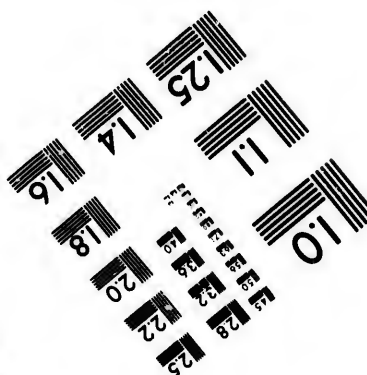
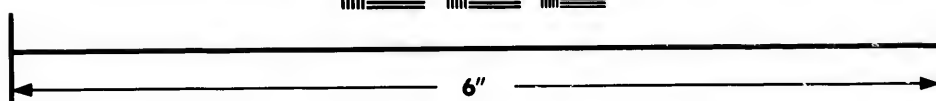
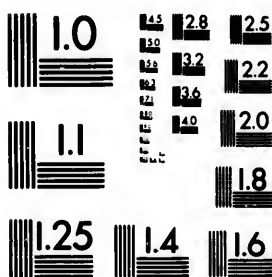


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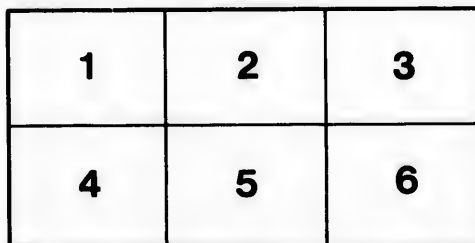
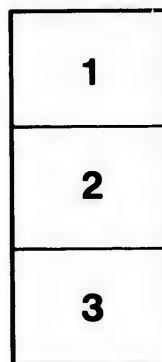
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THE MAKING OF THE BRITISH COLONIES.

“And hardly do we guess aright at things that are on earth, and with labour do we find the things that are before us.”

THE MAKING OF THE BRITISH COLONIES

A Short Account of the Origin and Growth
of the Principal Colonies of
Great Britain

FOR SCHOOLS AND GENERAL READING
A SERIES OF SKETCHES FOR YOUNG AND OLD

BY
THE AUTHOR OF "THE MAKING OF EUROPE"



MANCHESTER
ABEL HEYWOOD AND SON, 56 & 58, OLDHAM STREET

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The West Indian Group	-	-	-	-	-	-	133
British Guiana	-	-	-	-	-	-	133
British Honduras	-	-	-	-	-	-	140
The Slave Trade	-	-	-	-	-	-	142
The West Indian Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	145
The Virgin Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	148
The Leeward Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	149
The Windward Islands, including :	-	-	-	-	-	-	150
Barbadoes	-	-	-	-	-	-	151
Tobago	-	-	-	-	-	-	152
Trinidad	-	-	-	-	-	-	153
Jamaica	-	-	-	-	-	-	154
The Bahamas	-	-	-	-	-	-	157
The Island of Ceylon	-	-	-	-	-	-	161
Conclusion	-	-	-	-	-	-	166

- 133
- 133
- 140
- 142
- 145
- 148
- 149
- 150
- 151
- 152
- 153
- 154
- 157
- 161
- 166

PREFACE.

THE design in the following pages is to set forth a rough and condensed account of the origin and growth of the principal British Colonies, with a glance at their possible future. The intention was to treat each item as shortly as possible, consistent with clearness, but the extreme interest of the subject matter proved a constant impulsion to stray from this laudable resolve.

Items which more properly come under the head of British possessions have been purposely omitted. It was thought that territories such as the West African group, British East Africa, British New Guinea, etc., etc., do not come within the strict category of British Colonies as places of settlement on a large scale for Englishmen. Similarly, all military stations, such as Gibraltar, Malta, etc., have been excluded as outside the subject under consideration. These, however, might very fittingly be made the object of a separate volume. Their interest is historical and explanatory rather than evolutionary.

A few that are on the borderland between colonies and possessions have been introduced. This was because in the one case, British Guiana and British Honduras, the harmony of a whole group would have been lost. In the other case, Ceylon, the subject matter is of exceptional interest and a flavour of maturity is imparted by antiquity.

The idea has been to show briefly and very roughly (1) how the British Colonies came to be in British hands at all, and (2) how from almost tiny beginnings they slowly and gradually developed and evolved themselves by a more or less natural process.

We all know the Dominion of Canada, for instance, but we do not, perhaps, all know how it came to be the Dominion of Canada, and why it so became, nor the chief component

parts belonging to it, and how they combine to form a perfect system.

Again, we all know New South Wales, and we have all heard of South Australia, but we do not all know how the gradual process by which the first little ship-loads of English-speaking men grew and expanded, both in numbers and in territory occupied, until the mighty result of the Commonwealth of Australia stands before us.

The same question arises with regard to the English settlements in South Africa, which will, sooner or later, be called upon to fulfil a process from which the others have now happily emerged. Reference to the Transvaal and the Orange Free State was omitted for obvious reasons.

In the old days learning was a dismal process, painfully enforced. Extra hours were often added to lessons which had already been too long. Where the process of learning was not actually painful, it was tedious and repellent.

There is no reason why this should be so. It is all altered for the better now, greatly for the better—it was high time. But the process might be carried much further. Why should not the acquisition of knowledge be accompanied by merriment and laughter instead of by misery and tears? Is it not likely that the knowledge so acquired would linger affectionately in our memories, instead of being dismissed at the first convenient opportunity on account of its disagreeable associations?

Dates have been purposely inserted in the margin. What has been dwelt upon is the sequence of events. Where the date comes in at the door, the interest for readers of the younger generation too often flies out at the window. A treatise that degenerates into a mere chronological table with bits of general reading between, is like a sandwich of sawdust—very dry. The proper place for dates is not in the context, but in the dictionary, where they can be sought afterwards. A few land-marks only, such as 1588, the year of the Spanish Armada, should be kept constantly in view.

The same with maps. The way to learn geography is from the Atlas. "Study the map" cannot be too often said. Such little maps as can be inserted in a volume of this size must perforce be trumpery, hence they are purposely omitted. The idea in the following chapters is to create a living interest which will compel the reader to study dates and maps for himself or herself. In this manner consecutive details become more lastingly impressed on the memory.

Finally be it said, where long, or foreign, or classical words have been used, it has been done to afford teachers more scope.

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INTRODUCTORY.

In the introductory notice to the *Making of Europe*, it was said that colonies are to a country much the same as young ones to an animal. Colonies

But it must be admitted that this idea did not always prevail. In the very early days of colonization, colonies were looked upon somewhat as inferior and subject communities, and the colonists as an inferior and subject race. This was owing to a want of understanding on the part of those who were in a position to enforce their views, and perhaps owing to a similar want of understanding on the part of the general public. The colonists were mostly taken from the great body of the people; whereas those who had the management of the relations of the mother country with the colonists as a community, belonged to the ruling classes. Subject communities.

Had it not been for this, the present series would have had to begin with the United States of America, as the first, the oldest, and the greatest of all British Colonies. But this vigorous young giant is now one of the greatest Independent states in the whole world; a young giant, too, that is far from being full grown, and that still has to attain the symmetry and perfection of maturity. What might have been.

It was a fortunate thing for the other countries of the world that the perversity of the two English Ministers—mis-called Statesmen—Grenville and Townshend, or of those who inspired them, resulted in those colonists throwing off the yoke of their unnatural parent, England. Otherwise, by this time the United States of Great Britain, European and transatlantic, would have been a terrific factor in the world's The United States of Great Britain.

history. It is perhaps well that such tremendous power should not be vested under one control. No combination in the world would have been a match for it, as it would have been a natural combination of one English-speaking race; while any opposing coalition must have been more or less artificial.

A little
sister.

However, so it was; and thus it is that an account of the British Colonies must not commence with the greatest of all. It must begin with Canada, the homely younger sister of that proud beauty; and Canada, at first, was not an English colony at all, but a French dependency. We have to thank the deplorably bad rulers of France, with their pernicious methods, that we were able to wrest it from her, and to overcome the defence of her gallant and gifted son, the Marquis of Montcalm.

Small
begin-
ings.

The little ship-loads of men who, from time to time, went out to the new countries and effected for themselves the occupation and settlement of the districts which they gradually peopled, had no Emperor or King, and not any ruling class. They were mostly equal among themselves, though no doubt for convenience and for local purposes, they elected head men from among their number. But they remained subject to the central government of the mother country, through local governors appointed from Great Britain.

Experi-
ence
brings
wisdom.

The Home Government however, warned by the experience of the American Colonies, wisely interfered with them very little, and as time went on, still less. It sent out governors from time to time to exercise control. These men were generally wise and able, and took great interest in their work. But their functions were chiefly to advise and to suggest. In process of time the colonists elected their own Parliaments and made their own laws; generally, but not at all in every case after the model of those prevailing in the mother country.

Natural
Absti-
nence.

Colonies, consisting as they do almost universally of a mere fringe of population along the coast and the river

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alleys, and other favoured localities, have neither the temptation nor the means of making war. It is on the mother country that the task of their defence chiefly devolves; and it is the mother country that possesses the exclusive luxury of declaring war.

In this connection it may be said that colonies have no ambassadors or representatives at the capitals of foreign countries. This is because they are not sovereign or independent States, but are in their external relations under the tutelage and guardianship of the mother country. The United States of America is now a sovereign and independent country. Therefore it has ambassadors or representatives in all independent foreign countries.

All independent States, however small, have such functions. Indeed, the smaller the State, the greater the need of a representative very often. Our great colonies, however, which are economically far more important, are only represented by agents-general at the mother country alone. If they wish to bring their views on any question before a foreign power, they cannot do so direct, but must request the intervention of the mother country on their behalf.

The wars of the colonies have been mostly local conflicts with the natives, whom they have in their onward progress despoiled of their possessions.

Their natural expansion lies in the development of their enormous tracts of relatively unpopulated country; and this is true of all the great British Colonies, whether we speak of Canada, of South Africa, of the Australian group, or of New Zealand.

Not having the technical right, nor the imperious necessity, nor the temptation of indulging in the dangerous pastime of war, they have in consequence no need for either a standing army or a fleet, beyond a handful of men to serve as the nucleus of home defence.

From this follows the inestimable benefit of light taxation; and as there are enormous tracts of unpeopled land to be had under reasonable conditions, at the initial cost of a more

Parental
luxuries.

Parent or
guardian.

Ambassa-
dors.

Agents-
General.

Vicarious
action.

The pro-
gress of
civiliza-
tion.

Elbow-
room.

The
advant-
age of
a limited
sphere.

Happy
con-
ditions.

or less long journey, cultivable land at easy rent is another colonial advantage.

Nostal-
gia.

But with all this life is hard in the new countries, and existence to a European is comparatively monotonous. This is why so many colonists, when they have happily achieved independence, hanker to return to the pleasant surroundings of old Europe.

Home
and
Colonial.

"Sweet Auburn, loveliest village of the plain," was not written of a colonial community, with its straight matter-of-fact main street, and its usual stereotyped collection of buildings, generally upon one plan. Nor is the description of simple arcadian life which follows, quite applicable to colonial routine.

A free
hand.

Being free from the curse of militarism, the colonies are able to devote the revenue derived from their relatively light taxation to the solution of many politico-social problems; such as universal education, the pensioning of aged workers, the payment of Parliamentary representatives, etc., etc.

The
enter-
prise
and
daring
of youth.

In the new countries, there being few prescriptive rights, few prejudices, and few vested interests to act as deferents, these questions have been examined and dealt with in a spirit of efficiency too often found wanting in the mother country. The young child, with the daring spirit of youth, has thus set a bright example to the parent, chilled by the experience of age, and perhaps by the selfishness of prosperity.

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CANADA.

LET us begin, then, with the oldest important British Colony, which is Canada. But Canada is a term which conveys a very loose meaning. Except Newfoundland, the oldest part of Canada is the oldest British Colony; but all of Canada does not deserve this appellation at all, some of it being of comparatively recent existence in its present form.

The
definition
of
Canada.

THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

Modern Canada is a federation of separate provinces unified under the above title. These separate provinces were in some cases separate colonies; but they all belong, geographically speaking, to one group. So it was they became welded together into one great integer, corresponding to the geographical grouping laid down by Nature.

A Feder-
ation.

