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## THE ISLAND OF CEYLON.

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WHEN we acquired our great Indian Empire, the ultimate acquisition of the Island of Ceylon was quite certain, because Ceylon is to India just as the Isle of Wight is to England. Although a large island, it is relatively too small and too close to the mainland to have a continued separate existence.

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tainty.

Now it is an unfortunate thing that England ever acquired this island, because if England had not possessed it we should not have felt bound to learn all about it. It is such a delightful place, and so very interesting, that we shall want to linger in its beautiful forests till perhaps one of those great anacondas comes and eats us up; but the pity is that Ceylon can never be a real colony for us white men. It lies too near the Equator. It is a rich man's colony, a place for the planter who can pay others to do his work, but no place for the real colonist, the man with axe and spade.

Not a  
poor  
man's  
colony.

This Ceylon of ours—for it is ours—was a relatively civilized place long before Julius Cæsar with his Romans landed in Kent. Its history is a much older one than that of our England, but we got on the quickest. It is King Frost and King Coal and King Iron did that, the three real permanent Kings of England—Cool Climate, Motive Power, and Industry.

The three  
kings of  
England.

Ceylon is about the size of our Wales. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to get hold of it, then came the Dutch, and finally the English acquired it. For hundreds of years, in the very old times, bands of armed men poured into the island from the adjoining peninsula of Hindostan in successive waves. When Francis de Almeida, the first

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