

progress, the establishment of the new postal line between London and New South Wales, *via* the United States, is one of the results, and perhaps the direct result, of the establishment of submarine cables, in connection with land-telegraphs, around the world. The girdle between England and Adelaide, South Australia, distance 12,650 miles, has tended to bring commerce nearer the millennium of its destiny. The telegraph, quickening the currents of trade, and tending to reduce the whole business world to a level, has created additional lines of steamships, as a commercial necessity. The merchant in his counting-room at New York, for instance, can now direct his agent at Melbourne what to do daily, but he cannot have the patience to wait one hundred days, or even fifty days, for his goods or for his letters. As there is now nothing impossible in the realm of telegraphy, so there is nothing impossible in commercial cooperative alliance, establishing new steamship lines and postal routes, bringing the distant parts of the earth into still nearer and closer commercial friendship.

The connection of the British colonies with the United States makes America a link between Australia and England, and the interchange of commodities which will no doubt take place by means of this route between the colonies and this country will increase the stability of the enterprise and strengthen the intercourse. America is peculiarly interested in the growth and productions of those colonies. New South Wales has an area of 300,000 square miles, and, with its adjuncts, a population of nearly 2,000,000; and the colonists export wool, hides, tallow, wheat, gold, sugar, wines, etc. Australia, in 1840, produced less than 10,000,000 pounds; and, in 1870, over 175,000,000 pounds. The number of sheep in the British colonial possessions in 1870 was nearly 70,000,000, or twice as many as in the United States at that period. The dependence of the American woollen manufacturers upon the sheep industry of the colonies with which the new mail steamship line has been connected, is well known. The value of American exports to Australia has now reached a large figure, and this commerce is constantly growing. Australia itself is a continent, with an area of 3,000,000 square miles; and Melbourne, adjoining New South Wales, has a population of 150,000. The distance from New York to Melbourne, *via* Cape Horn, is 13,390 miles; *via* Cape of Good Hope, 12,895 miles; *via* Panama, 11,165 miles. The distance by the new mail-route is still shorter, as three thousand miles of it is overcome by railroad—traversed in seven days. The progress of Australia has been rapid, and now has the aspect, in some respects, of an old-settled country. New Zealand, of which Auckland is the chief port, consists of three islands in the South Pacific Ocean, and 1,200 miles southeast of Australia. The population is about 150,000. The country is mountainous, but its flora is remarkable, while even tropical fruits may be raised. The British colonists have divided the country into seven provinces, and the exports consist principally of wool, tallow, flax, gums, and copper-ore. The value of the exports now amount to millions of dollars annually, and the imports to a sum more than twice as much. Auckland, the most northerly province, has a population of about 35,000, and the Bay of Islands, a small settlement fifty miles north of the city, is much resorted to by American whalers, and is the seat of a United States consulate. The Feejee Islands, where the mail steamships touch on the way to New Zealand, also lie in the South Pacific, and extend over an ocean area of 40,000 square miles, and the population is estimated at 300,000. The port of Cordova has a good harbor, and here, as well as near by, is where most of the white residents live. The first commercial intercourse between Europeans and the natives commenced in 1806. The islands support a paper, called the *Feejee Gazette*. A late number contains interesting items respecting the growing commercial industries of the group and their relation to other countries.

The steamers composing the new Australian mail-service are the *McGregor*, *Tartar*, *Mongol*, *Mikado*, and *Cyphrenes*, and the rates of fare, from San Francisco to Sydney, first class, \$200; to Melbourne, \$225; to Auckland, \$200; to Wellington, \$230; etc. The through-fare from London to Melbourne is less than \$500, according to the printed rates. It now no longer takes a letter or passenger three or four months to travel between London and Melbourne, as was the case only a few years ago; but we are promised despatch between the two points in forty days upon the completion of the new steamships.—*Appletons' Journal*.

