

THE PARIAHS OF THE EMPIRE.

rule over "our colonies." The Governors of Gibraltar, Malta, the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Ceylon, Hong Kong, Labuan, Mauritius, the Straits' Settlements, Penang, Malacca, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, Western Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Newfoundland, Bermuda, Falkland Islands, Jamaica, Guiana, Bahamas, Trinidad, Windward Islands, are all natives of the Mother Country.

At present no Secretary of State for the colonies can possibly be a colonist. The Home and Foreign Service, the Indian Department, the various offices in connexion with the Court and the Government of the country, are closed against the millions of Englishmen who are born abroad. Nay, the very patronage of the Colonial Office, as we have seen, has hitherto been reserved for Englishmen, although occasionally a colonist is sent to the West Coast of Africa to prepare him for another and a happier world. All this we may hope may yet be changed when the Empire is united by the introduction of some system of Imperial rule that will give our loyal countrymen abroad some voice in the national councils.

But it may be suggested that any shortcomings in these particulars have been atoned for by a special mark of Royal favour which has been extended to the colonies. The Order of St. Michael and St. George having been created for Greeks and Maltese, it was magnanimously resolved that distinguished colonists might be allowed to enjoy their society. But the strain on imperial generosity proved too severe. The British Government could not resist the temptation to appropriate even these questionable honours to Englishmen, the Pariahs being reserved for the lowest order. As a matter of curiosity we give below a list of the first two classes of the order, among which we do not find the name of one person who is a native of the colonies.¹

¹ Sovereign—The Queen.

Grand Master and Principal G.C.St.M.&St.G.—The 2nd Duke of Cambridge.