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Now let us try to realize what manner of heritage it is that has become ours, and what the British Empire means as to its extent and its resources. Our Empire is the vastest that has ever been brought under the rule of one sovereign. The empires of ancient days sink into insignificance beside it, for in the time of their greatness only a fraction of the world was known. The British Empire is unique; the world has never seen its like.

Let us make this plain by means of a few figures. The whole land surface of the globe is estimated at fifty-five millions of square miles. Of this area we Britons hold some thirteen millions of square miles, or a little less than one fourth. Let us put the comparison in another way. The whole continent of Europe covers something less than four millions of square miles; it could be contained more than three times in the British Empire. The Dominion of Canada alone, "eldest daughter of the Empire," falls but little short of the whole area of the European continent. A comparison between the extent of the British Isles and that of the Empire is almost ridiculous. For every square mile in the United Kingdom there are more than a hundred square miles of British territory beyond the seas.

There is still plenty of elbow-room in Greater Britain; there are still wide tracts of land crying aloud for settlers, and there are also great waste spaces that will always be solitudes. Nevertheless, the population of the Empire is proportionate to its area. The total population of the world is said to be 1,590 millions. Of these, the British Empire numbers 417 millions, or more than one fourth. For every white man, woman, and child under the Union Jack there are six coloured persons, yellow, brown, or black.

Our imaginary tour of the Empire has already shown us it is a *World Empire*. In order to travel round the British Empire it is necessary to travel round the world. No conti-