

native races, or with populations too small for any other form of government, or held as naval stations.

These colonies, omitting Protectorates and odd islands, are administered under twenty-six separate governments, and include, roughly speaking, 160,000 square miles of territory, with a population of six and a quarter millions. With few exceptions, they have all been acquired by war with European nations, or diplomacy, generally due to war.

The Second Division, comprising all those colonies which, owing to climate and the presence of a permanent and increasing European population, have either received or must eventually receive responsible government.

They are eleven in number, contain about seven million square miles of territory, and about nine and a half millions of population. The bulk of these have been acquired by comparatively peaceable settlement.

The Third Division, comprising British India, with its Feudatory States, and Burmah, embraces about one and a half millions of square miles, and 256 millions of population.

Let us now consider the First Division—Crown Colonies and Possessions.

Some of these need not detain us long. For instance, the detached Coral Islands, in the Pacific Ocean, and some at least of the islands attached to Mauritius are, so far as I can judge, perfectly valueless, and seem to have been annexed by over zealous naval commanders, and subsequently tacitly "allowed" by the Colonial Office, on the general principle that induced the Knight in "Little Alice" to carry about with him a mouse trap, namely, that it might come in useful some day.

After these, there is a second batch of "Claims" and "Protectorates" perfectly useless in themselves and held by us, solely to prevent any other nation taking them, and using them against our shipping or neighbouring colonies, or to prevent troubles with their native inhabitants.

Of the latter, the Maldives and Laccadives, attached to Ceylon, and the Nicobars, to India, are examples.

Of the former, to keep off other nations, the Tristan d'Acunha group, seized when Napoleon was confined at St. Helena, and St. Paul and Amsterdam Islands, on the route from the Cape to