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THE EMPIRE—(Stages in its Progress)—I.

BY A. B. WARBURTON.

THE Transvaal war, the despatch of Colonial troops to assist the British forces in South Africa, and the brilliant part taken by them there compel attention to the marked progress made, of late years, towards unity of the Empire. This movement looking to unity has been going on, almost insensibly, during the last third of the century and of late has become very pronounced. It would seem to be the great political development of the latter half of Her Majesty's reign, and the one, of all movements in the history of the Empire, bound to have the most far-reaching and important consequences. What these consequences may be, has not yet been thoroughly grasped. It is questionable if any living man has yet fully realized their import. They are taking shape and that with ever increasing rapidity. But their very vastness, possibly surpassing that of any other political movement known to British History, is such that it can only be appreciated by degrees. In fact it must grow upon people. That vastness and the portentous results which may have their origin in this movement are such as to almost stun the mind. At present the idea is somewhat like the old mythology of the North, a thing of