

field Administration by the war which broke out in 1877 between Russia and Turkey, consequent on the revolt from the latter country of Bosnia and other provinces. When Constantinople was about to fall into the hands of Russia, England interfered by sending a powerful fleet through the Dardanelles. It was then agreed that the chief Powers of Europe should, through their representatives, meet at Berlin and settle the questions at issue between Russia and Turkey, affecting, as these did, the general peace and welfare of the Continent. The *Treaty of Berlin* (1878) is generally regarded by his friends as the great achievement of Lord Beaconsfield's life. England retained possession of Cyprus, previously ceded to her by Turkey, while a number of the Danubian provinces became altogether independent of the latter country. Russia received some important grants of territory in Asia Minor. Lord Beaconsfield's term of office was also marked by the purchase by England of a controlling influence in the Suez Canal, and the assumption of a protectorate over Egypt, which has since given the country much trouble.

**Treaty of  
Berlin.**

47. The general election of 1880 displaced the Beaconsfield Ministry and restored Mr. Gladstone to office. For some time much uneasiness had existed in Ireland, where a *Land League*, designed to secure for the Irish people possession of the soil, now owned by landlords generally residing in England, had acquired great influence under the leadership of Mr. Parnell and other Irish members of Parliament. As a measure of justice to Ireland, and with the view of counteracting the operations of the League, Mr. Gladstone introduced in 1881 a *Land Act for Ireland*, a measure intended to grant substantial relief to tenants, by making them to a large extent independent of their landlords. What the ultimate results of this Act may be cannot now be predicted. Unfortunately, instead of quieting the uneasiness which prevailed in Ireland, it had to be followed by a *Coercion Act*, under the operation of which Mr. Parnell and other Irish leaders were temporarily imprisoned. A sad event connected with the Irish troubles was the assassination, in May 1882, of Lord Frederick Cavendish, the Chief Secretary for Ireland. Lord Beaconsfield did not long survive his retirement from office in 1880. After one of the most remarkable careers in English history, in which, by sheer dint of genius and industry, he advanced himself step by step to the highest post attainable by a subject, he died on the 19th of April 1881.

**Gladstone  
Adminis-  
tration.**

48. Great Britain has never made greater progress than during the long reign which happily is not yet closed. In manufactures and commerce our country maintains her proud position as the leading nation of the world. Long famed for her universities and her great endowed schools, England has at last determined to be surpassed by no other

**General  
progress  
under  
Victoria.**