

# WALSH'S MAGAZINE.

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## GOVERNMENTS AND GOVERNMENT.

THE numerous colonial possessions of Great Britain are for the moment giving her a great deal of trouble. In Africa and South America things have reached an acute stage, and to the former, in particular, the attention of the world is now directed.

Africa is in our day the scene of much determined effort at colonization, and as usual the British have the best of the bargain. Steadily her colonists have pushed back the sturdy Dutch farmers who once held the southern end of the continent, until now these people have no possessions outside their little republics, and in these they are already outnumbered by the wealth-seeking Britishers. To these latter have been added a great number of people from the United States who have been tempted thither by the tales of gold to be had for the seeking. English money, coming from all classes of the people, has fairly poured in streams to aid in the development of the rich gold veins of the new territories. That there is ample justification for the enthusiasm which has accompanied the formation of companies for the purpose is proved by the dividends returned to shareholders, which reach in some cases to one hundred per cent. of the capital. The greatest of all these corporations is, of course, the gigantic British South Africa Company, of which Mr. Cecil Rhodes is the president and directing spirit.

Mr. Rhodes is beyond question one of the very greatest among the energetic figures who are making history with such rapid strokes. In this opinion all seem to agree. Certainly he has promoted some of the most gigantic enterprises that could well be conceived. Between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-five he amassed a fortune of five millions of dollars, and from this his wealth has gone on and multiplied. To-day he practically controls the diamond output of the world, and has his own share of the gold output. Reaching out has been the order of things, and northward the march of empire has taken its way.

Meanwhile Germany became alive to the importance of Africa as a colonization field. The cities and town of the Fatherland overflow with population, and those who take their departure from home have been for half a century lost to Germany by becoming citizens of the United States. The Emperor and his advisers have therefore fastened upon certain African territories as spots to which Germans may go and yet continue German. To this end Germany has secured two large sections