Just as some landscape gardener lays out a plot of ground into flower and vegetable gardens, orchards, rockeries, and wildernesses, set out according to the suitabilities of aspect, position, and other natural conditions; so has Nature laid our earth into irregular partitions by imposing her own fences, in the shape of mountains, seas and deserts. To comply with these natural conditions is the true function of nations, or of those who direct their destinies.

The
groupings
of
Nature.

Just as in the case of old Europe, every country, or nearly every country, had a nucleus to which the surrounding districts gradually became attracted until the result coincided with the boundaries Nature had intended; so we shall find the modern Dominion of Canada had a nucleus to which the various component parts ultimately gravitated, until they reached their present form.

A nucleus
to seek.

The river
St. Law-
rence.

1535.

A French
sailor.

Jacques
Cartier.

A French
possession.

The
island of
Orleans.

The
origin of
the name
'Canada.'

The early
Governors.

The true Canada which gives its name to this immense Dominion is the valley of the great river St. Lawrence, and of its affluents. Jacques Cartier, a Frenchman, sailed on a voyage of discovery in a westerly direction from the little Breton seaport of St. Malo. This was about sixty years before the voyage of Sir Walter Raleigh and his half-brother Humphrey Gilbert, which resulted in the settlement of Virginia, many miles to the south on the same coast.

Jacques Cartier perhaps passed through the narrow strait of Belleisle, now so well-known to our Atlantic liners. Proceeding up the great gulf into which this strait leads, he landed at several places on its coast; probably on the south shore, which is of a more inviting appearance than that to the north. He declared the country a possession of the then French king. Returning to France, in the year following he came again with a much larger force. This time he sailed right up the great river which flows into this gulf, as far as the first large island which lies right in the middle of the channel, just where the river commences to narrow. To this island he gave the name of Orleans; after the little town on the banks of the sandy Loire in the fair land of France, so well known in French history. Near here, on the mainland, he passed the winter, and then returned again to France.

Hearing the Indians make frequent use of the word *Kanata* (their name for village), he thought that was the name of the country; so he called the country Canada, and that is how we get the name.

Cartier fell into disgrace with the French king, because he was unable to find the precious metals, gold and silver, in the new country. However, a viceroy was appointed and sent out from France to govern the newly-discovered territory. There must have been nothing then to govern, except wandering tribes of Indians. The first governor, with a numerous train of followers, was lost and never heard of more; the second died of a broken heart. But their successors were more fortunate. They hit upon the sensible plan of

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bartering for furs with the Indians ; and thus a staple trade was established. This trade soon assumed rather large dimensions. Great numbers of adventurers now went out from France, and settled along both shores of the St. Lawrence, penetrating some hundreds of miles up the river. The new territory now became called New France. These adventurers did not go out, as with us, of their own individual initiative. They rather formed part of powerful expeditions under the command of men of rank and influence. This lessened their independence, no doubt, but it gave them more cohesion.

The fur trade :
origin
and rise.

They seem to have got on very well with the Indians at first. About sixty years after Jacques Cartier, came a French naval officer named Champlain. Champlain was an able man ; he founded the City of Quebec on the north bank of the St. Lawrence, just on the west side of the Isle of Orleans, and pushed his explorations many miles further up the river. Quebec ultimately became the capital of the immense province of that name.

Champlain.

The city
of
Quebec.
1608.

There was a reason for choosing this site for the young city, now an old city. It is the narrowest part of the river for hundreds of miles in either direction, thus affording the easiest communication with the opposite shore. A little river runs in here, providing shelter for small craft. The harbourage is very fine, the river-side being deep enough for large ships. Added to this the location is very strong, there being a lofty rocky promontory constituting an easily defensible position against the attacks of Indians or other enemies. That French naval officer of old days knew what he was about.

An advantageous
position.

The founding of the city of Quebec is considered the starting point of the permanent French settlement and colony. France now claimed sovereignty over an enormous but ill-defined stretch of territory, consisting of the districts forming the eastern part of the present Dominion of Canada. Those old French adventurers must have done their work well ; for to this very day, although these districts have been a

The
starting
point.

dependency of England for more than 100 years, every river, every creek, every lake, has a French name, and the French language is still spoken by the numerous descendants of those early settlers.

Obstructions:
war and
religion.

Unfortunately, just now two powerful Indian tribes went to war; and Champlain, somewhat unwisely, took sides in the contest. Probably he could not help himself. This brought upon the young settlement the hostility of the other Indian tribe, and greatly retarded the progress of the colony. Unfortunately, too, the religious element, which played so important a part in the economy of European States, was introduced here also.

Christianity.

Missionaries.

The French, as a nation, are devout Roman Catholics; and in those days religion of any kind had a much stronger hold upon men's minds than it has now. The Roman Catholic Missionaries have always been men of exceptional zeal and exceptional ability. Indeed, it is not too much to say that some of the most gifted men of that gifted race, the French, were found in the ranks of these missionary priests. The French, then, sent out missionaries to convert the Indians to Christianity. The usual result followed; the converted Indians soon became at variance with their unconverted brethren. This animosity naturally involved the white settlers, and a fresh element of discord arose.

Prose-
lytes.

Catholics
and
Protes-
tants.

Religious
animosity.

But this was not enough. The French Christians at home came into conflict; the Huguenots, or party of the Reformation, and the Catholics, or party of the Pope. These unhappy discords soon made their way across the Atlantic to the new colony, bringing further complications. But this was not all, worse was to follow.

The
English
settlers
and trade
com-
petition.

The English settlements down in Massachusetts Bay and along the coast of what is now the United States, were becoming important, and they traded with the Indians, too, for furs and such like things; thus a competition was established. It was all very natural, but it was unfortunate for the settlers of both nations. The English settlers were mostly Protestants, whereas the French settlers, as we have

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seen, were mostly Catholics. So here we have the elements of a very pretty quarrel: trade jealousies and religious animosities. Fortunately the two colonies were separated by a great stretch of intervening territory, and were in no wise in contact. Yet such is the incredible perversity of mankind, that the two communities of white men in that far distant country, surrounded as they were by copper-coloured Indians, and both of them Christians, worshipping the same God in the name of peace on earth and good will towards men, actually contrived to come to blows; and so the killing began.

Christians.

Other complications arose. The French ministers at home, as foolish as they were greedy, vested the right of fur trading exclusively with a certain association or monopoly; probably consisting of their own sycophants and the agents of the latter in the new country. This meant that the monopolists alone had the right to introduce furs into France, their ultimate market.

A monopoly.

Hence, the Indians found it more advantageous to trade with the more distant English settlements down south. This alienated also their good-will, and they took to harrying the French and destroying their crops. The French settlers, disgusted with this monopoly, which spoilt their trade and brought on them the ill-will of the Indians, thus spoiling their agriculture too, found the conditions of life almost insupportable. Many, in consequence, abandoned their own people and went over to the English settlements and established themselves there.

The result

The English Government, appealed to by their own settlers for aid in the conflicts which ensued, behaved with great wisdom and great good feeling. It sharply rebuked the colonists and recommended them to cultivate the friendliest relations with their French neighbours.

A very rare occurrence.

The French, unfortunately, were not so well advised. A desultory war ensued for a long series of years, in which the Indians took part on both sides, and great atrocities were committed. For sixty consecutive years defeat and disaster

The waters of strife.

The two
Pitts.

attended the British; then came a change. William Pitt, "the great commoner," as he was called, became the head of the English Government. It is the fashion to speak of this man and his son with bated breath, as if like some modern Prometheus, each had conferred benefits on humanity; and undoubtedly each served his country to the best of his somewhat limited and narrow understanding. But it is a question whether their methods were not as pernicious in their results to the people of England and France, as the methods of Bismarck have been pernicious to modern Europe. Any policy that results in wars, slaughter, and a long legacy of hatred and rancour, is unstatesmanlike; the true statesmanship is to avoid them.

The
turning
of the
tide.

A new expedition was sent out from England under able leaders. Now the tide turned. The British troops, aided and supported by the whole power of the English settlements on the Atlantic coasts (which had now spread inwards and upwards towards the French settlements on the St. Lawrence, and on the great lakes feeding that river), were everywhere successful.

The
capture
of
Quebec.

The city of Quebec was captured after a desperate battle, in which the English general, Wolfe, and the French general, Montcalm, were both killed. This was exactly 150 years after its founding by the French naval officer Champlain. The final result was that the whole of the French possessions in North America were ceded to England by treaty. This was on the 10th February, 1763. Thus England got a ready-made colony.

All
French
North
America
ceded to
England,
1763.

The
nucleus
of the
Dominion
of
Canada.

The possessions have remained in English hands ever since, and this old French settlement became the nucleus or gathering point of our great Dominion of Canada of to-day. Successive English Governments, with a good sense and good feeling too often found wanting in their relations with European Powers, left the French settlers pretty much to themselves. The result is they became, and have ever been, a contented and prosperous body, on the best terms with their English Colonial neighbours in the adjacent provinces,

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and with the Central Government, first at Quebec, and now at Ottawa. Some of Canada's most prominent public men are descended from these very French settlers, still retaining their old French names.

Now let us see how the different component parts forming the Dominion of Canada grouped themselves round the nucleus.

By themselves the two provinces of Lower and Upper Canada were nothing but a fragment. In their populated districts they were little more than a fringe of territory on both sides of the great gate of entry to the whole country of Northern America, the mouth of the St. Lawrence; and this gate, be it remembered, gave access to the magnificent high road, the great river leading hundreds and hundreds of miles into the interior of the country, and so on to the chain of great lakes. These are, in their order, Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, and Lake Superior. We call them lakes, because they are of fresh water, but they are in reality huge inland seas. Rarely has Nature provided a more magnificent chain of inter-communication within one country.

Into this great high road, the St. Lawrence, leading as it does from east to west, run many other district roads in the shape of the affluent rivers draining into it from the north and from the south. These afford the means of bringing produce from an immense number of districts to one common centre. Here it would be available for re-distribution, or for shipment abroad to Europe, the natural market for the surplus products.

But now comes another consideration. This magnificent highway is blocked for five months out of the twelve by Nature, which throws a bridge of solid ice across the great waterway and all the little waterways too, so that no ship can pass in, neither can any pass out. The pressing need for Canada, then, was an open port in what is technically called warm water, although such water is hardly warm from a domestic point of view. This must be sought further south. We come thus to

A process to trace.

Dissecta membra.

A gate and a high road.

Bye-roads.

Nature shuts the gate.

An essential need.

A warm-water port.

NOVA SCOTIA.

A
hammer-
head.

1497.

Prima
Vista.

After-
wards
Acadia.
1524.

Then
Nova
Scotia.

A canny
Scot.
1622.

Caveat
emptor.

1763.

The
advan-
tage of
seclusion.

Some 300 miles to the south-east of the Gulf of St. Lawrence lies a curious-looking peninsula, shaped very much like the head of a hammer-headed shark, the narrow strait which joins it to the mainland being the neck of the shark. There, however, the analogy ends. This peninsula was first discovered by Jean and Sebastian Cabot, Venetians in the service of the English King, Henry, father of the Reformation Henry who had so many wives. They called it Prima-Vista or the First View, it being the first land they had seen on their voyage. It was not peopled by whites for another hundred years, when it became nominally included in the French-American possessions under the name of Acadia. The same English King, James, who made a present of the country on the James River lower down the American coast to some of his favourites, as related in the chapter on America in *The Making of Europe*, made a present of this peninsula to another of his favourites.

This James I., it will be remembered, was a Scotchman. The favourite was naturally a Scotchman too. The new territory was consequently called Nova Scotia, or New Scotland. This Scotchman, whose name was Sir William Alexander, split up the country into about 150 districts. He had the true Scotch love of money, for he offered to sell the districts at £200 apiece to anyone who liked to buy.

A good many adventurers did so buy, and went out to take possession of their new purchases. It is to be hoped they were pleased with their bargains when they got there. The Indians, who in this district were peculiarly savage, probably killed a good many of them. Soon after that the French came over and took the whole country. They held it for about 100 years, when it was ceded to Great Britain, with the rest.

By its geographical position it lay quite out of the line of march of the combatants in the subsequent war between

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Great Britain and her American Colonists; hence it enjoyed comparative tranquillity and, consequently, prosperity. It is a fairly rich country, in parts very rich; its early name of Acadia, or Arcadia, signifying a land of rustic simplicity. The valley of the Annapolis river is spoken of all over North-Eastern America as "the garden of Annapolis," and is celebrated in verse by the American poet Longfellow in *Evangeline*.

