

Georgia is insignificant by the side of the conquest of Canada and Florida, and the wonderful commencement of the conquest of India. The last and greatest wave belongs to the Victorian age, which has witnessed the full settlement of Australia and New Zealand; the growth of Canada into a Dominion spanning the American continent; the great extension of our South African settlements and the completion of the conquest of India.

When I compare these aggrandizements of territory to waves, I imply that the beginning and end of each movement cannot be precisely marked. The names of James I., Charles II., George II., and Victoria, mark, as it were, the crest on the successive waves. But the first wave began very evidently to swell under Elizabeth, in the enterprises of Gilbert and Raleigh, and did not subside until Maryland had been founded under Charles I. The wave which I name from Charles II. is first visible under Cromwell, when the conquest of Jamaica took place; and that on which I put the name of George II. is traceable under Anne, when Nova Scotia was acquired and the South Sea Company founded. In like manner the last wave, which we ourselves have witnessed, has only risen to its height under the Queen. It began in the acquisitions of the great war, viz., the Cape, Mauritius, Trinidad, and Demerara, and it can be traced through a series of settlements made under George IV. and William IV.

When we survey and compare together these successive waves of expansion, we discover, I think, another uniformity. They have been in all cases the after swell of some great struggle in which England has been compelled to put forth all her might. I have just remarked this of the last of the four. It is equally obvious to remark it of the first. The great Elizabethan war with Spain first

turned our attention to the New World, which then belonged almost exclusively to Spain. It was not so much for trade, still less for colonization, that our adventurers first sought the New World. It was rather a war measure, and even a measure of defensive war. Hampered and hard pressed at home, we discovered, as the Dutch also discovered, that the weakness of Spain lay in this, that she was vulnerable everywhere, because her Empire was everywhere. In order to damage Spain, we struck blows which in the end enriched and aggrandized ourselves. And the quiet times of James I. reaped what had been sown in the stormy days of Elizabeth.

The same relation which James I. bore to Elizabeth was borne by Charles II. to Cromwell. The vast colonization of Charles II.'s time is the after-swell of our civil wars. We commonly contemplate those wars too exclusively in our own island. It is one of their characteristics—new then in English history—that the struggle extended into America and into the islands of the Atlantic, was waged with fleets as well as armies, and involved us not less with the Dutch on the sea than with the Scotch at home. By the side of Cromwell and his army there is Blake and his fleet, and the maritime development of force that resulted from the Civil War was really more important and more lasting than the army it created. Hence, as the Elizabethan struggle ended in a great expansion at the cost of Spain, the Civil War led to an expansion chiefly at the cost of the Dutch, and gave quite a new and most imposing character to our settlements in North America.

And what of the third wave of expansion, that which marks the middle of the eighteenth century? This, again, is the after-swell of the great struggle under William and Anne.