

### THE PARTS OF THE EMPIRE.

1. **THE UNITED KINGDOM.**—The seat of the Imperial Parliament.

2. **THE SELF-GOVERNING DOMINIONS.**—The Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of New Zealand, the Colony of Newfoundland, and the Union of South Africa. Each of these has its own responsible Government, under a governor representing the Sovereign, and in the cases of Canada and Australia there are the Dominion Parliament of Canada, and the Commonwealth Parliament of Australia; there are also, in Canada, subordinate Provincial Legislatures, and in Australia, State Legislatures.

To all intents and purposes these Dominions are independent states. The Crown is the sole visible link by which they are bound to each other and to the Mother Country. Their communications with the Imperial Government are made through the Colonial office.

3. **THE INDIAN EMPIRE.**—The vast Dependency of India is an Empire in itself, maintaining a famous army, and conducting its business with neighboring states, by means of a Foreign Department of its own.

The Viceroy, whose term of office is usually for five years, represents the Sovereign, and is assisted by a Council, which includes the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army and Ministers of different Departments. India's communications with the Imperial Government are made through the India office.

4. **THE CROWN COLONIES.**—These, which have not direct popular self-government, but are controlled from the Colonial Office, each have a Governor; and some have also a Legislative Council with limited powers. They include Ceylon, Cyprus, British West Indies, British Guiana, British Honduras, Falkland Islands, Fiji, Gambia, Gibraltar, Gold Coast Colony, Hong Kong, Leeward Islands, Malta, Southern Nigeria, St. Helena, Sarawak, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Basutoland, Rhodesia, Federated Malay States, Trinidad, Tobago, Tristan da Cunha, Turks and Caicos Islands, Wei-hai-Wei, Windward Islands, Bahamas, Bermudas, Barbadoes, Borneo. These are all lumped together as being not Dominion States; but they exhibit many varieties of control, from self-government almost

as free as that of the great Dominions, as in Rhodesia, to something like a paternal despotism, as in Basutoland.

The Island of Ascension is in a class by itself, being under the control of the Board of Admiralty. Aden, on the Red Sea, forms part of the Province of Bombay, in India.

5. **PROTECTORATES.**—These include Bechuanaland, East Africa, the Soudanese Provinces, Northern Nigeria, Nyassaland, Somaliland, Uganda and Zanzibar. In these cases the territories are administered by the native rulers, but under the advice of a British Resident. The latest addition to the protectorates is Egypt, which was nominally under the suzerainty of Turkey, but is now a British Protectorate.

Amid these varieties of forms of administration in the Empire, the one guiding principle is that of government for the benefit of the governed. This union of diverse States, each with more or less fulness of independence, has been the peculiar and characteristic glory of the British Empire. But it has some weaknesses, and these have led to discussion and plans for increasing the unity of the Empire's action, while leaving freedom to all its parts. In 1885 was founded the Imperial Federation League, which did a great deal of educational work, but which has since been dissolved. In 1895 the British Empire League came into existence with the object of "maintaining and strengthening the connection between the United Kingdom and the outlying portions of the Empire."

In 1897 took place the first of the great London Conferences, in which all the Dominion Premiers took part in a discussion on Imperial affairs. A second Conference was held in 1902, and it was then settled that they should take place every four years. At these meetings, different plans were suggested and discussed for closer organization of the Empire. In 1909 took place the first Conference of Ministers of the Empire on Imperial Defence.

Abridged from a paper, "The Island Sceptre," By Henry E. Bannard, in the British Empire Review for March.

A small force of Bulgarians has invaded Serbia; which, unless the action is disavowed by the Bulgarian government, may bring all the Balkan nations into the war. Bulgaria would like to regain Adrianople, which she took in the first Balkan war, and lost in the second.