

THE
SUPREMACY OF GREAT BRITAIN
NOT INCONSISTENT WITH
SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR THE COLONIES.*

A COLONY is a portion of the population of a country, which settles on distant lands, with the intention of forming a dependent political community.

The leading characteristics of a colony, when viewed in relation to a scheme of colonial government, are three: identity of race; distance from; and dependency upon the mother country. If any of these be wanting, a community, although it may fall within the strict definition of a colony, does not come within the scope of this treatise. The first part of the definition excludes Ceylon, the East Indies, Malta, the Ionian Islands, and similar dependencies. In these, the greater part of the cultivators and proprietors are not Englishmen, nor do those who are English reside there with the intention of founding a new community, but for purposes of trade or government. Distance also necessarily forms an element in the conception of a colony; for if a community be settled so near the supreme government, as

* Throughout these pages the reader is supposed to be acquainted with the provisions of the Colonial Bill printed in the appendix. These provisions were brought forward last year by Sir William Molesworth, in the shape of amendments on the 'Australian Colonies Bill,' and have not been substantially altered.