

"GREATER BRITAIN."*

Twenty years ago Sir Charles Dilke wrote a book of travel around the world, which was not only a great literary success, but also gave currency to the striking phrase, "Greater Britain," which is embodied in the title of the comprehensive work before us. This book, however, is not a mere book of travel, but a statesman-like and philosophical discussion of the many and difficult problems which arise in the study of this complex subject. Special attention is given to the relations of the English-speaking countries with one another, and to the comparative politics of the countries under British government. The author has twice journeyed around the world and twice nearly around. He has made exhaustive studies of the subject on which he writes, and has produced a book which has not its parallel in fulness of information on the social, political, and economic conditions of the many colonies and states which make up the British Empire.

Of this Great and Greater Britain he says, "the British Empire, with its protectorates, and even without counting its less defined sphere of influence, has an area of some nine million of square miles, or, very roughly speaking, of nearly three Europes; revenues amounting to some two hundred and ten millions sterling; and half the sea-borne commerce of the world. This empire, lying in all latitudes, produces every requirement of life and trade. We possess the greatest wheat granaries, wool markets, timber forests, and diamond fields of the world. . . . In coal, iron, and copper, we hold our own with all mankind. . . . As regards food supply, it is certain that we might, if we please, be entirely independent of any foreign source. The states of

Greater Britain thus scattered over the best portions of the globe, vary infinitely in their forms of government, between the absolutism that prevails in India and the democracy of South Australia or Ontario.

"The dominant force in bringing that empire together and in maintaining it as one body has been the eminence among the races of the world of our own well mixed people. As to the ultimate results of their high deeds there can be no doubt. . . . More than a hundred million speak English as their chief tongue, and vastly more than that number as one of two languages; while four hundred millions of people are, more or less directly, under English rule."

We are tempted to quote much more, but our limits of space prevents.

This is not a mere jingoist outburst of patriotism. Our author discerns the difficulty of the many problems before the statesman, and contributes his quota to their solution. The part of this book referring to the Dominion of Canada will naturally be of most interest to us. He points out the very superior advantages it offers to the immigrant as compared with Australia or any other part of the empire. He points out, too, the superiority of the soil of the great North-West to that of the neighbouring Republic. Of its future he has the most sanguine anticipations. "Of all the lands under a temperate climate," he says, "to which British emigrants can go, North America is by far the most accessible" and Canada, he shows offers by far the largest and richest area of food-producing soil.

Sir Charles describes very fairly the political condition of the Dominion, and justly characterizes its provinces and principal cities. "If

* *Problems of Greater Britain.* By THE RIGHT HON. SIR CHARLES WENTWORTH DILKE, Bart. 8vo, pp. xii-738. London and New York: Macmillan & Co.; and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax. Price \$4.50.