

CANADIAN CIVICS

PART I.—NATIONAL AFFAIRS

TOPIC I.

THE OUTSIDE NATIONS AND THE EMPIRE

1. The Nations

When we look abroad upon the world, we observe that it has numerous divisions which bear the name of "countries" and which are occupied by "nations." Some of these divisions are large, such as the United States and Russia, while others are small, such as Switzerland and Greece. But power and importance cannot be estimated exclusively by extent of territory. For instance, some of the powers though occupying a part of Europe of only moderate area may properly be included among the great nations of the world.

There are, however, very few countries strong enough to defend themselves successfully against a foreign foe. It sometimes happens that weaker nations owe their independence to the sense of justice of the more powerful, but more often to