But the chief advantage of Nova Scotia lies in the numerous deep arms of the sea, forming magnificent natural harbours, with which its coast is studded. On the greatest of these, facing full south-east towards Europe, splendidly protected from force of wind and wave at its entry by the Island of McNab, just as the port of Copenhagen is protected by the Island of Amager, lies the port and city of Halifax. In this great natural harbour whole fleets of the largest vessels can lie safely at anchor.

A country
of natural
harbours.

This is a warm water harbour, open all the year round. Here, then, we get the natural Atlantic seaport of the Dominion of Canada.

The
natural
port of
Canada

But Nova Scotia is separated from the valley of the St. Lawrence by a great stretch of intervening territory. The one was useless to the other without this intermediate district. Fortunately this had remained in British hands as a British Colony. We come thus to

A gap to
bridge.

THE PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

This territory was mixed up with Nova Scotia until about 100 years ago. It was included in the gift made by James I. to his friend William Alexander, a present of that which was not his to give. At one time it was included in the French possessions called New France. The great river of New Brunswick is the St. John, and along this river some French settlers established themselves. But the same treaty, which after the capture of Quebec, ceded Canada to

Cheap
generosity.
1785.

England, carried also the cession of Nova Scotia and this district with it.

A dissent-
ient
minority.
1773.

The
United
Empire
Loyalists.
1775 to
1783.

Swept,
but not
gar-
nished.

A staple
lumber.

The city
of St.
John,
N.B.

The
begin-
ning of
Federation,
1867.

At the time of the American War of Independence (when the tea was thrown into Boston harbour), which resulted in the English settlers throwing off the yoke of the mother country, there was the usual divergence of opinion. Many of these settlers wished to remain under the old flag. Accordingly they styled themselves "The United Empire Loyalists," and went across in a body and settled in this new country, chiefly along the banks of the St. John river and its affluents. Till then this territory had remained comparatively vacant. The country of Nova Scotia, standing out as a bulwark towards the Atlantic, would naturally catch the first settlers coming from Europe. The valley of the St. Lawrence would catch others; and the open coast of the Atlantic, towards Boston, was also a convenient point of arrival. So these United Loyalists found a comparatively unoccupied country waiting for them, and they soon filled up the more eligible localities.

The magnificent timber of the forests afforded them a staple trade in the shape of lumber. The trees were cut down and trimmed up-country, and the great baulks of timber were floated down the affluents and subsidiary streams of the St. John. At the mouth of the St. John they were caught and collected for export. And thus grew up the city and port of St. John, at the mouth of that river on the Bay of Fundy. By and by this district received the name of New Brunswick as a separate colony.

And now we come to a comparatively recent date. On the 29th March, 1867, the English Parliament in London passed an Act for the Union of Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, under the name of the

DOMINION OF CANADA.

The Federation was to have its own Parliament; consisting of an Upper House, the Senate of 72 members, and a Lower

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House of 181 members. The Seat of Government was to be the city of Ottawa, on the Ottawa river in the Province of Quebec, called after an old Indian tribe, the Ottaouais.

We may be sure all this was not done without long and careful deliberation with the heads of the various provinces to be federated, in touch with the people of the districts. It was emphatically good work, and well done.

Good
work
well done.

Still, the structure was far from complete. The eastern section of British North America was now unified, it is true. The front of the edifice was imposing enough; and there were two good doors to it, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the harbour of Halifax, with facilities for any number more on the coast of Nova Scotia and the Bay of Fundy.

The front
view.

But if you looked out at the back door, what did you see? You saw a long stretch of waste ground, and beyond in the far distance the walls and windows and doors of the other side of the edifice, that which faces the Pacific Ocean. The problem was to bring the latter into touch with the former, and to bridge over the intervening space.

The view
from the
back.

THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

Now there was in the old days one of those curious commercial associations, half territorial and half trading, called The Hudson's Bay Company. It was somewhat similar to the East India Company which led to the acquisition of our Indian Empire. It was framed on much the same model. This curious company still exists as a trading concern, but it has parted, as we shall see, with its territorial rights.

A fur-
trading
concern.

It was started in the reign of that Charles who married Catherine of Braganza, and who was described as having a large heart and a small intelligence. This Charles, probably wishing to please some of his favourites who started the new concern, consigned to them by a charter, or written deed, certain territories in the extreme north of North America. These territories were defined as all the countries drained by the rivers which run into Hudson's Bay, not in the possession

Its origin
and
character.
1670.

A wide
embrace.

of other Christian States. The poor Indians did not count. This enormous region, hundreds and hundreds of miles long, by as many broad, and running right up to the Arctic Zone, is a desolate waste of forests, mountains, lakes, and rivers, covered with ice and snow for the greater part of the year. But it is the haunt of myriads of wild animals; and the skins of these animals, acquired by trading with the Indian trappers, have been a gold mine to the Company.

"Pro pelle cutem."

You can go to-day to the warehouses of the Company, Lime Street, London, and see rows upon rows of the most beautiful skins of every wild animal imaginable, so deftly removed by the hands of the Indians that the animal itself seems to lie before you. There you will find the silver fox, the Court fur of the Imperial family of Russia, the almost rarer and scarcely less valuable blue fox, of a dark indigo colour, the magnificent sea-otter, the grizzly bear, and a host of others too numerous to detail.

Without form, but not void.

This Company, by encroachment or absorption of other concerns, sanctified by what is called "the prescription of time," had obtained undefined rights much exceeding the original loosely-worded grant. A hundred lawyers could not have determined these rights, still less could they have located the boundaries; and they were really of no definable value to the Company, but they might be of great value to the Dominion of Canada in furtherance of a great scheme.

For value received.

Accordingly, on the 9th April, 1869, the Dominion purchased of the Company its territorial rights for cash. The result of this was the constitution of another new province. The southern part of the great territory formerly vested in the Hudson's Bay Company, about midway between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, is a very large tract of level and rather treeless country. This was called "the fertile belt," and had been partially settled nearly 200 years previously. To the north of this level country was a great lake, which retained its Indian name of Lake Winnipeg. Near this lake the Company had a trading post, Fort Garry; a collection of shanties surrounded by a wooden palisade.

1812.

Fort Garry.

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Although the winters are frightfully severe, the soil of this great level country was found to be admirably adapted to the raising of wheat, which the great heat of summer ripened rapidly. People heard of this, and went out there to settle.

Golden
wheat.

Land was to be had for little or nothing. Capitalists with money to buy agricultural machinery migrated there to farm on a large scale; and poorer men, with a view to high wages, followed to act as labourers. Thus the district to some extent became populated. But there was something in the air. The magic word *Railway* was mentioned. The meagre collection of palisaded shanties soon became the City of Winnipeg, with streets and tramcars, the capital of the new province.

Coming
events.

The
magic
of the
iron
horse.

This new province was called

MANITOBA,

or the Prairie Province, after an Indian word. A year or two succeeding to the purchase of the Hudson's Bay territorial rights, the new province was incorporated in the Dominion of Canada.

1870.

Now we must go over to the other side of the American Continent, the Pacific coast. Somewhat to the north of this coast, immediately opposite the mouth of a great river called the Frazer river, is an island almost as large as England. This great island is exceedingly fertile; it has splendid inlets to serve as harbours; it has magnificent timber; the soil is rich; the climate is mild, milder than that of England; coal and limestone are abundant, and the fisheries are very valuable. Settlements were made by the English on this island rather more than 100 years ago. These were seized by the Spaniards; but they were restored to England, and finally, by a treaty between Great Britain and the United States, the island was secured to the English. The country became so far settled as to necessitate the appointment of a governor. For a long time its great distance militated

The
other
side of
the
edifice.

The
island
of
Van-
couver.

1781.

1789.

1846.

against any considerable influx of settlers. It is called Vancouver Island.

The
Western
Coast.

1858.

An
awkward
fence to
climb.

Now comes a new influence. A few years after the recognition of Vancouver Island as British territory, gold was found on the adjacent mainland up the valley of the Frazer river. This hitherto unpeopled western coast of British North America was not yet entitled Canadian territory. Between this western coast and the outlying Province of Manitoba, the stupendous barrier of the Rocky Mountains rears itself. These lofty mountains had but few practicable passes, consequently to get from Eastern Canada to this western coast was no child's play. There was a dreary stretch of hundreds of miles of flat monotonous land to traverse, quite unpopulated, and then came this gigantic fence to climb.

The elec-
tricity
of gold.

1858.

But when a few adventurous spirits found the precious metal, and the magic word "gold" was uttered, all this was changed. In a few weeks 50,000 men poured into the district, mainly from the adjacent American State of California, which was the nearest territory containing any considerable population. Then the magnificent nature of this country was seen, and it became established as a colony under the title of

BRITISH COLUMBIA,

1866.

and the contiguous Island of Vancouver was united to it by Act of Parliament.

Almost.

1870.

When the Province of Manitoba was incorporated with the Dominion of Canada, the whole of that country lying between the "Prairie Province" and the Rocky Mountains was also incorporated under the separate title of

THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Quite.

The next step was to unite the Western Province on the Pacific side of the Rocky Mountains with its other sisters on the east, so as to make them all one family living under one

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roof. This was done by the incorporation of British Columbia into the Dominion of Canada, in the year following that of 1871. Manitoba.

There remains now the little island, off the east coast, called

A matter of detail.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,

which is to the coast of New Brunswick a buffer to break the force of the waves. It is a very interesting little island to its inhabitants, and a very nice place to live in, but economically it is not of profound importance.

Thus we get the Dominion of Canada at last in its entirety as one great integer. But there was yet more to do. The links of the chain were provided, but they were disjointed, unconnected, separated each by many miles of intervening and as yet unpeopled territory. The next step was to unite them all together. This was done by the railway. The Canadian Pacific Railway was the consequence of the completion of the incorporation of the Dominion of Canada.

The binding power of the locomotive.

This great work started from the City of Montreal on the St. Lawrence, the then terminus of the existing system of railways running westward from Halifax, and from the little town of Rimouski on the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Leaving the valley of the St. Lawrence at Montreal, it proceeded along the valley of the Ottawa river and then skirted the wild country to the north of Lake Superior, and so on to Winnipeg, the capital of the Prairie Province. Here it went always westward through the North-west territory, and after threading the difficult passes of the Rocky Mountains found its final terminus at Vancouver, on the Pacific coast, in British Columbia, not to be confounded with the Island of Vancouver, just opposite.

The Canadian Pacific Railway. 1881.

By this means, the great wheat fields of the Central Dominion were brought in touch with the Atlantic and Pacific ports. The consequence was that emigrants—from the surplus population of Great Britain—proceeded to these regions, where land was allotted for little or nothing, under

Inter-communication and free land.

certain conditions, by the Canadian Pacific Railway or by the Dominion Government. But they did not flock in any great numbers, for life out there is hard, the winters being very severe, and the summers very hot.

A momentous consequence.

As settlements increased, and more land came under cultivation, great shipments of grain, passing over the Canadian Pacific Railway, poured into England. The people out there, having little or no rent and few taxes to pay, were able to sell their wheat at lower prices than had ever been known before. And so the price of wheat in England fell greatly, and the community in general prospered to the detriment of the British farmer, and of all people who got their living off the land in the old country.

A happy condition.

Alieni avida.

The Dominion of Canada is in the same happy position as Norway. No one desires Canada, not even United Germany; for the latter, not having command of the sea as against England, could not maintain a footing in the Dominion one single hour. Moreover, the proud big sister, the United States, would not tolerate a single Pomeranian Grenadier, body or bones, at Halifax or on the St. Lawrence; under her principle of the Monroe Doctrine, which need not be described here.

The Monroe Doctrine.

An ignis fatuus.

It is, or was, the fashion of certain English publicists, in the pursuit of their amiable function of sowing the seeds of international ill-will, to describe the United States as desirous of acquiring the Dominion, or at least the southern portion of it.

A juster appreciation.

If so, they know better than the Americans themselves. No American, certainly no sane American, desires Canada. The true expansion of the United States lies southward, towards Mexico. But the truer expansion still is within the country of the United States itself, where there is room for any amount of development before it attains the symmetry of maturity. The West Indian Islands will probably fall to the lot of the United States of America sooner or later, whether old Europe likes it or no. But that is a remote contingency which need not be discussed here.

