

BRITISH NATIONALITY

Subject to these provisions, any person (with a few special exceptions) born within the British Dominions or on a British ship, and any person born outside the Empire whose father was at the time of that birth a British subject, is a natural-born British subject; and any foreigner, or 'alien,' to whom a certificate of naturalization has been granted also becomes a British subject, and is under the bond of allegiance to the King. In passing it may be said, that the fact of being an alien does not of itself disqualify a person from enjoying the protection and benefits of British law, so far as private affairs are concerned; except that such a person cannot own any share in a British ship, and, in some parts of the Empire (though not in the United Kingdom) he cannot own landed property. But even a friendly alien cannot exercise any political or public rights, such as voting at elections or sitting in Parliament, though, as a matter of grace, he is usually accorded the full protection of public law. The wife or widow of a British subject, though an alien born, is deemed to be a British subject, and *vice versa*; but in this and a few similar cases, express provision is made to enable such a person, on the death or change of nationality of her husband, to make a declaration of foreign or British nationality, as the case may be.

LIABILITY TO MILITARY SERVICE

One of the most prominent consequences of the bond of allegiance is to render the male British subject liable to military service at the King's summons. So far as defence of the realm is concerned, this liability goes back to remote antiquity; and, though circumstances have tended in recent times to conceal it, yet, in fact, the liability has never been allowed to become legally extinct.