

est in restraining Russia's ambition in Southwestern Europe was more close than that of either England or France. That strange personage, the Count of Monte Cristo, is found by his former judge, the Procureur du Roi, M. de Villefort, leaning over a table and tracing on a chart the route from St. Petersburg to China. We might fancy a symbolic Czar after the Treaty of Paris (1856), in the same attitude and employment. The route was persistently followed, with digressions southward, ever more and more definite, till the goal was reached. In modifying the map of Asia within their chosen sphere of influence, the Russians have heard frequent protests, and, more than once, a challenge, but their advance has been still continued. Progressive maps of Asia show its results.

From England's stronghold of power in the same great continent India's boundaries have been pushed back northward, northwestward and eastward; and, notwithstanding the terrible ordeal of the Mutiny, that power has been consolidated into an imperial domain (1858) whose administration (in spite of its defects) is a marvel. In Southwest Asia France has, since 1881, considerably enlarged her territories. New Japan is a noteworthy conquest for Western civilization.

The map of Africa of fifty years ago is worthy of study. Exploration and colonization, on a scale (as to occupation or delimitation) previously without precedent, have completely transformed that great continent. The discovery of the source of the Nile, so long the puzzle of geographers, the settlement of the origin and course of the Congo, the exploration of the Zambesi, the Niger and other streams, the ascent of the chief mountain peaks and ranges and the circuit of the great central lakes, associated with the names of

Speke, Livingstone, Stanley and other undaunted men, have removed much of the mystery that once enveloped Africa. What is known as the partition of Africa has been revised during the last fifteen years, on the basis primarily of the Berlin Conference of 1885.

The ocean world has undergone some sweeping changes during the period under review. Borneo, New Guinea, Madagascar, Tahiti, Fiji, Hawaii, Samoa, Porto Rico, Cuba, the Philippines—these and other islands and archipelagoes have undergone changes of ownership materially affecting their destinies.

Nor has the New World been unvisited by change during this changeful time. North America has been swept by a veritable revolution in which the three main continental countries have been in many ways transformed. This transformation has been partly due to peaceful development, partly to war. The tragedy of Maximilian's death (1867) divides the earlier from the later chapters of modern Mexican history. The same year marks the change from Old to New Canada. The Civil War (1861-65) changed the entire character of American civilization and ended the distinction between slave and free states. A *coup d'état* made the Empire of Brazil a republic. The Venezuela-Guiana boundary dispute was settled by arbitration. Alaska passed by purchase from Russia to the United States. The repetition in the New World of De Lesseps' victory, though delayed, must come ere long.

This is but a general indication of those events which have caused alterations in the political maps of both hemispheres, but it is sufficient to show how far-reaching, and, in many cases how material, is the contrast between the geography of 1850 and that of 1900.

MR. READE'S THIRD PAPER WILL
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