A remote contingency.

Canada is the land of wood and water. Everywhere wood, except perhaps in the level plains of Manitoba. Wooden houses, wooden churches, painted to look like stone—just as a certain politician was said to be painted to look like iron—wooden pathways, wooden fences (no hedges, or iron hurdles), and wood for fuel—not only for warming and cooking, but even for driving machinery.

A land of timber.

In the same way, everywhere water. You cannot go far without meeting water in some shape or another, springs, creeks, streams, cataracts, rivers, or lakes.

Water, water everywhere.

It is a great land for wild fruits. Wild apples, wild cherries, butter nuts, etc., and a great variety of berries—blueberries, which we call whortleberries, raspberries, cranberries, and others in great profusion. It is strange that these cold countries should always produce a great variety of valuable wild berries. It is just the same in Europe. Wherever you get the Aurora borealis, there also you get wild berries in profusion.

Fruits and berries.

It is essentially an agricultural and pastoral country. Although the soil in all parts is not very rich, yet the climate is so superb, that in spite of the long and severe winters, crops and fruits of many kinds attain great perfection. Canadian apples grow as large as a fair-sized cocoanut. The export of Canadian produce is in its infancy.

A superb climate.

Canada is rather a favourite colony with emigrants, as it is so near the old country. It is only eight days from Liverpool to the Straits of Belle Isle, and after that three days steaming up the broad quiet St. Lawrence will take you to Montreal. An emigrant always leaves half his heart in the old country. England may be a stepmother to her poorer sons, but England is a pleasant country.

A favourite.

The farms in Canada—and the whole country is a land of farms—give the idea of being labour starved. The land at present under cultivation could easily absorb three times the existing amount of labour, and yield better nett returns. But this is a small question. In the great unpeopled tracts of Canada lies uncultivated, but not waste, land, sufficient to

The native land.

A dearth easily supplied

support five times the whole population of the British Isles, and yet leave an enormous surplus for export.

The true
defence.

This great country's career lies in the future. As a colony she requires no standing army and no fleet; the mother country being charged with her defence. But her best and grandest defences are her northerly position, and the goodwill of her great neighbour the United States of America.

The
crude-
ness
of youth.

From what has gone before it is seen that the country is economically undeveloped. The great manufactures which find a home in the United States have found little place in Canada. Although there is said to be abundance of iron and abundance of coal, these do not seem to have been worked on a really large scale. There appear to be no establishments capable of turning out an iron-clad battleship, or huge girders to bridge the many wide rivers, or miles of steel rails for the iron horse to ride. This is probably owing to want of skilled labour, want of capital, or want of enterprise. Still, the establishment of such works, even with the aid of foreign capital, would tend to enrich the country.

Not like
the
U.S.A.

Some-
thing
wanting.

Philos-
ophy
and real
life.

Perhaps the Canadians think:

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey
Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

But Canada is many years distant from this stage at present, and as to the men, there is little fear of their decaying. Go and look at those great broad-shouldered, deep-chested fellows, tall and straight as the soldiers of our crack regiments, but much more powerful. Watch them handling the heavy sacks of wheat or oats—no one who has not handled a sack of grain knows what this means—or pitching the buckwheat up into their farm carts, and you will agree they are a fine race. This is owing to their open-air life and simple vegetable diet.

Modern
changes.

In the old days Canada was divided into Upper and Lower Canada, or West and East Canada. But since she has boiled right over the undulating plains of Manitoba and the North-

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west Territories, and across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific, these terms no longer convey the same meaning; for Canada West is now British Columbia and Vancouver Island; and the old Canada West might be justly included in the Canada East of to-day.

Hence the former Canada East is now called the Province of Quebec, and the former Canada West is the Province of Ontario, called after the great lake of that name. Each has its own capital, that of the former being the city of the same name spoken of previously. The capital of Ontario is Toronto, on the north-western shore of Lake Ontario, with no special advantages of position.

Some
chief
towns.
Quebec.

Toronto.

One marvels how a city came to spring up here. But at this spot was a tongue of land stretching out and round into the lake, enclosing a water area. This formed a fine natural harbour. The first governor of Upper Canada (now Ontario), Simcoe by name, saw this. He saw too that it would have short and easy communication by road with Georgian Bay, on Lake Huron, and all it leads to.

The
reason
why.

Simcoe.

Accordingly he founded the city here—just 150 years later than Montreal—in spite of the natural defects of the locality. “fitter for a frog farm than for a habitation of human beings,” said an indignant settler. The only population was two Indian families; dense forests lined the water’s edge, and the bay was alive with wild fowl. At first it was named York, it received its present name later.

The
Toronto
Frog
Farm.
1794.

1834.

Although thirty years after this it had only 1,300 inhabitants, Simcoe was so far right that Toronto has now—just one hundred years later—a population of 195,000, and is the second city in the Dominion.

What it
became.

The capital and seat of government of the whole Dominion is Ottawa, at the junction of the rivers Ottawa and Rideau. It was selected on account of its position on the borders of the two Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, in order to avoid local rivalries, and to obviate the possibility of jealousy between the English-speaking Province of Ontario and the older French-speaking Province of Quebec.

Ottawa.

1858.

Montreal. The chief city of the Dominion of Canada is Montreal on the island of that name in the St. Lawrence. It is by Nature designed for the capital of the Dominion.

At the junction of the Ottawa river with the St. Lawrence, 740 miles west of Quebec, it is admirably situated to catch the trade of, and serve as a centre for, two immense districts.

Its
admir-
able
position.

But the position of Montreal means far more than this. Here it is that the river commences to be navigable for ocean steamers. Above this point navigation is impossible, owing to the Rapids of La Chine or St. Louis. This position makes it the natural port for the chain of canal and river navigation to the west, which brings it in touch with the great lakes at the head of the St. Lawrence.

Centri-
petal
attrac-
tion.

This combination of lakes gives an extent of coast, which linked out would make a length of 6,000 miles, without counting the rivers draining into it. Thus Montreal is the natural emporium of a territory embracing the largest system of inland water communication in the world. Added to this is unlimited water power around the city and its vicinity, for the driving of mills. To crown all it is in the midst of a fertile country.

The
inevit-
able.

It is impossible to conceive a more magnificent situation. Montreal must grow, and become more and more important every year; it cannot help itself. When it is reflected that the districts it serves are even now thinly populated, excepting a fringe along the rivers, and that the natural increment of population will be aided by immigration from Europe, some idea of the future of Montreal may be formed.

The past
and the
future.
1642.

1760.

A new
London.

The city was founded by the French forty years later than Quebec. In its early days it was called Ville Marie, and was a seat of the fur trade. It fell into the hands of the British after the taking of Quebec. This little fur-trading port of the old French settlers may become the "London of the West." And the question arises whether in the distant future it will not fill up the greater part of the island—30 miles long by 7 miles wide—from which it takes its name.

And the Dominion of Canada itself, with its superb climate, its double sea board, its convenient proximity to Europe, its excellent ports of entry, its magnificent waterway of the St. Lawrence leading to its great trans - continental railway ; there is no limit to its possibilities.

Anticel-
pation.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

A great island.

If you take the map of the Western Hemisphere, and look at the north-east coast of the American Continent, you will see a great island just east of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It is about the size of our own Ireland, but much more irregular in shape.

A bulwark.

It acts as a bulwark to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, so as to break the force of the Atlantic rollers; but it also acts to some extent as an obstruction, so that those who approach the gulf by sea must go round by the Strait of Belle Isle on the north, or by the Cabot Strait on the south.

The oldest Colony.
1497.

Newfoundland is technically the oldest purely British Colony. It was first discovered by the two Cabots about the same time as the neighbouring coast of the Mainland. It was formally taken possession of by Sir Humphrey Gilbert, as mentioned in *The Making of Europe*, a year or two before the first English Settlement was established in what subsequently became the State of Virginia, in the United States.

1583.

The same experience as in Eastern Virginia.

The first settlers all perished. It was only a small band of two hundred. They disagreed among themselves, broke up into two parties, and by mismanagement or misfortune were all lost. Subsequent attempts were more successful, and about fifty years after this it was first recognised as an English Colony. Later on, St. John's, the capital, was captured by the French, and remained on and off in their hands for very many years, until it was finally ceded to England.

1713.

Climatic conditions.

Little is known of the interior of the island even to this day. The soil is not considered fertile, except in isolated spots here and there.

The climate is damp, cold, and foggy. The great icebergs come down from the Arctic regions, driven by the Hudson's Bay Current past Cape Desolation, and by the Arctic Current past Cape Farewell, both at the southern extremity of the Danish possession of Greenland. Arrived off the southern coast of Newfoundland, they strike the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, in its direct course from the Gulf of Mexico to Western Europe.

Icebergs
and The
Gulf
Stream.

When it is considered that the volume of warm water, known as the Gulf Stream, is two hundred and forty miles broad at this point, it will be seen that its dissolving power on even the greatest iceberg must be absolutely efficacious. The contact of the two, the icebergs and the warmer water, produces vapour; hence it is that Newfoundland is a region of frequent fogs.

Their
contact.

The
result.

Fogs.

But if the shores are desolate, and if the interior is somewhat poor in agricultural capacity, the waters have an incredibly rich harvest of their own. From rather remote days these shores appear to have been known as a fishing station. But, indeed, the other maritime nations of Europe had the advantage over England in their use of these waters. Perhaps this was because England's sea-power did not receive any great stimulus till after the Spanish Armada. Thus in the year 1577, just eleven years before then, Spain had one hundred vessels fishing here, Portugal fifty, France one hundred and fifty, and England only fifteen. But fifty years later the English element had increased so much, that the coast of Devonshire alone sent one hundred and fifty vessels to the Newfoundland seas.

The
harvest
of the
sea.

Before
the
Armada.
1577.

And
after.
1625.

There is little wonder in this early convergence of the maritime nations of Europe to these seas as a fishing ground; for even to-day, fully four hundred years later, the waters that wash Newfoundland are marvellous for their yield of fish. This is owing to the presence of several enormous submarine sandbanks, which rise like table-lands from the depths of the sea.

The why
and
because.

The principal of these are the Great Bank of Newfoundland,

The great
sand-
banks of

New-
found-
land.

the Vert or Green Bank, and the Banquero; but there are many others. The Great Bank is 300 miles long and 75 wide, and the Vert is nearly as large.

Their
practical
meaning.

These sandbanks are the homes of marine insects, worms, and shellfish. In search of these marine worms and insects come the smaller fish. In search of them come larger fish. In search of these again come still larger fish. Thus it is that these banks are the haunts of such myriads of fish of every description, and form such valuable grounds for the catching of them on a very large scale.

What
becomes
of it all.

What, it may be asked, is the use of catching such vast quantities of fish, and especially of cod? These, when caught, are cured, salted, or dried, and exported by the ton to the Catholic countries of Southern Europe—Spain, Portugal, and Italy—and indeed all over the world, where they form a very important article of diet.

Stocke-
fische.

If you wander about the streets in the coast towns of some of these Mediterranean countries, you are sure to see barrels of evil-looking, evil-smelling, leathery stuff in layers. The barrels are very likely labelled "Stocke-fische," which is the generic term for this commodity in these countries. This "Stocke-fische" is cured cod from Newfoundland. It does not look very appetising, especially in the sweltering heat of an Italian summer, but those clever southerners know how to soak it and cook it up with all sorts of good sauce, so that you would pass your plate for a second helping.

A Cana-
dian
Menu.

Again, go anywhere into the interior of Canada to one of the farms, "just a little ways back" as they say there, which means somewhat distant from any centre of population: you will see one day as a welcome variety to the everlasting baked beans or buckwheat pancakes, a dish of brown stew and a dish of white stew.

Fixed up.

The farmer will ask you with the Transatlantic drawl, "Will you have cod fixed up with milk, or will you have cod fixed up with pork gravy?" If you are wise you will choose the former, but anyhow the cod is dried cod from Newfoundland, or possibly from the Baie des Chaleurs on the

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coast of New Brunswick. Capital stuff it is too, forming a cheap and a welcome addition to the meagre larder of those back country districts.

