

inhabitants. The West India Islands contain no more than 12,682 square miles, but the population in 1861 was 934,197; Jamaica has half the area, 6,400 square miles, not far from half the population, viz: 441,255 in 1861. The Cape of Good Hope and Natal add 216,755 square miles to British possessions, with a population of 759,201; Ceylon, 24,700 square miles, and 2,088,027 people. Mauritius, 708 square miles, and 310,050 of a population; British Guinea, 76,000 square miles, and 148,026 people in 1861; Houduras, 13,500 square miles, and 25,635 people in 1861. The other colonies and possessions—the Straits Settle-

ments, Hong Kong, West African Settlements, Dabuan, St. Helena, the eight Falklands, Bermuda, Gibraltar, Malta, bring the extent of the possessions of this kingdom beyond sea up to 4,562,000 square miles, and their population to 161,486,000—a number which has increased since the date of these estimates or enumerations. Including the British Northwest American possessions, and linking the whole to the mother country, the metropolis of this vast domain, the Queen's realm will be found to comprise a territory of about seven millions of English square miles, with a population approaching 200,000,000 of souls.

THE medical faculty of Paris are puzzled by the appearance of a new disease, which, for want of a more appropriate name, they have christened *la crampe des écrivains*, or writer's cramp. It is caused by the electrical action on the muscles of the fingers by the constant use of steel pens, and no remedy has yet been discovered for it.

ONE night recently a mob, composed of six or seven men and a dozen women, wives of citizens of Pontiac, Ill., led by the wife of William Strawn, representative of the district in the State Legislature, entered a billiard saloon, and demolished two or three tables, poured out all the liquors, and cleaned out the "shebang" completely. The whole party have been arrested and held to bail for a riot.

INTRODUCTION OF GAS INTO RAILROAD CARS.—The New York and New Haven Railroad are trying a new experiment in the use of gas in their cars. A former experiment was tried on the same road a few years ago; but the inventor in that case relied upon atmospheric pressure to force the gas from the gasometer (under the cars) to the burners, and the plan proved a failure. In the present instance the gas is forced

out of the gasometer to the burner by means of strong springs, and the quantity of light can be regulated as desired. The new apparatus has as yet only been applied to one car of the 8 o'clock P. M., Boston Express Line, with very satisfactory results, and will, in all probability, be introduced in all the cars of the night lines at an early day. —*Gas Light Journal*, Sept. 2.

EXPLOSIVE MISSILES IN WAR.—At the conference held at St. Petersburg on the non-employment of explosive missiles of war, it was decided that no explosive projectiles weighing less than 400 grammes should be used. The sitting at which this decision was come to lasted two hours, the Russian Minister of War presiding. The conference was adjourned, the drawing up of the protocol being in the meantime entrusted to Baron Jomini. The *Independence Belge* says it had been hoped that the representatives of the powers would have availed themselves of the opportunity to enter upon the question of a disarmament, but that this illusion was very soon dispelled, owing to the attitude of Prussia and France, who are "little disposed to lend an ear to such overtures."