

possesses an effective veto on legislation; but in those which I have specially denominated "Crown Colonies," the Government is either purely official as in Gibraltar, Heligoland, Labuan, the Gold Coast, &c., or tempered very slightly by the admission to the Legislative Council of a few unofficial members of the community, who are nominated by the Crown, and whose powers for good or evil are practically limited to placing their opinion of particular measures on record, as they can always be outvoted by officials, are not usually even allowed to initiate legislation, and unless their opinions are agreeable to the Governor are frequently severely snubbed for expressing them.

Examples of this style of government may be found in Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, Trinidad, the Fiji Islands, and others.

Examples of what I have termed "Partly Elective" government may be found in Jamaica, British Guiana, the Leeward Islands, Malta, Natal, and Western Australia, where the majority of the Legislative Council is composed of non-official members, elected under a more or less restricted property franchise, but the Governor still possesses an absolute veto; or in Barbadoes, the Bahamas, or the Bermudas, where there is a double Legislature, the first Chamber being mainly or purely official; the second, elective, on anything but a popular basis and its legislative powers as usual entirely subject to the Governor's veto.

The two oddest forms of government exist in the small Atlantic islands of Ascension and Tristan d'Acunha, both seized whilst we kept Napoleon at St. Helena, for the better security of our prisoner.

The former is under the Admiralty, by whom the island is rated in the Navy List as Tender to H. M.'s S. "Flora." This island ship, which is always in commission, is commanded by a Post Captain, and subjected to Man-of-War discipline, and all lights ordered out at ten p.m. A precious example of adherence to old form, which is said to cost us £40,000 a year.

Tristan d'Acunha,* according to the "Colonial Office List" is for the present under the moral rule of the oldest inhabitant, and his

* *Tristan d'Acunha*.—H.M.S. "Thalia" called here with relief stores, August 5th, 1886. Pop. 97—Males, 23; Females, 44; Children, 30 (under ten).

Cause of disproportion in sexes—17 men just drowned during a storm.

About 500 cattle on the island, and an average of 10 sheep and a flock of geese to each family. At "Thalia's" arrival, Islanders had been without tea, coffee, tobacco, rice, or flour, for several months. The relief was sent in response to the Chaplain's solicitations, he having come home for the purpose. The Islanders seemed willing to emigrate *en masse* if the Government would find them suitable homes elsewhere.