

tion. Nearly all this, as well as much more still uncleared within the older parts, has yet to be brought under settlement.

What has been said of Canada applies in a very high degree to Australia—that new commonwealth lying beneath the Southern Cross. The area of this island continent is about as large as that of the United States, and the unorganized districts are not only extensive, but favoured with superior natural resources. Australia, undoubtedly, will yet support an enormous population. The recent federation of the several Provinces into one commonwealth on lines closely resembling those by which Canada became established, gives prophecy and promise of a noble development, and marks a further step towards the consolidation of Britain's far-reaching Empire.

A similar federation of the colonial possessions in South Africa, which may be expected to follow the termination of the war, will form another link in the lengthening chain. Mr. Gladstone is authority for the statement that "the founding of free-growing and vigorous communities has been a specific part of the work providentially assigned to Britain." Whether or not it be true that her mission is to colonize the world, a tremendous field for action certainly awaits her. The opening up of these new spheres, and the influx of immigration which is bound to accompany, must result in an enormous expansion of trade and commerce, adding to the immense wealth of Britain's Empire, and serving to strengthen and confirm its influence and power.

It may be urged that the United States is capable of sustaining a much greater population than she now has. This is no doubt true, but it must proceed mainly from consolidation, and as the pressure of overcrowding increases, so in proportion will the tendency to

emigrate show itself, more especially when adjoining territory for settlement to the north can be had for the asking. According to official returns, 15,500 immigrants entered Canada from the United States during 1900, or more than one-third of the total immigration for the year. The fact is highly significant, and goes to demonstrate not only the conditions spoken of in the earlier part of this article, but also that to Canada's population the American Republic will be a considerable source of supply in days that are to come.

Reverting to the matter of the disappearance of the public lands, it may be well to bear in mind that the United States has a very great extent of waste area. Taking what is called the trans-Mississippi region (comprising all west of the river by that name), it has been estimated that there are 425,000 square miles of useless lands, except in so far as they may turn out to be mineralized. In addition, about 650,000 square miles have no present adaptation for anything other than grazing.

Apropos of this an eminent reference says: "Never by any possibility can the region of small rainfall, and in large part of rugged mountains, extending from the first belt of states beyond the Mississippi to the belt lying directly on the Pacific Coast, become a densely populated portion of the country."\*

Certain it is that this wide territory will never maintain the teeming millions that political optimists have predicted.

From her geographical position chiefly, coupled with unsettled areas and unexampled resources of forest and field, mine and main, Canada must be regarded as the coming rival of the United States. Her natural riches have hardly yet been touched upon—riches, one should

\* *Encyc. Brit. Am. Ed.* p. 819.