

STONE KINGDOM, AND WHY IT GROWS.

ENGLISHMEN who live out their lives in the British isles, who give the best of their labor to the questions and issues of their peninsular existence, are apt to forget what England is in truth. Take up any gazetteer and you will find there what every school-boy is supposed to know, but what to scores of Englishmen out of every hundred will read like a new discovery, the dimensions of their own empire.

The United Kingdom, with an area of 120,000 square miles, and a population of thirty-three millions, rules over eight million square miles of the globe's surface, and three hundred millions of the world's inhabitants. The existence of the British empire is a fact—wherever the Union Jack floats, there the English race rules, English laws prevail, English idens are dominant, English speech holds the upper hand. England is the corner stone of an Imperial fabric such as it has fallen to the lot of no other country to erect or uphold when erected. People are too apt to forget how this empire has come into being. In the strict sense of the word they never have been a conquering nation. They have had no monarch whose aim and ambition it has been to add fresh possessions to the Crown, in order simply and solely to extend the area of their dominions. The definition which Topsy, in Uncle Tom's Cabin, gave of her being, would be about the best that could be given of their empire. "Specks it growed," is the sum of what can be said on the matter. Here we are reminded of the words of the prophet Daniel, "The stone that smote the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth."—Dan. ii. 35.

Their empire is due not to the ambition of kings, not to the genius of generals, not even to the prevalence of one of those phases of military ardor through which most nations have to pass, but to the silent and constant operation of the instincts, laudable or otherwise, which have filled the world with the English tongue. They owe the fact that they are one of the Great Powers of the world not to the natural resources of their country, not to the military character of their people, not even to the advantages of their position, but to the circumstance of having got the trade of the world into their hands, and thereby secured the pre-eminence due to the command of wealth; and the reasons why they have got the trade of the world into their hands are threefold.

First and foremost is the possession of certain national qualities which lead them to devote more energy, to run more risk, to undergo more inconvenience in the pursuit of wealth abroad than other nations are prepared to do.

The second is the extent to which they are able to protect their commerce by their naval supremacy.

The third is the ownership of ports and stations

all over the world, in which their vessels can rest secure under their and our flag.

The energies of their race, the qualities which have made those islands what they are, find their scope, nutriment and development in the work of colonizing new lands, administering foreign governments, and ruling over less masterful races. Greater Britain serves as a safety valve to Great Britain.—E. DICEY in *The Trumpet of Israel*.

ISRAEL'S IDENTITY—"CUI BONO?"

BY W. S. CAVILL.

THE Identity of the British people with the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel, is becoming daily a more interesting theme to those who have gained sufficient light to recognise its reality and power. There are, too, strong indications of a wide-spread knowledge of the theory. Still, the number of believers in the truth thereof is comparatively small, while many who have only a hearsay acquaintance with it, are continually asking "Cui Bono?" or "What good?" From whatever motives this question is put, or by whomsoever it is asked, we can only give the simple unwavering answer, which a literal reading of the sure prophetic Word and an impartial perusal of history supply.

As space does not admit of any preliminary remarks, we at once plunge into the consideration of the various points involved in the "Cui Bono?" question.

Without reference to the Identity, we have been accustomed to speak of the Ten Tribes as "Lost." But under what circumstances or conditions can a Nation become lost—lost, not in the sense of having ceased to exist, but as eluding the observation and recognition of all other Nations? So, at least, those have thought who have sought for the Ten Tribes among the Afghans and other heathen peoples. But with attention thus drawn to the point, we may safely leave the matter to the free exercise of common sense. For if the Ten Tribes had retained their name of Israel—the name first borne by the entire body of the Twelve Tribes—and associated with plagues of Egypt, the conquest of Canaan, and the magnificent reigns of David and Solomon, could they possibly have escaped the observation of the Gentile peoples? Or, again, could such have been the case if they had adhered to the rite of circumcision—a rite established solely with the chosen people? Those who accuse us of overtaking their credulity in the matter of the Identity, and still adopt the affirmative of these pointed questions, simply ask that we believe, the impossible.

What became of the Ten Tribes after their captivity? Did they mix with the heathen in the countries in which they were placed by their Assyrian captors? Or, returning with the Jews