

except geographically, in reference to their territorial position in each quarter of the globe, as shown on the statistical chart of all the Colonies¹, given with the work².

If classed in reference to their position in the torrid or temperate zones, an imperfect idea is afforded of their capabilities, as elevation above the sea materially alters the products of the soil³. Moreover some colonies have part of their territory on the verge of the tropical (as Australasia), others pass from the torrid into the temperate zone (Hindustan) and others from the temperate almost into the frigid zone (the Canadas).

To divide them according to their acquisition by conquest, cession, or colonization, would be nugatory, as the fortune of war has been the principal means by which almost all our present possessions have been acquired: Australasia, some parts of North America,

¹ The word *Colony* is used in this Work to signify all the transmarine possessions of the Empire, of which the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland is the parent state; therefore the territories under the joint government of the Crown and of the East India Company, as also the Norman Isles and the Isle of Man, by reason of their not being represented in the Imperial Parliament, are included in the list of colonies. The term *Colony* is derived from the Latin term *Colonia*, which springs from *colo*, to till, agriculture in the early ages forming the principal source of wealth and occupation. The word *Colonia* is now accepted by most European languages, but the Greek term *ἀποικία*, signifying a body of settlers removed to a distance from their native country, is a more expressive phrase.

² The Statistical Chart will be given with the last Part of the work.

³ See Vol. I. Asia, 2nd Edition of the "History of the British Colonies," the Himalaya, Neilgherries, Ceylon, &c.