important events of that period. It was principally owing to him that Prussia was induced to join the League, in 1805, with Russia, England, Sweden, and Austria against France. The campaign of Ulm and Austerlitz followed; and almost immediately afterwards Metternich rose to that conspicuous eminence which he retained, with ever increasing power, for nearly half a century.

In 1806 he was appointed Ambassador to the court of Napoleon, and, taking his stand as a diplomatist by the side of the French emperor and of Talleyrand, was found at once, under circumstances the most unfavourable to the interests he represented, to be of no inferior stature.

"You are very young," Napoleon said to him on his first presentation, "to represent one of the oldest houses of Europe."

"Your Majesty was hardly my age," was the happy reply, "at the battle of Austerlitz."

The young envoy had a most difficult mission to fulfil, and he effectually fulfilled it, by lulling to sleep the suspicions of the French emperor, till Austria, profiting by the reaction that was taking place in Germany against France, had completed her preparations for war, which, as soon as Napoleon got seriously engaged in the Spanish struggle, was declared, and Bavaria invaded (1809). This disagreeable surprise brought upon Metternich one of those vulgar outbursts of anger with which the despot of the Tuileries was accustomed, when his will was frustrated, to assail the representatives at his court of the crowned heads of Europe. He for some time refused the Austrian ambassador his passports, and at last sent him ignominiously under an escort to the Imperial camp at Komorn, just before the battle of Wagram.

On the retirement of Count Stadion at this time from the Austrian ministry of foreign affairs, Metternich became his successor. His first great object in his new post was to establish an honourable peace between France and Austria. The intimacy between Napoleon and the Emperor of Russia naturally alarmed him; and there can be no doubt that the former, now at the climax of his fortune, was determined to impose on Austria terms as humiliating and crushing as those he after the battle of Jena dictated to Prussia. The marriage of the greatest conqueror of modern times with that most inane and contemptible of women, the Archduchess Marie Louise, averted this calamity. Profiting by the *parvenu* vanity of Napoleon to ally himself with one of the most ancient imperial houses of Europe, Metternich negotiated this marriage with great zeal and skill. He had much opposition to overcome at the court of Vienna, especially on the part of the Empress; and his success, although powerfully aided by the wretched ambition of Napoleon, was for the moment a great diplomatic victory. It left Austria, after all her defeats, almost as formidable a power as she had been before she sustained them. Metternich himself conducted the new Empress to Paris.

We pass over here, as too well known to be even alluded to, the great events which followed, up to the year 1813, but must just remark, that so powerfully did the policy all along recommended and pursued by Metternich contribute to the final recovery of Europe from the oppression of French conquest, that the victory of the Allies at Leipsic was deemed the fittest occasion to recognise and reward his eminent services. He was consequently, immediately after that battle, created Hereditary Prince of the Austrian Empire. But a still more unequivocal recognition of his superior merit is to be found in the fact that he was unanimously chosen as President of the Congress of Vienna, which assembled in 1814 and 1815. As Austria was at this time very far from being entitled to any precedency, this election could only have sprung from the conviction that the prince, among all the assembled diplomatists of Europe, was without question the fittest to fill that arduous post. At the congresses which followed, of Verona, of Aix-la-Chapelle, of Laybach,

and Carlsbad, etc., the same honour was conferred on him. In the year 1821 he was named Chancellor of State.

We may here observe, as a remarkable trait of his political wisdom, that, though representing Austrian interests, he acquiesced at once, at the Congress of Vienna, in the renunciation, on the part of Austria, of all claims on Belgium and on those provinces of the Low Countries which she had held for so many centuries before the revolutionary wars plucked them out of her hand. He concurred fully in the noble project of uniting Belgium and Holland into one powerful kingdom, which, had the union endured, would have built up a mighty barrier against the aggressive ambition of France, and have secured more effectually than any other result of the final triumph obtained over Napoleon, the balance of power among European States. The prince manifested too much foresight, in his vehement disapproval of the policy which wrested Greece from Ottoman rule. He foresaw, as time has proved, that Russia would be the only gainer by the creation of a petty Greek kingdom, quite incompetent to defend itself, and forming only a nest and hot-bed of Russian influence and intrigue in the East.

From 1815 to 1848, Metternich exercised absolute rule over the Austrian Empire. Under the two reigns of Francis and Ferdinand, his power remained unabated. At his death, Francis recommended his successor, both verbally and in writing, to do nothing without the advice and concurrence of the chancellor. Yet the prince took care to disguise his supremacy from his sovereigns. He made it appear to them that *he* was merely their humble servant—that they ruled as well as reigned; and was accustomed to tell those with whom he familiarly conversed, that the emperor had a decided will of his own, which he dared not oppose.

In his principles of government, this modern Wolsey, in all but personal pride, was dreadfully consistent. He acted throughout as if in as much dread of revolution as he might justly have been at the beginning of his career, when propagandist French armies, flushed with victory, received their inspiration from the Jacobin clubs and committees of Paris. He did, no doubt, foresee great changes brooding over the future, but he could not or would not foresee any possible good to arise out of them. He anticipated them as positively and purely evil. Hence, suppression and repression, in their utmost rigour, formed the rule of his administration; and in Lombardy and Galicia especially, this rule was carried out to the most oppressive and crushing excess. Nevertheless, he was not a cruel man. During the long period in which he enjoyed absolute authority, no Austrian subject suffered capital punishment for any political offence. Mrs. Trollope, in her work called "Austria and the Austrians," has, in relating an interview she had with the prince, given as fair and favourable a description of the narrow and slavish morality on which his system of governing was based, as it will bear.

