

The girls' short dresses touch the floor,
They drop their courtesies at the door;
The boys jerk bows with jack-knife springs,
And out of doors they all take wings!

Vanished all—all change is death:
Life is not the counted breath.
The slanting sun low in the West
Brings to the Master blessed rest.
See where it bridges afternoon,
And slopes the golden day-time down.
As if to him at last was given,
An easy grade to restful Heaven!
His hair is silver—not with light,
His heart is heavy—not with night,
Dying day the world has kissed,
Good-night, sweethearts! The school's dismissed

Scribner's for May.

THE IMPERIAL CENSUS.

The *Times* of February 18th, reviews the census of 1871 with especial reference to the returns for England and Wales. We have but room for the principal fact, that the population of England and Wales, on the census day, the 3rd of April, 1871, was 22,856,164. The females outnumbered the males by 450,000, even though among the latter was reckoned 143,898 men employed in the army, navy, and merchant service, and absent from our shores on the night of enumeration.

In a second review, published on the 19th instant, the same paper gives the following abstract of the figures for the empire beyond the seas: The results of the Imperial Census, so far as they refer to England and Wales, have been to some extent discounted by previously-published reports; but the enumeration of the empire is unfolded, for the first time, fully and in a concise form, in the volume which has just appeared. The thirty-one millions of people who inhabit these islands, constitute the nucleus and centre of force for the Anglo-Saxon race as well as the British Empire, but in point of mere numbers they are insignificant, compared with the vast muster roll of our outlying settlers, subjects, and dependents.

In Europe, the formal dominion of England is confined within very narrow limits; it includes Heligoland, with five square miles of territory, Gibraltar with less than two, and Malta with 115—the last two being military stations, with garrisons amounting to some 14,000 men. The population of Heligoland, in 1871, was 1,913; of Gibraltar, 26,216; and of Malta, 149,084. One English town of the second order would have outnumbered the sum total of these our continental subjects.

Crossing the Atlantic, we meet in the Dominion of Canada, a very different state of actual facts, and a still more different prospect. A population but slightly exceeding that of Scotland, inhabits a country 10 times the extent of Scotland, and increasing steadily, but not rapidly, at something like an average rate of 14 per cent. in the decade. Of the several Provinces of which the Dominion is made up, Ontario, (which contains the purest Anglo-Saxon population) had, in 1871, 1,620,861 inhabitants; Quebec had 1,191,516; New Brunswick had 285,594; Nova Scotia had 387,800. Prince Edward Island, which only joined the Confederation a few months ago, had 94,021; and Newfoundland, which has not yet formally joined in, but is on the point of doing so, numbers 146,000 inhabitants. Manitoba, (formerly known as the Red River Settlement) and British Columbia, have not yet made their returns, and no census has hitherto been attempted in the vast but most sparsely peopled territory ruled down to a recent date by the Hudson's Bay Company. The Bermudas are reckoned rather loosely with our North American possessions, and including these, but excluding the unenumerated Provinces of the North-West, the total population of this section of our Dominions is set down at 3,789,670, inhabiting an area of 3,376,925 square miles.

The West India Islands, with an area of 13,109 square miles, have a population of a little more than 1,000,000. The rate of increase is highly satisfactory, and there is abundant room for the development of the human race in this splendid climate and genial soil. Jamaica, for instance, which had 377,000 inhabitants in 1844, and 441,000 in 1861, had reached, in 1871, the aggregate of 506,154; and in the last ten years there has been no devastating epidemic. In Barbadoes, the black and mixed population is growing in numbers, while the whites are dwindling. Passing from the islands of the Mexican Gulf to the Continent, we light first upon the British Honduras, or Belize, a sort of dependency of Jamaica, with a population of 24,710, of whom only 377 are whites. British Guiana is in every way more important; it reckons 192,491 inhabitants, excluding the "aborigines," but including 48,976 "immigrants from

Asia," commonly known as "Coolies." The Falkland Islands, with 803 inhabitants, close the list of our American possessions.