From this it will be seen what a very important industry the Newfoundland cod fishery is, and how easily the export under this and cognate heads reaches a value of one million sterling, all money brought into the island.

The
result
in £ s. d.

Probably it might become much more valuable from a pecuniary and economic point of view, could more care or improved methods be directed to the curing of the fish. When engaged on an extensive industry men have not time to go into nice details.

Future
possi-
bilities.

Closely allied to the cod fishery are the lobster and salmon tinning industries, which have sprung up of recent years since the art of tinning was happily invented. Then there are the herring and the seal fisheries, both of which are of importance, especially the former. There are also the by-product manufactures connected with the above—cod liver oil and fish manure.

Other
indus-
tries.

The interior of the island, as said before, is rather poor. The soil is only rich in the vicinity of rivers and lakes. One third of the surface is covered with water. There are numerous elevated and exposed tracts called barrens, destitute of soil and covered with thin scrub; the south-western side is the richest, but it is the least settled. Many of the local names are still French, evidences of the old French occupation.

The
interior.

There is a railway right across the island. The capital is St. John's (not to be confounded with St. John, New Brunswick), on the south-eastern corner in the curious peninsula of Avalon, where the first English Colony was planted before the French captured Newfoundland. St. John's faces straight towards Europe, just opposite the French seaport of Brest. The bay on which it is built forms a splendid natural harbour in a position very easily defensible; and that counted for much in the old days of incessant wars. To-day its sides are lined with wharves and curing stages.

The
railway
of the
capital.

The cod
and its
followers.

The cod arrive off the Banks about the tenth of May. To the cod succeeds the clam, to the clam the lobster, to the lobster the herring, to the herring the launce or sand eel, to the launce the capelan, to the capelan the squid.

Bait.

It is true that some of the above have no commercial value as food ; but they are very valuable and even precious as bait ; so much so that violent disputes have arisen between the Newfoundlanders and the French, who have certain treaty rights in these waters, concerning the right to take them.

The first
start.

To catch cod you must have bait. The difficulty is to make the start, as the cod are the first fish on the ground. The first cod bait is a shred of pork from the barrel, or "barl" as the Canadians say. When a cod is caught he is opened, and then there is plenty of bait ; for in the stomach of the cod are found clams, and these are taken out and used as bait for further catches. They serve till the launce and the capelan come along.

Capelan
and
squid.

The latter, a species of smelt, arrive in such dense shoals that the colour of the sea is changed by them ; but the best bait of all is the squid. If you want to know what a squid is, go down to the coast of Dorsetshire in the month of September, and the fishermen will show you, and show how to catch them too.

Cod
fishing.

The cod are only taken during day-light. An expert fisher will take from 150 to 300 cod in a day. The average number per man per season is 7,000. Fancy catching cod every day till you have caught 7,000 ! Each man has two lines, with two hooks on each line. The cod don't give the poor fisherman much breathing time ; the boat is soon full.

And
after.

When full, the boats row back each to its own ship. Now begins the splitting and salting ; each fish must be split and salted within 48 hours after being caught. Every day the boats leave the ship, and every night on their return the splitting and salting goes on ; not much time for rest and food.

Four
qualitics.

Each splitter will split and clean so many fish per hour. Think of the mess. The fish when landed and cured is sold

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to the merchants. The merchants, on receiving it, divide it into four qualities (1) merchantable, (2) Madeira or seconds, (3) West India or thirds, and (4) inferior. The difference in price between the different qualities is one shilling to one and sixpence per quintal of 100 lbs.

The merchantable comes to England, where, served up with egg sauce, it is consumed by the orthodox on the Friday which is called Good. The Madeira goes to the Mediterranean under the title of stocke-fische, as previously explained. The West India goes to feed the coloured population on the sugar and cotton estates. What becomes of the inferior need not be enquired.

Their
desti-
nation.

The Island of Newfoundland is the Cinderella of North America. Newfoundland, sitting in the City of St. Johns, looking out on the icebergs, feels very lonely; so she pulls her big pretty sister Canada by the skirts of her frock. "Hallo!" says Canada, looking round, "you, who are you?" "I am Newfoundland," says Cinderella, "and I am so lonely here, do take me to live in your nice big house along with my cousins Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, and the rest." "A likely story, indeed," says Canada, "what have you got to bring?" "Oh, if you please," says Cinderella, "I have got some very nice cod fish." "Cod fish, indeed! I have got plenty of cod fish of my own. I don't want you, you wretched little cod fish girl; besides you owe money." "So do you," says Cinderella. "I have got the Canadian Pacific Railway and lots of things to show for my debts, and you have nothing. I don't want you."

A new
Cinder-
ella

An
appeal.

1869.

So Newfoundland is left in her loneliness. But undoubtedly the future and the true destiny of Newfoundland lies in its incorporation in the Dominion of Canada, and this would have taken place long ago had not the island been a rather poor country, so far as is known.

Isolation.

But the day of Newfoundland will come all the same. The interior, especially towards the western side, is not fully explored, and no one can say yet what mineral wealth it may contain; and then the future of the island is bound up with

A plea for
New-
found-
land.

the growth and prosperity of Canada. As you sail up the Gulf of St. Lawrence and watch the little wavelets lopping the sandy shore of the north-western coast of the island with its low pine scrub beyond, the mind travels back to the Coast of Calvados of Lower Normandy in sunny France, which it much resembles.

A family picture.

Here is the holiday resort, here are the watering places of Eastern Canada. Imagination dots that waste with little towns and villages of summer shanties. The shore is alive with troops of merry children armed with the traditional wooden spades and buckets; behind are rows and rows of bathing cabins. Along the foreshore and about high-water mark, fancy can pourtray the Canadian paterfamilias from Quebec or Montreal, lolling on the sands and reading the *Montreal Gazette* or the *Toronto Globe*, while his family is disporting in the waves. Multiply this picture a little, and then think of the revenue it would bring Newfoundland every year.

A dream of the future.

How many Courseulles, how many Cabourgs, or Dives, or Villers-sur-Mer, how many Deauvilles and Trouvilles may there not be along this shore in the future? Ah! but it may be said that is a long time ahead. But in the winter this Calvados shore is as lonely as the north coast of Newfoundland. Moreover, not so very long ago, it was not peopled at all; and the growth of population in the towns along the St. Lawrence in the New World must, perforce, be much more rapid than the growth of population along the Seine in Old Europe.

Should minerals, and especially gold, be found in paying quantities in the at present partially explored western districts, where their presence is more than suspected from surface indications, the Cinderella of the Colonies would very quickly jump into her state coach with its six cream-coloured horses, and drive away on the high road of prosperity. Then Canada would welcome her into the big mansion of her Dominion without further ado.

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THE AUSTRALASIAN GROUP.

AUSTRALASIA.

GENERAL REMARKS.

THE fifth quarter of the globe, as it is sometimes called, Austral or Southern-Asia, comprises not only the great island continent of Australia. It is used as a geographical term to include the large and important islands of Tasmania and New Zealand, together with a vast number of smaller islands, chiefly in the Southern Hemisphere of our globe, between the Pacific and Indian Oceans. These are sometimes spoken of as the Australasian Archipelago.

The fifth quarter.

The smaller of these islands—and their name is legion—are economically and politically unimportant. They are exceedingly beautiful; far more so even than the isles of Greece in old Europe. With their extraordinary beauty, however, their interest begins and ends.

The Oceanic Isles.

The larger islands, not only the great land of Australia, but the adjacent and important islands of Tasmania and New Zealand, are all in the hands of Great Britain as English Colonies; the seven colonies of Australasia as they are termed. This came about partly by design, partly by good luck, partly by enterprise.

The palm of Britannia's hand.

After the destruction of Spain's sea power by the defeat of the Spanish Armada, England became the greatest naval power of the world; and she was fortunate enough to keep the lead that she had obtained. This chiefly conduced to her success as a colonising power. But this was not the only element.

Sea-power. 1588.

Spain was practically done for. She was under the tutelage of her clergymen, and clergymen do not make good

Inefficient rivals.

sea captains. Besides, she had her hands quite full with her South American possessions, which were already more than she could manage. Portugal was too small to count any more for much. She counted in the old days before the Maritime Powers of Northern Europe, England, France, and Holland sprang up, but now she was played out as a maritime power. Besides, she had Brazil to manage, and quite enough too.

Absence
of com-
petition.

There was no Italy; there was no Greece, only a Greek-speaking country ruled by Turkish Pashas; there was no Austria in a maritime sense. Russia was groping her way northwards to the White Sea, and southwards to the Black Sea. Her expansion had not begun, except locally. Europe was free from the doubtful blessing of a United Germany; there was no Germany. The Scandinavian States were too backward then to start colonies of their own.

Concern-
ing the
Dutch.

There remained only France and Holland. The sons of the brave little country of dykes and windmills were gallant sea-dogs, true sons of Neptune; and considering their small mother country, what they did in the way of discovery and colonisation was truly marvellous. But their population was too small ever to colonise on a really large scale.

The for-
midable
rival.

There remained France alone. France just missed being a very great colonial power. She owes this chiefly to the incredible folly and incapacity of her rulers in the prae-revolution days, and also to the Napoleonic Wars that succeeded that great internal convulsion. Subsequently to Richelieu, France never had a Minister with sufficient grip to foresee the importance of colonies, and Richelieu came just too early. Colbert might have done something, but he did not last long enough. As to the kings, they were beneath contempt, from Louis XIV., misnamed "Le Grand Monarque," downwards.

Missing
fire. }
1642.

Butcher's
bills.

And then in the later days, France lacked the redundant population. The wars of England were chiefly with France herself, and a terrible butcher's bill she had to show for it. But France, directed by her incapable rulers, fought all the

countries; so she had the English bill to pay in killed and wounded, and the losses inflicted by all the other countries too, and these losses were greatly accentuated when the Napoleonic Wars came on. Napoleon, as a born soldier, dreamt of a French Europe. A greater France beyond the seas did not interest him. Moreover France is an exceedingly beautiful country, and the attachment of her sons to their native land is great; hence they do not make good colonists.

So it was that England came to get all the colonial plums throughout the world; and thus it is we find her round all the immense continent of Australia, as well as in the Australasian islands of Tasmania and New Zealand.

The
European
Jack
Horner.

THE CONTINENT OF AUSTRALIA.

GENERAL REMARKS.

MANY years ago it was the practice of the English Government to send men who had broken the law out of the country. When the settlements on the American Continent grew to some importance, there was a great demand for labour out there, to bring the new lands under cultivation, and to renew the crops from year to year on those that were being cultivated; hence arose the slave trade, described hereafter. It was in this way that these men came to be sent to work on the American plantations, the rice, cotton, and tobacco fields. It was a miserable life, the moist heat in the southern districts of America being very great. This was what was wanted, because they were sent there instead of being imprisoned in England.

Trans-
portation.

When the great tea fight took place in Boston harbour, which resulted in the American Settlements throwing off the yoke of the mother country, it became necessary to find another place for the purpose. The Americans were now a

Hall's
1773.

sovereign and an independent Power, as much so as Great Britain; and they would not tolerate that England should send the law-breakers of her population there.

**Fresh
fields.**

Accordingly, having sought in vain elsewhere for a suitable place, the English Government determined to establish what was called a "penal settlement" on the coast of Australia.

**A strange
land.**

This brings us to the question where Australia is and what it is. That strange country, as a traveller wrote, where there are birds without wings as large as deer, their bodies covered with hair instead of feathers (this must be the Emu); where the swans are black and the eagles white; where the ferns and nettles grow to the size of trees; where the barometer rises for bad weather and falls for good; where the fields are fenced with mahogany, and myrtle trees are burnt for firewood; where there is an animal (the Kangaroo) with five claws on its fore-feet and three talons, like a bird's, on its hind feet, yet it hops on its tail; where the pears are made of wood, with the stalk at the broader end; where the cherry grows with the stone on the outside; and where trees bear three different kinds of leaves.

**The great
island
conti-
nent.**

To the south-east of the great continent of Asia lies another continent. This is an enormous island in that it is quite surrounded by sea, so that you can sail all round it. It is the largest island, and the smallest continent in the world. Being such a big place it was not difficult to find, although it is a long way off Europe. Many people claim to have been the first to discover it, but they did not all discover it at the same spot. In such an enormous coast there could be many points of arrival, and each man might think that he was the first, which perhaps he was at that particular locality.