"Our policy," said the prince, "is to extend all possible *material* happiness to the whole population,

to leave them nothing to desire in that way, to administer the laws *patriarchally*, to prevent their tranquillity from being disturbed, and to maintain the national happiness as it at present exists. Is it not delightful to see these people looking so contented," continued he, turning round to the next window, and pointing to the groups walking on the terrace of the Volks Garten, immediately before his palace, "so much in possession of what makes them comfortable—so well fed, so well clad, so quiet, so religiously observant of order?" Mrs. Trollope adds: "He thinks that the people ought to have no political rights, but that an absolute government should exercise its power paternally, considering its subjects as children who should be cherished with affection, but who must obey without disputing the authority of the parent."

Veillot, the editor of the "Univers," has published, since the death of the prince, some conversations he pretends to have had with him; but they bear the marks of being entirely apocryphal. One story, however, told by M. Veillot, if not true, has at least point enough in it to be amusing.

When the pope was prisoner at Savona, Napoleon proposed to Metternich the project of establishing his holiness in the vicinity of Paris, of giving him a palace, a college of cardinals, a neutral territory of considerable circumference, and a revenue of 6,000,000 of francs. The ambassador looked astonished at this communication, and offered many arguments against the scheme; but finding they took no effect, he said, feigning much reluctance to speak, that he was afraid he was guilty of much indiscretion in revealing a state secret, but that he must tell his Majesty that the emperor his master had made a similar proposition to the holy father: that he had offered him the imperial palace of Schönbrunn as the seat of the Holy See, with a large district around it, and a revenue of 12,000,000 dollars; and that the offer had been rejected. Napoleon saw at once that this great state secret was a mere fable got up for the occasion; but he saw in it, too, the absurdity of his own design, which he spoke of no more, and dropped.

One amusing scrap of *Metternichiana* happens to be known to the writer of this paper. The Princess Metternich had at one time a fancy for collecting for her album the autographs of celebrated characters. After she had made a very ample collection, it occurred to her that among authors she had no autograph of any French journalist, and the ambassador at Paris was requested to procure her one. Thereupon his Excellency sent a very polite invitation to dinner to Jules Janin, and in the course of conversation after the dinner, mentioned the princess's fancy to his guest. Jules Janin immediately took the hint, and, calling for a sheet of note paper, wrote with prompt wit, in the convivial spirit of the moment, "Received of Prince Metternich, twenty-five bottles of Johannisberg, first quality. Jules Janin." This he handed to the ambassador, who laughed heartily, and assured him that the wine, the costliest of Rhine growth, which takes its name from one of the prince's estates, should be sent him. In the course of a little more than a week, the twenty-five bottles arrived at the feuille-

tonist's apartments, with the princess's compliments and thanks.

The revolution of 1848, as is well known, terminated the political career of the illustrious subject of this notice. The tenacity with which he clung to power to the last moment, showed indeed that he had become childishly unfit to retain it. Whilst the populace were in insurrection in the streets, clamouring for his dismissal, every effort was made, for four long hours, to persuade him to resign, in vain. At last the Archduke Francis quitted the room, where he had been closeted with Metternich, and announced to the crowd assembled in another apartment the resignation of the chancellor. But the prince followed him, and, hearing the announcement, exclaimed, "I will not resign." The archduke merely repeated the words he had just uttered; and he whose will had been the law of the empire for thirty-three years, was a few days afterwards sent under the custody of an escort, as a state criminal, out of the Austrian dominions, to find refuge in this country. He was permitted to return to his château of Reinberg in 1850, where he passed the remnant of his life in entire obscurity.

Prince Metternich was married three times. By his first marriage he had two daughters; by his second a son, Richard, born 1829, the inheritor of his title, (the Austrian Plenipotentiary, now at Paris,) and by the third, a son, Paul, and a daughter. His wealth was very great. Besides the dukedom of Portella, conferred upon him by the King of the two Sicilies, with a revenue of 60,000 Neapolitan ducats, and the salaries attached to the official posts he filled, he has left to his heir, and to his family, large possessions in Bohemia, in Moravia, and on the Rhine, including the château and estate of Johannisberg. The prince was decorated with all the orders of Europe, except that of the garter. His only English honour was a doctor's degree bestowed upon him by Oxford, in 1814, when he visited England with the allied sovereigns.

## A SHIP ON FIRE.

### A SAD CHRISTMAS NIGHT AT SEA.

CHRISTMAS day of '56 I spent in Sydney Harbour. It was glorious summer weather, the sun shedding down tropical heat; and strange was the feeling of a Christmas so different from the wintry scenes which mark the festive period in our own dear land. Englishmen will not, however, forget old customs, wherever in the wide world their lot may be cast. We sat down to the national sirloin, and to a plum-pudding, such as it was. The evening was passed in cheerful but not boisterous festivity. In that far-off land the heart could not help turning to home and the loved ones there, nor were deeper thoughts absent about subjects that ought to be ever recalled by the season. Whether our captain observed the subdued spirit that prevailed, or whether it was merely the irrepressible feeling in his own mind, he proposed to tell us the true story of a fearful Christmas night he once spent at sea. I have never heard or seen another account of what he narrated, but I give the captain's story