

temporary subjects—for it is hardly in the nature of things that such a Governor should reign long—are reported well satisfied with this patriarchal arrangement.

Both Natal and West Australia in one or another of these efforts to shirk responsibility, and save itself from trouble, which is, or used to be, characteristic of the Colonial Office, have been offered full Constitutional Government, but politely refused for very good reasons.

Natal, because of the difficulty and expense of ruling its overwhelming native population, and protecting its borders. West Australia, because the offer was very properly restricted to a large territory around the settlement of Swan River, where alone anything like population exists. The West Australians did not like this limitation, and argued very shrewdly that they had better wait awhile until they could improve on the terms; and they are probably right as the waiting game in a growing community is the winning one.

With these two exceptions, and those of two or three fortresses and naval stations, all Crown Colonies are situated in the tropics and conversely, all tropical colonies are governed by the Crown, for the good and sufficient reasons that the total population is either too sparse to admit of responsible government or the native races and interests are too important to make it just that their destinies should be confided to the charge of the small number of semi-resident Whites who carry on commercial pursuits in tropical lands; nor would it be safe now, or probably at any future time to which we can look forward, to entrust the natives altogether with their own government, that would be sure to result in the most serious race and tribal complications, and might probably have to be followed by a re-conquest on our part, or withdrawal and a subsequent seizure by some other power.

On the other hand, and with the previously mentioned exceptions, all the colonies with temperate climates possess full responsible government, and all colonies, without exception, possessed of responsible government are mainly situated in temperate or cold regions, since in all of these the white races have made permanent homes and are rapidly developing into nations.

You will see, therefore, that all our colonial Possessions fall naturally under three grand divisions.

The First Division, comprising the whole of the Crown Colonies and Possessions, that are either tropical, and mainly inhabited by