### The British Empire of To-Day.

The recently published census of the British Empire recalls the splendid rhetorical figure of Daniel Webster about the drum-beat of its armies awakened by the sunrise, re-echoing from land to land, till it encircled the whole globe "with one continuous and unbroken train of the martial airs of England." The Queen of England now rules over 234,762,593 souls. There

is only one other more populous empire on the globe, that of China, which is calculated to have 477,500,000 of people. Russia which stands third in the list, has short of 80,000,000—only about a third of the numerical size of Great Britain. The United States is the seventh nationality in point of numbers, but in the course of a dozen years will probably stand next to Russia. The area of the British Empire is put down at 7,769,449 square miles, which makes it a trifle (in the midst of such figures) smaller than the Russian Empire, now possessing 7,862,568 square miles. The United States is the third in landed possessions—3,578,392 square miles—and Brazil is the fourth, having within about 200,000 square miles of our own extent of territory. The subjects of Queen Victoria are said to live in 44,142,651 houses, which, if the figures are accurate, can give but little practical idea either of value or comfort, for they would comprise dwellings of all grades from Holland House to the hut of the Hindoo or the New Zealander. Such, however, are the statistical outlines of the British Empire of to-day, the richest and most imposing, if not the most powerful materially and intellectually, of this age, and immensely superior to the great empires of antiquity.

The centre or hub of this vast nationality is the United Kingdom, which has but 121,608 square miles—which is almost exactly the size of our Territory of New Mexico, or about the same as the combined area of New England, New-York and New Jersey. There are 260 persons to the square mile in the United Kingdom, but only 38 to the square mile throughout the empire. In some parts of the colonies, however, as in portions of India, the density of population is greater than it is in England or Scotland. The European portion of the British Empire, aside from the home region, consists of but three little dots, as it were: Heligoland, with five square miles of territory, Gibraltar, with less than two, and Malta with 115—the last two being military stations, with garrisons amounting to some 14,000 men. The total population of the three is about 178,000.

In crossing the Atlantic a very different state of things is seen. In the Canadas or the Dominion, as it is now called, a population but slightly exceeding that of Scotland, inhabits a country ten times the extent of Scotland and is increasing steadily, but not rapidly, at something like an average rate of 14 per cent, in the decade. The total population is 3,789,670, inhabiting an area of 3,376,925 square miles; nearly the extent of the United States. The only other British possessions on the main land of the Americas are British Honduras, having only 377 whites, and Guiana having about 200,000 inhabitants, including 50,000 "immigrant or coolies from Asia." The West India Islands with 13,109 square miles and about a million of people and the little Falkland Islands, with 803 inhabitants, close the list of British American possessions.

On the African continent and adjacent Islands the English claim to be masters of 236,860 square miles of territory, peopled by 1,813,450 inhabitants. In Australia we find six divisions, ranging all the way from 24,000 inhabitants up to 731,528 in Victoria. The greatest of all the British colonial possessions, however, is India, whose population is reckoned at 191,307,070, distributed over an area of 938,366 square miles and inhabiting 487,061 villages. In addition are the Island of Ceylon, with over two millions of people, Singapore, Malacca, Hong Kong, etc. Truly, Mr. Webster's imagery was as correct as it was striking.—*Boston Journal*.

### Biographical Sketches.

When a man dies who has lived a long and useful life, it is fitting, both in honor to the dead and for the benefit of the living, that his peculiar traits of character should be made known.

#### BARON MEYER AMSCHEL DE ROTHSCCHILD,

Of Mentmore, Bucks, J. P. and D. L., late M. P. for Hythe, died on the 6th ult. He was born June 29, 1818, the youngest son of Nathan Meyer Rothschild, of Frankfort, created a Baron of the Austrian Empire in 1822, and was grandson of Meyer Amschel Rothschild, the banker of Frankfort and founder of this famous family of financiers.

This founder was a Jewish citizen of Frankfort, who got an extraordinary start as money lender through the patronage of