**Paulovier
de
Gonne-
ville.
1503.**

It is claimed by the French that Paulovier de Gonneville first discovered it, just 400 years ago; but he discovered it by accident. It is indeed by accident that most discoveries take place. Gonneville sailed from the little port of Honfleur at the southern mouth of the Seine. Go and see the little old-fashioned port. It is probably not much changed; and

the same curious old houses that look down on you now, perhaps watched Gonneville sail out from the harbour mouth.

Off the Cape of Good Hope, Gonneville was assailed by a furious storm, in which he lost his reckoning and was driven on an unknown sea. He saw birds flying from the south towards him, so he sailed in that direction and reached an extensive country which he called Southern India, where he spent six months. This is said to be the land we know as Australia, though some say it was Madagascar. The latter theory is unlikely, however, as Madagascar lies to the north-east of the Cape, and he sailed to the south-east.

A hundred years later, Eredia, a Portuguese, claimed to have discovered it, and then a Spaniard named Quiros. A few years after this the Dutch arrived and made an extensive survey of its coasts, north, west, and south; and the Terra Australia, as it was vaguely called, was named New Holland by order of the States General or Parliament of the Netherlands. There are Dutch names on the northern and western parts of Australia which are retained to the present day; but no settlements were made then.

It happened that most of the other navigators approached the shores of the new country where it seemed barren. Then came the Englishman, Captain Cook. He was fortunate enough to strike the eastern side of the great coast, where the soil was good, the land rich, and the climate agreeable. Here he found a spacious and beautiful bay, and from the number of new and strange plants along the shore he gave it the name of Botany Bay, from the word Botany, which means the science of plants.

This Botany Bay became the nucleus or starting point of the great British Settlements in Australia, which, like a new United States, threaten to become more important than the mother country.

The name Australia was conferred upon the whole continent by Captain Matthew Flinders, an officer in the English navy, who was the first known man to sail completely round it. He did more than this; he made a splendid and accurate

A storm.

Sea-birds.

Rival 1601 claimants.

1606.

1665.

A lucky chance.

1770.

Botany Bay.

The nucleus.

Matthew Flinders baptises the land.

About
1803.

survey of great distances of its coast, naming most of its bays, gulfs, headlands, and islands. It is from him that we get many designations mentioned hereafter, such as Spencer Gulf, Kangaroo Island, Port Jackson, and a host of others. On his return he proposed to the Government at home to substitute the name Australia for the old title "Terra Australia," or New Holland, and by this name it was known henceforth.

A com-
pact
country.

Each one of the Australian Colonies was peopled from the coast inwards. The compact shape of the continent, which is a little like a large and irregular tea-tray, did not admit of any other procedure. There are no internal lines of communication, fashioned by Nature. Taken as a whole it is very uniform; that is to say, there are no great peninsulas, consequently no narrow isthmuses.

The
disadvan-
tage of
uni-
formity.

When it is considered that the length of Australia from north to south is about 1,400 miles, and from east to west very nearly 2,000, it will be understood that not much is known of the interior. Although there are innumerable creeks and inlets round the coast, forming magnificent natural harbours, there are no great navigable rivers opening up the interior; nor are there, compared to its enormous extent, any great arms of the sea. Although such a vast country, Australia has no Danube, no Volga, no Rhine, nor has she any Mediterranean or Baltic Sea, giving access by a narrow strait to a great stretch of interior coast.

The
coastal
fringe.

At no great distance inwards from the outward edge of the supposed tea-tray, runs a fringe of mountains. This follows roughly the outline of the coast round the entire continent. Towards the south-west and along the western coast the fringe becomes broken up into a series of detached groups; but roughly speaking the continuity is preserved right round the outline.

And its
conse-
quence.

There is not room between this fringe of mountains and the coast for an important river to develop itself. On the inner slope of the mountains towards the interior there is equally no chance for a great river, because the mountain peaks are

not sufficiently high for any large and impetuous volume of water to be developed. Consequently, what streams there are have a relatively short course, and flowing through flat country, ultimately lose themselves in internal lakes. As there are no high mountains, there are no glaciers to form permanent reservoirs, as in other parts of the world.

The country being flat and unbroken by any great excavation of nature, these lakes are necessarily shallow, mere surface water. Some of them are very extensive, 150 miles long; in the dry season they became mere swamps, or are dried up altogether. Moreover, the country through which these water-courses make their way is strongly impregnated with salt. Why this is so cannot be explained, it is the work of nature. The result is that the waters of both the streams and lakes also become impregnated with salt; hence they are useless for the purposes of man. But the same quality which makes them useless to man makes them also useless to the beasts which serve mankind.

Here, then, is the explanation why the peopling of Australia has been hitherto restricted to a mere belt along the coast line, at varying distances therefrom. Fresh water is found at various spots and in various districts at a considerable distance from this belt inland, by well-sinking, or otherwise. This serves for isolated encampments, and for sheep-runs, and so on, but it would never do for the requirements of a large community.

But it is impossible to say what developments, in view of the power conferred by modern science, well-sinking may ultimately assume. Should it be found possible to bring water to the surface on a really large scale, the problem of the Trans-Continental Railway and of the peopling of the interior would be at once solved, and it would be a case of "Advance, Australia," with a vengeance.

It would then be possible for men to aggregate together in large communities; thus villages, towns, and even cities might be founded. Fancy a central city in the heart of Australia, where several trans-continental railways would

A salt country.

Aqua potabile.

The need for Aaron's rod.

A dream.

An Australian
Chicago.

cross, and whence branch lines might radiate ! But more than this might result. The water which serves man and beast can also be made by a skilful method of irrigation to serve the soil ; and then the desert land would become fruitful. This has already been done in many places.

From sea
to sea.

The Trans-Continental Railway from south to north is already more than an idea, as will be seen in the notice on South Australia. Working from both ends towards a meeting place in the interior, nearly half the entire distance has been accomplished. The hour has not come yet ; but when the fulness of time makes it expedient, this completion can be easily and speedily effected ; and the corollary to this would be a transverse line from east to west.

Felix
Australia.

The position of Australia is happy. Take a map and look at it. We see that it is so far removed from the other great quarters of the globe as to be comparatively out of harm's way. The nearest continent, Asia, is too split up to be able to seriously threaten Australia. Besides, not one Asiatic Power has a fleet except Japan, and she has too much on her hands to indulge in the luxury of an Australian question.

Australia, on the other hand is too far removed from Asia for any conflict of interests to be likely to arise ; thus she is not in danger of being either the originator or the object of any aggression, as far as human probability goes.

The luck
of
destiny.

It is a fortunate thing that the five colonies of Australia, occupying as they do either actually or nominally the whole of the Australian Littoral, are of English race. The old adage, " Union is strength," still holds good, and the present movement in favour of Australian Federation has much to be said for it, though no doubt the United States of Australia would be equally united in the presence of danger, whether they bore the title or not.

A lesson
from the
U.S.A.

If the United States of Australia are wise they will immediately pass a resolution similar to the celebrated Monroe doctrine of the U.S.A. No Foreign Power, whether European or Asiatic, should be tolerated under any pretence whatever to get a footing on the Australian Continent, or the

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neighbouring islands of Tasmania and New Zealand. If ever they were weak enough or foolish enough to be hoodwinked into this, their dream of peace would be gone for ever.

The northern shore of Australia, the greater part of which, curiously enough, is included politically in the Territory of South Australia, is very little settled and scarcely peopled at all. It is in dangerous proximity to the great island of Papua, or New Guinea, where United Germany has established a footing. Here she has recently acquired a large stretch of territory to which the title of Kaiser Wilhelm's Land has been given.

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bour.

This and other considerations lead us to the great question of Australian Federation. We have had, as seen in a preceding paper, Canadian Federation. The corollary to the Dominion of Canada is the United States of Australia.

Feder-
ation.

First and foremost stands what is described by an able writer on the subject, Mr. Edward Dowling, as the great boon of inter-colonial free trade. "It seems a strange thing to me," said a governor of New South Wales, "to find on arriving at these shores a wall of menacing tariffs, and a hostile railway gauge, between friends and neighbours only separated by an imaginary boundary line." It was indeed an anomaly.

An
anomaly.

Then there would be uniformity of laws with a supreme Federal Court of Appeal; uniformity of public services, the post, the telegraph, and the railway; consolidation of National debt; not to speak of the simplification of National defence.

Advant-
ages of
Feder-
ation.

All this seems the more desirable, as there is a possibility of further sub-division in the existing colonies. We may have in the future a Southern and a Northern Queensland, and a Western and a North-western Australia, as well as a separate existence for the Northern Territory of South Australia.

Possible
sub-
division.

At present the colonies have no INTERNATIONAL rights. It was stated in the introductory chapter how they can only make their views known to a Foreign Power by the inter-

Are-
stricted
status.

vention of the mother country. This is done at the request of their respective Agents General. A Federated Government would probably soon assume a very different position.

Independence.

A peep into the future might disclose Australian independence; and the President of the United States of America may yet hail a man and a brother in the President of the United States of Australia. And all this will have arisen from the little forlorn settlement on Sydney Cove, Port Jackson.

The grain of mustard seed.

So may it be.

As Mr. Dowling truly says, "The present century saw the achievement of federation in Germany amidst turmoil and bloodshed. But it is believed that the foundations of the Australian Commonwealth will, in a few years, be well and truly laid in perfect peace."

A happy family.

But this is not all. Following on Australian Federation will come Australasian Federation, and the relatively small colonies of New Zealand and Fiji will seek security beneath their big sister's mantle; and if a Panama Canal should ever be successfully cut, "the fifth quarter of the Globe" may take a position at present undreamt.

A process to trace.

It was said that the settlements of Captain Cook at Sydney Cove (or Botany Bay), became the nucleus or starting point of all the British Colonies in Australia. How this came about we shall proceed to examine.

Expansion.
Tasmania.

It will be seen first that the nucleus spread northwards and southwards to its left and its right along the coast. While this was going on a new departure took place. The little colony, young as it was then, made a sub-colony of its own in the adjacent Island of Tasmania.

Victoria.

From this island by a reflex action the foundation of yet another settlement was made on the mainland. This became Victoria, which, in its turn, spread eastwards, while the original nucleus was spreading westwards, always along the coast, until the two formed one unbroken line of continuity.

West Australia.

Meanwhile the foundation of yet another settlement was made right on the other side of the continent, on the extreme west coast. Though the gradual filling in of this and all the

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other settlements was made from the mother country, England, the tiny first start was made from the mother colony, New South Wales.

So much so was this the case that all the foregoing, with the exception of the last named, were originally lumped together under the title of New South Wales. It was only gradually and during a series of years that one by one they assumed a separate existence.

Thus we get in their order New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia; and in this order they will be dealt with in the separate notices. The last and youngest, South Australia, was colonised direct from the mother country, and with its gigantic and undeveloped annex will be taken last.

JAMES COOK, POST CAPTAIN, R.N.

It is fitting to give a short notice of the man to whom the founding of the seven colonies of Australasia is primarily due; the man who first visited Botany Bay and had the original and bold conception to recommend the establishment of a settlement there. No doubt if this coast had not been discovered by him, it would have been found by somebody else later on. But this does not detract from the honour due; moreover, very different results might have followed.

In the extreme north of Yorkshire, just at the foot of the Cleveland Hills, near the mouth of the river Tees, where ironstone was discovered (whence the expression "Cleveland pigs"), was a tiny village called Marton. It is a bigger place now, but at the time spoken of there were very few inhabitants. Here, in 1728, was born a little boy. Just as the Fairy Queens who rule our births dowered the then unknown Robert Clive with military genius, so did they dower this unknown boy with the spirit of maritime adventure.

Saplings.

In due order.

The real founder.

Birth-place.

1728.

Let us recall the beautiful lines of Macaulay, although applied to a different case :

The Fairy
Queens.

And lo! the fairy queens who rule our birth,
Drew nigh to speak the new-born infant's doom ;
With noiseless step which left no trace on earth,
From gloom they came, and vanished into gloom.

Not deigning on the boy a glance to cast,
Swept careless by the gorgeous Queen of Gain.
More scornful still the Queen of Fashion passed,
With mincing gait and sneer of cold disdain.

