

any morning of our lives in Great Britain, the next day is commencing in the world, and is to be found at this little island in the Pacific Ocean, whence, in due course, it will travel around to us. Suppose an Islander sails east to America, what is the result? He will find that they keep the day there under a different date, and he will have to reckon one day in his calendar twice over to put himself right with their notions. On the other hand, if an American crosses from east to west, this wonderful magic line where the day begins, he will find the dates in this fresh part of the world are one in advance of him, and he must needs strike a day out of his calendar to keep up with the times. This fact was curiously illustrated in the case of Magellan, the Portuguese captain, who sailed around the world from east to west in 1522, and having crossed the magic line of the "day's birth" in his wanderings, his calendar became, of course, a day in arrear. The sailors were completely ignorant of this, and finding, on landing at home, that their Sabbath was falling on a Monday, they accused one another of tampering with the reckoning.—*Chambers' Journal*.

It has often been said that we are an aggressive nation—that with all our mild-mannered appearance and profession of pacific purpose, we are perpetually forcing our way onwards, and take every opportunity of acquiring new foreign possessions. This, to a certain extent, may be true, and if we look at the wonderful growth of

our colonial dependencies we shall see that it is scarcely strange such a statement should be made. Taking Mr. Scott Keltie, in his interesting introduction to the "Colonial Year Book," as our guide, we find that, whereas some three hundred years ago we had little beyond the tight little island called home, we possess now an area of over 11,000,000 square miles, and a population, including feudatories, of something like 380,000,000—one-fifth of the land surface of the globe, and one-fourth of its inhabitants. We venture to think that few people, beyond those who have specially studied the subject, had any idea that the colonial possessions of this country were so vast. Doubtless, our sea-faring inclinations, inherited from our ancestors who came from the Elbe and the Weser, have had something to do with this result, but scarcely to the extent that at first might be imagined. The Portuguese and Spaniards, and even the French, as Mr. Keltie points out, were in the field long before England. Spain had a settlement in Dominica as early as 1493, and Vasco de Gama reached India round Africa in 1498. Practically it was not until the reign of Elizabeth that England began to any noticeable extent to assert her colonizing influence abroad, but since then she has gone on extending her dominion with gigantic strides, until at the present time it is almost obnoxious to think of her outside obligations and of the numerous peoples for whose conduct and protection she renders herself liable.—*The Publishers' Circular*.

Talkers are no good doers.—*Richard III.*, i. 3.

Ignorance is the curse of God,
Knowledge the wing wherewith we fly to
heaven.
—2 *Henry VI.*, iv. 7.

Cease to lament for that thou canst not help,
And study help for that which thou lament'st,
Time is the nurse and breeder of all good.

—*Two Gentlemen of Verona*, iii. 1.