

THE GREATNESS OF LONDON.*

THE growth of London, even in this age of great cities, is one of the marvels of the nineteenth century. The Great Metropolis, which Guizot once described as "a province covered with houses," has ceased to be a metropolis only—it has become a kingdom. When, in 1871, we first visited "the modern Babylon," the population of what is called Inner, or Registration, London was 3,284,260. Ten years later the aggregate of men, women, and children within the same district had swelled to 3,814,471, showing an increase of over 530,000—a number not far from the population of Liverpool or Chicago. In 1880 the inhabitants of Greater London—that is, the Metropolitan District—numbered 4,790,000; to-day it must be considerably more than five million souls. In other words, the population of the British metropolis is more than half that of Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland united; is three times that of Greece; is a million larger than that of Scotland; equals that of nine Chicagos; and is almost as great as that of the State of New York, with the cities of New York, Brooklyn, Albany, Rochester, Syracuse, Buffalo, etc., included. In the six hundred and ninety square miles that lie within a range of fifteen miles of Charing Cross, more people are crowded together than are to be found in all the Queen's dominions in North America. If the great bell of St. Paul's were swung to the full pitch of its tocsin sound, more ears would hear it than could hear the loudest roar of Vesuvius or Etna. Stand in the ball above the dome of that great edifice, and you will gaze upon a panorama of life and industry such as you can gaze upon from no other point on the globe. As all roads led to Rome, so they now lead to London, and the vibrations of life and progress here quiver and tremble from every continent and great island on the globe.

All impulses to trading activity, all outgoings of enterprise and energy that build up markets in the most distant parts of the earth, make their efforts visible and palpable in the metropolis. Like a heart to which blood flows, and from which it pours, money, goods, business arrive thither from the four quarters of the globe, and flow thence to distant poles. No sound of war or

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