

about two hundred and fifty million subjects—and these figures are exclusive of the five hundred thousand square miles of territory and fifty million inhabitants comprised in the Feudatory and so-called Independent States of India, and also of merely protected areas elsewhere.

To put it again in another way, Greater Britain about equals Russia, with all its vast Asiatic possessions, is nearly three times the size of the United States, fourteen times the size of France, with all her colonial possessions, and nearly forty times as large as Germany, which has (or had until the other day) practically no colonies.

These are huge figures and, if of no other value, may at least serve to show the greatness and importance of the subject we are now considering, as it is obvious that, whether for good or for evil, the retention or abandonment of this huge, and in population, rapidly increasing connection, must seriously affect the future fortunes of the United Kingdom; a country which holds sixty-five square miles of extra territory for every one contained within its own area, and to whose Government six persons own allegiance outside for every one within, cannot afford for ever to treat with indifference the subject of its colonial relations.

Let us now consider a rough classification of the colonies. If you refer to the list, or possess any general knowledge of the colonies, you will at once perceive that they cannot be all classed under one head. They may be classified according to the reasons for which their retention may be urged, and these are very various according to their climates, their populations, that is whether mainly native or European, or their form of government.

This last classification must be of itself valueless were it not that in the main, and for obvious reasons, it follows roughly the natural conditions of climate and race, as well as the special purpose, if any, for which the colony was originally taken.

Thus, on reference to the list, you will perceive that I have divided the methods of government under three heads—"Crown," "Partly Elective," and "Responsible."

Both those which I have called "Crown," and those I have entered as "Partly Elective," although they comprise almost as many variations in the details of their governments as there are colonies to be governed, come under the popular if not official designation of "Crown Colonies," because in all alike the Crown