The Queen of Power tossed high her jewelled head,
And o'er her shoulder threw a wrathful frown ;
The Queen of Pleasure on the pillow shed
Scarce one stray rose-leaf from her fragrant crown.

Still fay in long procession followed fay,
And still the little couch remained unblest ;
Till when those wayward sprites had passed away,
Came one, the last, the mightiest and the best.

An
obscure
boy.

James Cook was the boy's name. His name of Cook he has left writ large on the map of the Southern Seas. His parents were obscure people in a humble position. It was before the days of school boards then, and he had little or no education. Grown older, he was put to serve in a little shop in a neighbouring coast town. This life was uncongenial ; perhaps like a young Columbus, he was fretting over dreams of future discovery, and panting for action. He got this engagement cancelled.

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Then he bound himself to two brothers at the little seaport of Whitby, who were engaged in the coasting trade. With them he served seven years as a sailor. Here he obtained his first experience of a sailor's life, a sailor's work, and a sailor's duties. Then he was made mate or petty officer.

The
Press-
gang.

Now there was at that time an institution called the "Press-gang." What it was and how it came into existence, need not be enquired here. Its effect on the individual was

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as follows: suppose you were out for a walk, or on an errand, you might be only crossing the street, you were suddenly seized by a party of armed sailors and carried off. It was no use kicking and struggling, you were only one, and there were perhaps fifty of them. Then you were taken to serve on a war vessel. If you refused, you were flogged for insubordination; if you resisted, you were shot or hanged as a mutineer. You might have left a sweetheart, or a dying mother, or three or four little children to starve; that did not matter, you were taken all the same.

Cook narrowly escaped being taken by the press gang, at the commencement of one of the numerous silly wars with the French that were fashionable in those days. So he made a virtue of necessity by volunteering for the navy. His first war-ship was the "Eagle," of 60 guns. He soon attracted notice, and was promoted to be "master," a position of responsibility. This, of course, means that he knew his work well.

His advancement was now rapid. His first individual service was to take soundings and make a chart of the great river St. Lawrence, described in the chapter on Canada. This he did so skilfully, that he was soon employed again to survey the adjacent coasts of Newfoundland. Duties like the above need an accurate and competent knowledge of the beautiful but difficult science of mathematics. Where he picked this up is a marvel, for he had no Cambridge professors or mathematical tutors to help him over the difficult parts. We know that while on the St. Lawrence he employed his leisure time in the study of geometry. On one occasion he narrowly escaped capture by the Red Indians. Perhaps he was pondering over the forty-seventh proposition of the first book of Euclid, or was lost in thought over the Pons Asinorum.

At this time in England there was a spirit of maritime discovery in the air. Voyages round the world were projected. Cook was now promoted to lieutenant in the Royal Navy, which is nearly equivalent to Colonel in the army. In this capacity he was appointed to the command of a ship sent out

A.B. (able seaman).

Promotion.

Special Service.

Red Indians and the Pons Asinorum.

Lieut. Cook, R.N.

1768. for scientific purposes. Thus we at last get Cook standing on his own feet, commanding his own ship, and with a certain amount of freedom of action. But he was not Captain Cook yet. Now let us see what he did.

The voyage of the "Endeavour." He was away three years. It was only a little wooden ship he had, 370 tons, called "The Endeavour," a mere cockle-shell. On the 26th August, 1768, he sailed from Plymouth Sound, rather more than 130 years ago; he made for the Pacific Ocean. In the Pacific Ocean are many archipelagoes, or great groups of islands. These archipelagoes are again sub-divided by Nature into lesser groups forming, geographically, different clusters. Little was known of these groups then, although many of them had been visited at various times by mariners of different nations, but they had not all been classified or even named.

The Society Islands. Cook, either by accident or design, came upon one of these island clusters. He called the group the Society Islands, after the Royal Society of London, an Association of learned men which still exists, and at whose suggestion the Government had undertaken this expedition. The largest of these Otaheite. was called the Island of Tahiti, or Otaheite. It was a fair-sized island, roughly speaking twice the size of our Isle of Wight. Cook sailed round this, examined it well, established friendly relations with the natives, and made it a sort of head-quarters.

An earthly paradise. Now let us glance at this spot which Cook selected for head-quarters. "Such enchantment," said a traveller, "breathes over the whole that it seems a Fairy World, fresh and blooming from the hand of the Creator. He who for the first time wanders into these valleys, whose repose and beauty is such that every object seems like something in a dream, almost refuses to believe such scenes can have a worldly existence." The French have called it the New Cytherea, after the fabled abode of the old mythical Goddess of Beauty. "Often," says De Bourgainville, an old French maritime discoverer, "I thought I was walking in the Garden of Eden."

An insular Garden of Eden.

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Here Cook stayed three months. Setting sail again, he found a new land. This proved to be New Zealand, which we too shall visit presently on paper. He found this was not one large island, but two, separated by a narrow strait, which is now called after him, Cook's Strait. He took possession of these islands in the name of England, a formal, and scarcely an effective act.

The
Islands of
New
Zealand.

From here he sailed westwards, and it was now that he first sighted New Holland, as it was then called—the old Terra Australis Incognita—and happened on Botany Bay. A momentous discovery indeed! But it was not the discovery that was momentous, it was the use Cook subsequently put it to, by his recommendation to the Government. He then skirted up northward, all along the coast of the present Colony of Queensland, made dangerous by that curious coral formation, the great Barrier Reef.

Botany
Bay.

1770.

Here he narrowly escaped disaster. He struck on a sunken rock. The impetus of the ship, however, tore it up, and she sailed away, watertight, with the rock sticking in her bows. Of course he had to refit; for this purpose he steered into a small bay hard by. How skilfully he must have handled his ship! Only a sailor can understand the daring and ability of this action. Having repaired, he made his way back to England, then he was promoted to the rank of Commander.

A new
kind of
stopper.

Commo-
dore
Cook,
R.N.
1771.

Still the existence of the great Southern Continent was doubted; so Cook was sent forth to explore again, this time with two new vessels, the "Resolution" and a new "Endeavour." Stores in plenty and scientific instruments were taken. After many interesting adventures he reached New Zealand; but sickness broke out among his crew, and he repaired to his favourite Otaheite for rest and fresh supplies; then he sailed to New Zealand again. After much beating about, he returned to Otaheite to rest his crew once more.

Another
voyage,
1772.

Then he visited New Zealand—which seems to have had a fascination for him—a third time. He then sailed round the south point of South America, and after touching at the Cape,

Home
again.

1775. got back to England at last. Three years and eighteen days he had been absent, having sailed 60,000 miles. Still he had not established the existence of the great Southern Continent. True, he had unconsciously touched upon it at Botany Bay in his previous voyage, but he seems to have doubted that this was really the continent of which he was in search. This last voyage, however, had been highly useful to science and navigation; and to his honour be it said, in all those three years he had only lost one of his crew. How carefully he must have studied the welfare of his men.

The
genius of
com-
mand.

Captain
Cook,
R.N.

A fool's
errand.

1776.

He was now promoted to post-captain in the Royal Navy. He was next sent on a fool's errand, though it was not known to be a fool's errand then. This was to find a northern passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, the passage of the Arctic Circle. He sailed on the 12th July, 1776, with two ships, the "Resolution" and "Discovery," never to return. In this curious attempt, he got down to his favourite New Zealand again, and then once more to his beloved Otaheite. This was a strange way of making the north-west passage. He touched at several islands, coming into conflict with the natives, and making them useful gifts of live animals, pigs, dogs, and poultry; no doubt as a peace offering.

The
Sandwich
Islands.

The fatal
Owyhee
or
Hawaii.

Then he went up the western coast of North America, till he was stopped by the solid ice, so he had to return southwards. Next he came to the Sandwich, or Hawaiian Islands, and discovered the fatal Owyhee or Hawaii, an island nearly as large as our county of Yorkshire. Here he was received by the natives with high respect, and treated as a god. Attempting again the north-west passage, he was caught in a bad storm, and had to put back to Hawaii to refit. This time he was badly received by the treacherous natives, who carried off the long-boat of his ship.

The sad
end of
the story.

1779.

This would never do. He ordered two boats to intercept all canoes leaving the bay, and went ashore with an armed party. A native chief was killed. The savages rushed the party, there were no breechloaders in those days. Before the English sailors could re-load, they were hemmed in. Cook

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was clubbed, stabbed all over, and his body carried away by the natives ; a few of his bones were recovered, the remainder of the great discoverer was eaten by the Islanders.

Thus perished James Cook, who sought neither gain, fashion, pleasure, or power. So great was the esteem in which he was held, that on the breaking out of one of the incessant wars with France, Monsieur de Sartine, the French Minister of Marine issued a special order regarding him. All commanders of French ships were instructed if they should meet Captain Cook, to treat him as the officer of a friendly and allied Power. And these are the French we are taught by our newspapers to dislike !

A single-minded man.

A neighbourly tribute.

Such was the man whose discoveries and whose action led to the ultimate founding of the "Seven Colonies." Let us remember that like that other sea-captain, Horatio Nelson, he lost his life in the service of that England to which he devoted himself.

Requires cat in pace.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

It was on the report of Captain Cook that the British Government resolved to found the penal settlement, spoken of in the preceding paper, at the particular point selected.

Captain Cook's report.

Accordingly, just 112 years ago, the first expedition, under command of Captain Arthur Phillip, R.N., with 600 men and 250 women, arrived. These people were convicts, and it is probable that many of them were malefactors. It is equally probable that many of them were perfectly innocent. The ways of British law and British justice were not too nice in those days.

Its result. 1788.

But Captain Phillip found that Botany Bay, in consequence of its shallowness and exposed position, was unsuitable for harbourage ; so he proceeded a few miles to the North, to the next bay, which, as he said, "formed one of the finest

Port Jackson.

Sydney
Cove.

harbours in the world, in which a thousand battleships might anchor with safety." In this bay was a little cove or inlet, about half a mile long, with deep water, and banks which formed a natural quay. This he called Sydney Cove, after the name of a member of the English Government at that time. The banks of this little cove are the site of the now famous city of Sydney, one of the greatest cities of Australia, the capital of New South Wales.

Useful
Employ-
ment.

Let us go back to Captain Phillip's involuntary colonists. These people were employed in the cultivation of the land, in public works, such as the making of roads, landing-stages, quays, elementary harbour works and such like things. Meanwhile other ship-loads came out. They too, instead of being uselessly shut up in prison, were employed similarly to their predecessors. Thus the little community received constant accessions, and other points along the coast were occupied in a similar manner from time to time. As years went on these little centres of population spread coastwise in both directions, and ultimately joined hands.

A grand
idea.

Parga-
tory and
Paradise.

It was a glorious idea to employ these men in the healthiest and most interesting occupation in the world—the cultivation of God's earth. After the horrors of the six months sea-voyage, confined in the noisome cells on shipboard, like so many beasts in their dens, their new life must have seemed a paradise to them. Their fare was rough, but they knew no want, no anxiety, for they were supplied from Government stores. Leading an open-air life in that superb climate amidst beautiful scenery, with unlimited occupation—the only true means of securing a happy existence—their lot must have been relatively pleasant.

The
happy
life.

The
right
man.

Captain Phillip must have been a marvellously gifted man, just the man to conduct an experimental settlement in an unknown land. He called on his way at Rio Janeiro and at the Cape. There he procured, both in plant and in seed, the best and most useful specimens of many semi-tropical plants, and fruits, to help start the new country. Those, it must be

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remembered, were the days of the old slow sailing ships. All that were not damaged on the voyage thrived exceedingly in the new land. He it was who originally introduced the sugar cane.

Live stock was also brought, and tended with the utmost care. Some of the convicts became free by the effluxion of time; others, by good conduct, obtained exemption from Government labour, whence followed liberty to enjoy the fruits of their own industry. The little community soon began to prosper.

And now free emigrants began to arrive. The settlements grew apace. The settlers were given free passages and free grants of land of 150 acres, together with implements for clearing and seed for cropping. The land was soon brought under cultivation, and new establishments sprang up. Expansion set in.

There were many set-backs; outbreaks of crime occurred; floods and tempests from time to time committed havoc; but the great body of the community worked steadily for the general welfare. As time went on these freed convicts rose rapidly to wealth and eminence. They became newspaper editors, merchants, prosperous landowners; and, even by a curious irony of fate, lawyers, magistrates, and judges in the land.

