

EXPANSION OF THE KINGDOM

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country remained truly English, though Norman-French was for centuries the language of the Court, while Latin was in general use for official and religious purposes.

SCOTLAND AND THE COLONIES

The union of the Crowns of England and Scotland, on the accession of James VI of Scotland and I of England in 1603, though at first only a family arrangement, paved the way for a union of the two Kingdoms a century later; but, before that time, a new dignity had been added to the ancient Kingship of England by the rapid acquisition, partly by conquest, partly by colonization, of vast territories 'beyond the four seas,' destined one day to give to the British Crown a splendour and an influence which no mere island Kingship could confer. Unhappily, a quarrel between the mother-country and her most vigorous colonies at the end of the eighteenth century led to a separation which long left bitter memories behind it; and the forced union of Great Britain and Ireland at the end of the same century, though it may have been a military necessity, added little to the lustre of the British Crown.

INDIA

On the other hand, the rapid up-building, on wiser lines, of a new Colonial Empire in the nineteenth century, and the equally rapid conquest of India in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, raised the occupant of the British throne to the highest rank of earthly monarchs, and made the British Empire the greatest political accomplishment in the world's history. The definite incorporation of India in the British Empire was marked by the adoption of the Imperial title in 1876; though the legal incorporation dates from 1858.