

ceiving the advantages of federation. In 1900, the British Parliament passed the necessary Act, and on January 1st, 1901, the Commonwealth of Australia came into existence. It is the second great federal state within the British Empire. The resemblance between the Australian and Canadian systems is marked, especially in the provisions that the ministry of the day is responsible to Parliament, and that an appeal to the electors may take place at any time; but, in some other respects, the newer federation has followed more closely the pattern of the United States. Its divisions are not provinces, but states; it has an elective senate, instead of one appointed by the crown, a House of Representatives instead of a House of Commons; and the states in Australia, as in the United States, retain all the powers not assigned to the federal government, in contrast with Canada where the powers of the provinces are strictly defined.

The Dominion of New Zealand.—The island of Tasmania is a part of Australia, but New Zealand, a thousand miles distant, is a separate colony. Its length of nine hundred miles gives some idea of its extent which, however, is small as compared with that of Australia or Canada. It is an important self-governing state which assumed in 1908, the rank of a "Dominion," no longer to be regarded as a mere colony. The native Maoris, perhaps the most virile race in the South Seas, were fiercely opposed to the coming of the Europeans. In New Zealand life they are still an important element.

The Union of South Africa.—To Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, all important self-governing British states, must be added the Union of South Africa. It has been finally established only after a costly war (p. 509), but is now a great free state within the British Empire.

The Russian Menace to India.—Although the growth of territory, thus outlined, is remarkable, it is even more remarkable that Britain should rule three hundred millions in India, distant from her by about six thousand miles. India represents many nations. In it are highly civilized peoples and also savage tribes. It has fully