

where circumstances are not artificially adverse. Here, however, comes in the difficulty, that these hostile conditions are created for us by the interference of other powers, and that in many cases those who had resisted annexation in the past have been brought naturally to think it necessary.

The process, then, which has occurred with regard to the British Empire in the present century is one rather of the expansion of existing settlements than of the foundation of wholly new ones. Canada has grown in the century from a British patch upon the north-eastern side of America into a Dominion which reaches across the continent to the Pacific. India has grown from three small presidencies into the whole peninsula, with extensions beyond the peninsula on the east and to the north-west. Australia has grown from a convict settlement into an entire British contingent with the separate great colony of New Zealand in its neighborhood. British South Africa has spread from a tiny Dutch colony, itself finally acquired only within the century, into another vast possession. The one great new field has been the Lower Niger; for British East Africa is rather the expansion of a virtual Protectorate, already long existing through our influence in Zanzibar, which itself was the growth of a pre-existing influence in Muscat, than an entirely new creation. In the Niger district and in British East Africa, as in North Borneo and in the Zambesi region, chartered companies have paved the way for the Crown, but the connection between these companies and the Crown was close from the beginning, and in India through the whole century, up to the legislation of 1858, the Crown stood in fact in a position of control towards the East India Company.

My exact subject, the Growth of the British Empire, does not include what is more important than the territorial growth of the Empire itself, namely, the growth in the century of our carrying power and of our merchant shipping fleet. We may say roughly that we are the masters of something like a quarter of the globe, but that as regards shipping we are in possession of almost everything which exists.

One of the best measures of the growth of the British Empire is afforded by considering the position in the Empire of the West Indies. These colonies at the beginning