

of space special creation produces the same identical elements ; or, that the elements of matter as we know them are compounds, evolved from some primal base ?

As the centuries roll on we may expect that man will learn yet more and more of the constitution of the sun and of the mysterious process by which its energy reaches our little earth, giving us all we have of Toronto.

life and vigour ; whether he will ever learn the mystery of its origin is a question we hardly dare even think of. Yet sometimes, in a moment of exaltation, we may, perhaps vaingloriously, in the words of Grant, the historian-astronomer, (referring to another profound mystery), say, " It would be rash to be too sanguine, it would be unphilosophical to despair."

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## THE PACIFIC OCEAN AN ENGLISH LAKE.\*

BY BISHOP E. R. HENDRIX, D.D.

What one of the Powers will rule the Pacific? The British Empire has a total area of 9,841,921 square miles, and a total population of 305,236,780. The Russian Empire comes next, with 8,646,100 square miles, and 108,814,172 population. The Chinese Empire follows with 4,179,559 square miles, and 404,180,000 population. The United States, as fourth in point of territory and of population, may well be interested in the question as to which of these three great Powers shall rule the Pacific. Thus far the Pacific Ocean is little more than an English lake. The interests of the British Empire are so great in the Pacific that no final solution of the Far Eastern question will be possible without the influence of England being taken into account.

Bordering on the Pacific, or surrounded by its waters, are two British possessions, Australasia and the Dominion of Canada, each of which is about the size of the whole of Europe. Melbourne is the fourth city in the British Em-

pire, while the foreign commerce of Australia and the Pacific Islands which have been annexed by Great Britain is so great as to require the daily expenditure of \$5,000 on telegrams to England alone, and in a single year the foreign commerce of Australia amounted to \$642,500,000.

Great Britain has annexed about everything in the Pacific Ocean worth annexing, and her High Commissioner, the Governor of the Fiji Islands, is instructed to take a kindly oversight of the rest. Her colonies are enterprising, paying large subsidies and guarantees to ocean cable companies, building railroads, constructing or buying steamships. In 1893 \$35,000,000 worth of gold, or nearly one-fourth of the world's annual production, came from Australia, while the same country yields annually 4,000,000 tons of coal, and a wool clip aggregating in value \$100,000,000. All this is done by a population of only five million souls in a territory as large as the

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\* The accompanying testimony to Great Britain's supremacy, moral and physical, on the Pacific, is the more gratifying in that it cannot be attributed to British partiality. These are the conclusions of a high-minded American patriot, a Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Similar sentiments are also expressed by that stalwart American writer, Dr. Joseph Cook, and by other large-minded men who recognize in the righteousness of British rule, the Providence of God among the nations.