

first of all to occupy those lands which England had won as Colonies previous to the year 1701, the date of her foundation, and afterwards to follow in the wake of the growth of the British Empire, and as soon as possible to send and maintain Missionaries and Teachers, both for our colonists and also for the native inhabitants in all these new lands.

Our first question is, therefore, what possessions had England two hundred years ago; and the answer, which I shall have to give to this question will be, I think you will agree, a very curious one.

For I shall have to tell you that, although wonderful discoveries were made in the time of Henry VII. by Columbus and Cabot, and although, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, such men as Hawkins, Drake and Fro-bisher, Magellan, Cavendish and Sir Humphrey Gilbert had some most wonderful adventures, yet it was not until 1599 that the East India Company received its charter, it was not until 1606 that Virginia and New England were settled, and it was not until 1620 that a Puritan Colony was settled in Massachusetts, while about the same time a footing was obtained on the rocky shores of Newfoundland.

Then a few years later, we took possession of the Barbadoes in the West Indies, and in 1633 Charles I. gave Maryland to Lord Baltimore, while about the same time Lord Berkeley received North and South Carolina. Presently the Island of Jamaica became ours in the time of Oliver Cromwell, and later still, and soon after the Restoration of King Charles II., New Amsterdam was taken from the Dutch, and was re-named New York; while in 1670 the vast region around and beyond Hudson Bay, which had been annexed by Charles I., and conferred on his fighting Lieutenant, Prince Rupert, was transferred to the Hudson's Bay Company, and called Rupertsland, the Prince being one of the founders of that far-famed Company and its first Governor. About the same time the Island of St. Helena was taken by the East India Company from the Dutch, a raid which was condoned by Charles II., because it was such a convenient point to stop at on the way to India round the Cape of Good Hope, which at that time was not yet British territory. Pennsylvania was purchased by William

Penn from the Duke of York in 1682, and was colonised by a large body of persecuted Quakers. Meantime, the East India Company had established a station at Madras, in South-east India in 1611; and thirty years later they had done the same thing in Eastern India. This latter station was removed in 1698 to Calcutta, and meantime, in 1662, the Town and Island of Bombay in West India, had passed from Portugal to England as part of the dowry of Catharine of Braganza, Charles the Second's Queen.

You see, therefore, that, when the S. P. G. was founded in 1701, nearly the whole region open to its operations was to be found in different settlements in North America, in the West Indies and in Hindostan.

And, since the foundation of the S. P. G., its territory has, from the nature of its work, grown with the growth of the British Empire, of which, we may say, that it has taken place as follows:—

First of all the key of the Mediterranean Sea, the Gibraltar Rock, which was taken by the British in 1704, became ours by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. Then Georgia, the last of our ten colonies in North America, was founded in 1733, and later, Canada was conquered and taken from the French by Gen. Wolfe in 1759, and was acknowledged to be ours by the Treaty of Paris in 1763.

In 1787 we acquired Sierra Leone, on the West Coast of Africa, and also New South Wales: i. e., the South-East Coast of Australia, with Tasmania, the large Island to the South of the mainland. In 1795 we took possession of Ceylon, and two years later we conquered Trinidad, in the West Indies, while Malta became ours in 1800. But by this time we had lost that great set of Colonies, now known as the United States of America, and consequently, it may be truly said, that during the eighteenth century, i. e., the first century of the existence of the S. P. G., there was little or no development of England's Colonial power.

But during the present century the growth of the British Colonial possessions has been truly wonderful. Not only have we gradually become possessed of the whole of Australia, but in 1806 we took the Cape of Good Hope from the Dutch, and in 1840 the Colony of Natal became ours also; and now the issue of the present sad war will probably, after terrible sacrifices,