

Cabinet rank, and who is assisted by a Council, composed of ex Anglo-Indian magnates.

The fortified position of Aden, at the mouth of the Red Sea, and the tiny island of Perim, together with the whole of Burmah are annexed to India for purposes of administration, and are therefore also subject to the India Office.

So far as I can discover, the list with which I have furnished you, is complete up to the end of last year—with the exception of Sokotra—though it has been a by no means simple task to compile it, as our claims here and there about the world are in some cases of so vague a character that, as we know in recent disputes with Portugal and Germany, it has greatly exercised the Colonial Office itself to define them; at any rate, this list is more complete than any I have met with. Those given in almanacs contain many errors of omission and commission, whilst that published by the Colonial Office leaves out certain of our minor possessions and Protectorates.

But we have also, in addition to our actual and acknowledged territories, a multitude of treaty rights in connection with the soil of independent nations or Potentates, giving us settlement rights or, so to speak, pre-emptory claims, or debarring other nations, as well as ourselves, from seizing the lands in question.

Of the first class are our settlements in China—at Canton, Shanghai, and elsewhere, where Englishmen congregate on reserves under consular jurisdiction.

Of the second class was our late treaty signed in 1876 with the Sultan of Keshin, in Arabia, who claimed suzerainty over, and collected tribute from, the large island of Sokotra, at the mouth of the Red Sea, by which he agreed never to cede it to, or allow settlement of it by, any other Power without our consent, and further allowed our Political Agent at Aden to make an annual visit. This treaty is now apparently abrogated.

Of the third class are our treaties with France, Germany, and other Powers, as regards the Samoan Islands, the New Hebrides, the Sandwich Islands, and other groups in the South Pacific.

Let me now give you a few rough figures to illustrate the areas and populations of our colonial possessions. Roughly speaking, Greater Britain, or, as Froude calls it, "Oceana," already comprises about one-seventh of the world's dry land, and includes, as subjects of one monarch, more than one-fourth of the human race. In other words, about eight million square miles of territory, and