

thus see it embracing within itself every climate, almost every class of people, and every product of the earth.

While on our outward voyage from New York we spent some four hours opposite Staten Island, adjusting our compasses, and during that brief period some nine or ten great ocean steamers entered the harbour. Not so much was I impressed with the thought as to where they came from, not so much either as to where they were going to; this it was that struck me, that with one exception only they all bore the British Ensign, giving one some faint idea of how widespread, and how far apart must be the oceans over which it floats, on each of which it is to every subject an object of pride, to every oppressed one an assurance of protection; indeed no one thinks of asking the question, where to look for it? The question is, where is it not to be found?

In the month of July, when amid the icebergs of Labrador, in latitude somewhere about  $52^{\circ} 20'$  north, and when on that rocky coast at anchor by reason of the fog, the very first object that met my eye when the fog lifted was the ensign of St. George floating on one of Her Majesty's vessels stationed there to guard the interests of her Newfoundland fishermen; and at the close of the year, as I found myself at British Guiana, in something like six degrees north of the Equator, and where the mariner oftentimes takes his bearings from the Southern Cross, I found the same ensign floating from British merchant ships, which had brought there the riches of many lands, over many seas, to take back to as many lands the products of Britain's Colonies.

I cannot describe the feelings which took possession of me as I tried to realize what a privilege, what a glory, it was to be the subject of an empire upon whose possessions the sun never sets, the effect of whose civilization is felt wherever the habitations of men are found. A glance at the map will show that the British West India Islands (excluding the Bermudas, which are situated in about  $32^{\circ} 50'$  north) embrace some twenty-two important islands, and extend from the Bahama group, situated in about  $27^{\circ} 40'$  north, to Trinidad in  $11^{\circ}$  north; or, if the line be extended to the important colony of British Guiana, to  $6^{\circ}$  north of the Equator. The islands embrace an area of 15,121 square miles, British Guiana, an area of 76,000 square miles, and include a population under British rule of at least  $1\frac{1}{2}$  millions. If to this we add the Spanish, French, Danish, Swedish and Venezuelan Islands and the Republics of Hayti and San Domingo, we have an area of 159,992 square miles, and a population of between four and five millions, or equal to that of the entire population of Canada.

Now it will readily be apparent that the needs of such a population imply for the mere necessities of life an immense consumption, and, as a consequence, with some nation or nations a very large and a very important trade. From whence are these islands supplied? I will not refer specially to the smaller islands, for they, in a great measure, draw their supplies from the larger ones, and although my visit embraced Santa Cruz, St. Kitts, Antigua, Montserrat, Guadaloup, Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, Tobago and