



HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

OF

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THE WEST INDIES

INTRODUCTION

BRITISH colonization began in America. In America it received outwardly its greatest check, when the United States declared and made good their independence. In America notwithstanding, at the present day the area of British possessions is, owing to the vast extent of the Canadian Dominion, larger than in any other part of the globe.

On page 2 is a table of the American dependencies of Great Britain, showing the mode and date of acquisition in each case, the area and the population at the last (1901) census.

Nearly all the dependencies enumerated in this list fall into two main groups, the North American and the West Indian. Two alone belong neither to the one nor to the other, viz. the Bermudas in the North Atlantic ocean, and the Falkland islands off the Straits of Magellan.

Geography and History alike have drawn a distinct line between the North American and the West Indian depen-