In the African continent and the adjacent islands, we claim to be masters of 236,862 square miles of territory, peopled by 1,813,450 inhabitants, of which the island of Ascension has 27, and that of St. Helena 6,241. On the mainland, Sierra Leone, with 38,936 inhabitants, in 1871, shows a decrease during the ten years; the Gambia Settlement on the other hand, with 14,190 inhabitants, shows an increase; but only a conjectural estimate can be formed of the population of the Gold Coast, which is computed to be about 400,000. The Island of Lagos, which was ceded to us in 1861, has 62,021 inhabitants, of whom 94 are whites. In South Africa, our three colonized, or partially colonized settlements—the Cape, Griqualand, and Natal—comprise an area of 229,582 square miles, and have an estimated population of 961,505 inhabitants. The authors of the Report complain that the statistics of the colonies are very imperfect.

In the Indian Seas, before we reach our great empire on the mainland, we have to take note of some important insular possessions; the Mauritius, with the dependent islets, has an area of 708 miles, closely packed with a thriving population of 330,460 inhabitants, the Indian immigration numbering here on the Census day, 153,703.

Before touching on the vast proportions of the Indian Empire, properly so called, we may pass out of the geographical order to our Australian Settlements. Here, in marked contrast to the severe judgment passed upon the statistical returns from the South African Colonies, the authors of the Report are able to bestow unmixed approval on the manner in which the work of enumeration is done by the Colonial Registrar-General. We begin with West Australia, which has not yet been, in the proper sense of the word, colonized, and which has only 74,785 inhabitants, to its 978,000 square miles of domain. South Australia is a very different instance of colonization; with an area of 760,000 square miles, it has 185,626 white and 3,360 aboriginal inhabitants. But this measure of success is far surpassed by Victoria, which, with an area of 88,000 square miles, has 731,528 inhabitants, (including 17,935 Chinese and 1,300 aborigines.) New South Wales "has on its 323,437 square miles, 503,981 inhabitants," the population in 1821 having been no more than 29,000. Queensland, which split off quite in our own day from New South Wales, has 120,104 inhabitants, four times as many as it had only ten years ago. Tasmania, on the other hand, shows a very slow rate of progress, its present population of 99,328, being only 10 per cent. greater than that registered in 1861. Norfolk Island contains a population of 401 souls. New Zealand, "the England of the southern hemisphere," is "one of the youngest born of the Colonies and one of the most progressive." The white population numbered, in 1871, 256,393, while the aborigines (all, except a couple of thousand, established in the North Island) were estimated at 37,500. In 1851, the immigrant inhabitants were only 26,000 in number.

We must now return to the greatest and most splendid dominion of the Empire. India is divided into 12 Provinces, two ruled by "Governors," three by Lieutenant-Governors, and seven by Chief Commissioners, the Viceroy being supreme over all; it is distributed for administrative purposes in 53 divisions, 231 revenue and judicial districts, and 1,114 executive sub-divisions. The village is the "recognized territorial unit," and averages in area something like a fourth part of an English parish. The population of the English Empire in India is 191,307,070, distributed over an area of 938,366 miles, and inhabiting 487,061 villages. In Bengal and Behar we have a population of 56,000,000, which, as the authors of the Report (without, we presume, any reference to the present crisis) remark, "producing and feeding on the simplest diet, has greatly increased under our pacific rule, and reminds us of Ireland, where the population, uninsured under a Poor Law by the landlords against death by starvation, multiplied up to its utmost limit of 8,000,000, and more between 1831 and the famine year. The North-West Provinces reckon 30,769,000 inhabitants; Oude has 11,220,000; the Punjab, 17,596,000; Central Provinces, 9,066,038; and British Burmah, 2,562,823. The Madras Presidency contains 31,590,000.

THE BEST EMIGRATION.

In connection with emigration, we cannot omit to notice the great and good work wrought by an English lady, Miss MacPherson, in bringing out to Canada, and settling in homes, hundreds of poor lads who have been rescued from the streets of London. First carefully trained to industry and religious knowledge, then placed in selected homes, mostly in the country, these lads, to the number of some fifteen hundred or more, are now growing up in our farming districts, and becoming a most valuable part of our population;