

they do, so as not to lose our count of time? We must fix upon some mark on the earth's surface which we can recognize. When this mark comes into view on the sunrise line, we may call it, say, Monday morning. It sweeps round to sunset and disappears, and when again it comes into view we call it Tuesday morning, and so on. If we are to have separate days at all, with names and numbers of their own, there must be some line fixed on the earth's surface where each new name or number is to begin.

When men sailed westwards from Europe to the New World, they kept count of the days as if they were at home, though, as we have seen, the dawn came a good many hours later. When they sailed eastward to the Indies and to China and to Australia and New Zealand, they still reckoned the days as in their own land, though now the dawn came many hours earlier. If two ships had sailed from the Old Country on opposite courses and had met in mid-ocean on the Pacific, a curious thing would have happened: the dawn which brought in Monday to the one ship would have been called Tuesday on board the other. This difference of dates actually happens among the Pacific Islands. It would be very inconvenient in the centre of a continent, but in the great expanse of the Pacific, with only far-scattered islands here and there as homes of men, the change of reckoning does not cause much trouble. It is necessary to understand the need for such a dividing-line, however, and to know where that somewhat irregular line has been drawn, before we start on our review of the Empire, for it is an Empire on which the sun never sets, and on which every hour of the day is an hour of dawn.

Now we will set out, starting from the international date-line in mid-Pacific where days and years are reckoned as having their beginning. We are to watch the Empire flag rising to greet the sun over one member of the Empire after another, and in order to make quite sure that nobody shall forget to hoist the flag, we will choose for our journey Empire Day, or Victoria Day as it is often called.

We know the flag, of course. We see it flying over our schools