

## THE BRITISH EMPIRE

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**D**URING the course of the rapid survey of the world which we have now completed, we have found in every continent lands where the British flag flies over men and women of our own kindred and speech, as well as over people of many other races and tongues. We must now gather up all these widely scattered members of the Empire into one group in our mind, and by a still more rapid survey than before try to realize what we mean by the British Empire. So rapid is our journey of imagination to be that we shall "put a girdle round the earth" in the space of one brief day of twenty-four hours.

Let us first be sure that we know what a day really is. While we stay at home, or even when we travel at the usual slow pace of express train or ocean steamship, we count our day from one sunrise to the next, or rather from one midnight to the next. The beginning of our day is a point of time which the apparent movement of the sun fixes for us. But now let us once more suppose ourselves afloat in space, suspended between earth and sun, in that very useful gravitation-proof sphere with which we began our world-study. On the side of the earth which we see it is always day; night is found only on the other side of the solid earth. Day and night seem to be not so much a question of time as of place. Yet we know that the people down below us are counting days and nights by time just as they have always done.

How can we, up in our isolated sphere, reckon the days as