

If we were defeated, some of them would likely enough be torn from us by the treaty of peace, whether they had been previously seized or not.

On the whole I think it is pretty sure that, besides the moral reasons for retaining them, the indirect advantages accruing to us from tropical colonies are much greater than the more obvious direct disadvantages, and there are few of our neighbours, therefore, in Europe who would not gladly relieve us of them; but the case for the retention of each rests on its own circumstances alone, and in some instances, if strong to-day may be entirely demolished to-morrow.

Any way these colonies fairly represent to us the "desirable calamity" and the "domestic peril," and to other nations the "deadly fascination" of St. Chrysostom's woman.

We have now to consider the second division of our colonies, comprising the great self-governing communities of our own race to which reference is intended nineteen times out of twenty when the colonies are mentioned in ordinary writings or conversation.

They are nine in number—Canada, Newfoundland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, New Zealand, and Cape Colony; or if we include West Australia and Natal, which must some day occupy similar positions, eleven in all.

According to Sir W. W. LAWSON, in his inaugural address to the Statistical Society in 1885, the area of these colonies within the temperate zone, and, therefore, suitable as a permanent home for our race, is equal to three-fourths of the total area of all the British colonies and India. I make the amount myself somewhat less. Deducting the tropical portions of Australia, the figures are roughly as 5,750,000 to 9,084,000 square miles, or say two-thirds.

As illustrating their unique importance I may point out to you that no other country possesses any similar colonies whatever, nor, in fact, any outside territory of the least account within the temperate zones; nor, thanks to our pre-occupation of all such inhabitable or available lands, can they hope now ever to obtain any except through our weakness.

Notwithstanding considerable differences that exist between them as regards their internal conditions and possible futures, they all agree on many important points in their relations to the mother country. All of them, though in varying degrees, are bound to us by