

ROUND THE EMPIRE.

CHAPTER I.

LEAVING THE OLD COUNTRY.

The British Empire.

THE British Islands, in which we live, cover a very small part of the surface of the earth. But the British Empire, of which these islands are the centre, covers a very large part of that surface—much larger than was ever held by any nation except our own.

The diagram on the following page shows how small in area the United Kingdom is when compared with some of the other great divisions of the Empire.

It is only about one-thirtieth of the size of Canada, one-twenty-fifth of the size of Australia, one-eleventh of the size of India. All the land in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland is only about an eightieth part of that which British people have occupied, or rule over, in different parts of the world.

It is difficult even to form in the mind a clear idea of the great size of the Empire of which the United Kingdom is a part. It embraces nearly one-half of North America, a small part of South America, the