The new colony retained the name of New South Wales, conferred by Captain Cook, who saw a resemblance between the scenery of Botany Bay and the southern coast of Wales, possibly the Bay of Swansea in Glamorganshire. New South Wales is the mother colony of all Australia. It has now more than six times the area of Great Britain.

When the unfortunate era of long European wars came to a close with the downfall of Napoleon, the seas became safer for British vessels. Emigration now received a great impetus. The disbanding of the soldiery threw many hands out of employment. There was much distress in the old country; hence a general desire among those not happily situated to seek a new existence. All this told for the benefit of New

The dawn of prosperity.

Growth.

Nefas et fas.

The irony of fate.

New South Wales.

A stimulus from without. 1815.

South Wales. About this time the idea gained ground that the country was suitable for sheep-farming, for reasons mentioned hereafter, and several breeds of sheep were introduced.

Yester-
day and
to-day.

In the early days of Captain Phillip, the little settlement possessed six head of cattle, seven horses, 29 sheep, and 43 pigs; and now what is the wonderful result? On the 31st December, 1897, there were 2,085,096 cattle, 498,034 horses, 43,952,897 sheep, and 207,738 pigs. These sheep produced 287,507,805 lbs. of wool. Later on gold was discovered, together with copper, silver, tin, iron, and coal. The colony soon grew apace. So rich is the soil and so genial the climate, that almost every kind of vegetable flourishes.

Over-
grown.

Gradually New South Wales became unwieldy. Either by the spread of the colonists themselves along their own coasts, or by the arrival of fresh accessions of emigrants from the old country, the natural ports and inlets for an immense extent of coast on both sides of Port Jackson became occupied and peopled. From these points of arrival the population had spread to some extent inland towards the interior of the country.

In tres
partes.

It had long been divided into three districts—firstly, New South Wales proper, or the Middle District, the capital of which was Sydney, the seat of the general Government; secondly, Port Phillip, or the Southern District; and thirdly, Moreton Bay, or the Northern District. It was ultimately decided (this was about 50 years ago) to establish the two latter districts as separate colonies, with separate capitals and seats of government; the Middle District retaining the old title as the original or parent stem, the others being the offshoots.

The
middle
district.

Before going into these interesting developments, which belong rather to the respective notices on those separate colonies, it is fitting to glance at the physical features of the Middle District, now New South Wales proper.

The
Great
Dividing
Range.

The mountain fringe spoken of in the general remarks on the Continent of Australia is well defined in this colony. The

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Great Dividing Range, as it is called, roughly parallels the coast line from north to south, at varying, but short distances.

It is necessary to bear this clearly in mind, for this great Dividing Range is an important factor in the economy of New South Wales. It divides the colony into three natural divisions or zones, each of which has a distinct climate and distinct physical characteristics. Consequently each district has mainly, but not entirely, distinct products.

Three
zones.

The first is the "Coastal District," between the Dividing Range and the sea; this slopes towards the rising sun. It is the most accessible from without, and therefore, the most populated. It is watered by many short rivers. These rivers are valuable both as waterways, and as the centres of fertile valleys, but they are valuable only in a local sense. This Coastal District was the mainstay of the colony in the early days.

1.—The
Coastal
District.

The second is the "Table Lands District," and runs parallel to the first. It is a strip of high land varying in altitude and in breadth, with abundant rainfall and much first-rate soil.

2.—The
Table
Lands.

The third is called the "Western Slope," facing towards the setting sun. It is the interior slope of the Dividing Range, stretching to the great plains beyond, the "Plains of the Interior," which run for hundreds, almost thousands of miles across the continent, nearly to the coast of West Australia. Here are the great pastoral lands. Their usefulness, however, is at present impaired by the rainless character of the district. This want of rainfall not only diminishes the value of the grazing land, but restricts the water supply necessary to the existence of cattle.

3.—The
Western
Slopes.

It was shown in the preceding chapter how this mountain fringe affects the rivers of Australia, by turning them in two uniform directions, one for the short distance to the sea coast, and the other for varying distances to the interior, where they are lost in salt lakes or swamps.

The
Austra-
lian
water-
shed.

The application of this condition to New South Wales is less severe than in the case of her neighbours. She has four

The
N.S.W.
water-
shed.

great rivers: the Darling, the Murrumbidgee, the Lachlan, and the Murray. All these take their rise on the western slope of the Dividing Range; but as the first three are tributary to the fourth, they have only one mouth between them all, and that is in South Australia.

The four
great
rivers.

These rivers drain an enormous tract of country it is true, and they are all partially navigable. But they are not always navigable; their character is entirely changed in a rainless summer. Moreover, the one exit common to the four, the way out to the sea, is almost closed by Nature.

A choked
bore.

This is the mouth of the Murray. For reasons shown hereafter in the chapter on South Australia, that mouth is of a peculiarly impracticable nature, except for small craft. The value of this great river system is, therefore, much diminished, and these rivers do not open up the heart of the Continent of Australia. They only partially open, extensive as they are, sections of the third natural division of New South Wales, the Western Slope.

A com-
parison.

Here, then, is no great entrance with a magnificent waterway, leading into the very heart of the country, and navigable for ocean steamers for two thousand miles, like the Gulf and River of St. Lawrence. Here are no great lakes forming inexhaustible reservoirs for this and other great rivers, and opening up a further internal coast line of immense extent.

That they are partially navigable for light craft is a great advantage to New South Wales.

The germ
sea
power.

Off the coast are no islands; but as there are 800 miles of sea board, studded with excellent natural harbours, the future of New South Wales as a Maritime Power must be important.

Physical
position.

It is in physical contact with three neighbours, Queensland on the north, South Australia on the west, and Victoria on the south. Being removed from the Equator, and lying entirely in the Temperate Zone, the climate is in the main equable. As, however, it varies considerably, so also do products vary. Three years after the foundation of the little settlement, Captain Phillip had 700 acres under culti-

Eloquent
figures.

vation ; to-day there are, including pasture lands, 200 million acres in agricultural occupation.

In New South Wales there are 198 species and 33 varieties of grass, mostly excellent for pasturage, without counting the salt-bush and other forage plants of great value. When the table lands and western slopes of the Great Dividing Range were examined, the value of the herbage growing thereon as feed for cattle began to be surmised. It was but an experimental idea at first, for the herbage and salt-shrubs are unlike anything known in England. The grass grows in tall, isolated tufts, or tussocks.

The table lands and the upper western slopes are fairly well watered. Their suitability as pasture lands soon received practical demonstration. The stock introduced devoured the unknown food greedily, and thrived amazingly. Then it was that sheep breeding, with its concomitant results, wool raising and tallow boiling, rapidly assumed great dimensions, and became for a long series of years the staple of the colony.

A staple industry.

1842 to 1856.

From New South Wales the knowledge quickly spread to the other Australian Colonies, and "the wool trade became the national industry through which it was possible for Australia to advance," as said in the preceding chapter. The export of frozen and tinned meat soon became other branches of the same sheep-breeding industry.

A quotation from Australia.

The various trees of New South Wales yield timber of many descriptions, each adapted to some special use. As she has very large supplies of coal, also iron, copper, and many other metals, she possesses in herself the material for many large and important industries.

Future possibilities.

All this has not been a factor in the past. The development of these things takes time. But what dimensions may they not assume in the future, with Australian Federation and inter-colonial free trade?

A question.

TASMANIA.

A digres-
sion.

BEFORE dealing with the developments mentioned at the close of the preceding chapter, a digression must be made.

To preserve the sequence of events we must take a short imaginary voyage southward from Sydney, and cross the narrow passage called Bass Straits, and so arrive at

THE ISLAND OF TASMANIA.

An
opposite
neigh-
bour.

In the chapter on Victoria it will be seen how the magnificent Bay of Port Phillip, where Melbourne, the capital of that colony is situated, lies exactly opposite the Island of Tasmania. It is about 12 hours journey by steamer. Tasmania is the largest island on the Australian coast. It was originally included in the Colony of New South Wales, although it belongs geographically to Victoria. New South Wales and Victoria were all one then.

The
colony of
a colony.
1803.

In the early days of Sydney, a few soldiers and prisoners were despatched from that centre to form a settlement on this island. At that time it was called Van Dieman's Land.

Em-
barras de
choix.

The officer in charge had to find a convenient landing place. To the south of the island the coast is broken up into many deep bays and arms of the sea, affording excellent and sheltered harbourage. Indeed, among so many, he must have had a difficulty of choice. He fixed on one of the largest of these gulfs and landed there, and pitched his camp on the bank of an extensive river.

An
impetus.

1804.

Shortly after, an expedition of the same character as that which first peopled Sydney Cove came out from England, and landed at the same place. This expedition consisted of about 500 men, with a chief officer, and subordinates to act as the responsible heads of the new community.

Hobart
Town.
1804.

Careful surveys were made to find a suitable locality for head quarters. A site was chosen on the banks of the river already mentioned. This river was named the Derwent. The

little camp has developed into the present town of Hobart, the capital of the colony. After this some sheep and cattle were brought over, probably from Sydney.

And now a curious circumstance happened. Just as the mother country had used Sydney as a depositing ground for the less desirable members of its population, so did Sydney, in its turn, use the Island of Tasmania for a similar purpose. Fresh accessions were constantly arriving, the distance from Sydney being moderate; thus the colony rapidly increased. The island, too, was relatively small and compact, hence the new comers were not lost by dispersion, nor their energies dissipated by want of cohesion.

In about ten years' time it began to strike the Governor and others on the spot, that the new little country had the makings of a valuable and important colony. Hitherto the Government had been administered from Sydney. All communications between the little community and other places on the world's surface, excepting England and New South Wales, had been forbidden, the island being considered a mere appendage of New South Wales. But now all this was changed, and Van Dieman's Land was placed on the same footing as her elder sister, New South Wales.

The result was remarkable. The colony began to wear a different appearance. Many military officers who had been quartered there, when their time of service expired, remained, and took up their permanent abode.

Then a tide of voluntary immigration set in from England. Some of the new arrivals had capital. Industries were now established, and a regular trade soon sprang into existence. Some few years after this, the island was severed from New South Wales, and formed into a separate and distinct colony.

Nearly thirty years later its name was changed. The old name of Van Dieman's Land was conferred upon it by its early discoverer Tasman, a Dutchman. Tasman had a superior officer named Van Dieman, and after this officer Tasman had called his discovery. The peculiarity of the early associations of Van Dieman's Land with New South Wales rendered a

The force
of
example.

Concen-
tration.

The dawn
of hope-
ful con-
viction.

Promotion
by merit.

1825.

Justified
by
results.

A second
baptism.

1642.

- change of nomenclature desirable. The early Dutch discoverer, Tasman, was happily thought of, and the old Van Dieman's Land became the fair Tasmania.
1854. The island colony, or the Sanatorium of the South, as it is sometimes called, from its very beautiful climate, is about the size of our Scotland. Like Scotland, too, its coasts are very deeply indented and broken up by gulfs, a natural condition of great utility; and it is very mountainous. The mountains, and its insular position, which enables the former to attract clouds and masses of vapour from the surrounding seas, give it abundant rainfall, a great advantage over its big sisters on the Australian mainland. The two, the high mountains and the rainfall, further confer numerous rivers, another great advantage over the big sisters.
- An Oceanic Scotland. The analogy. The poetry of Nature. A just appreciation. La joie de vivre. The fruits of variety. Diabolus Tasmaniensis.
- The analogy to the dear old Land o' Cakes goes yet further; for like Scotland, Tasmania has a great number of detached islands belonging to herself, many of which, unlike the rather barren sporades of bonnie Scotland, are fertile and luxuriant to a degree. To crown all, the scenery is extremely beautiful, the interior of Tasmania being studded with lovely and romantic glens, so that it presents a southern and idealized version of "Ye Banks and Braes of Bonnie Doon."
- Those old military officers who remained in the island when their term of service had expired, evidently knew what they were about. They realized that their lines had fallen in pleasant places, and no wonder. Being much more removed from the Equator than the Australian mainland, and with the atmosphere tempered by the sea breezes, summer and winter, the climate is just perfect to a European, so that it is said to be "a pleasure to live."
- The surface of the land presents much greater variety, both of soil and appearance, than the mainland of Australia; hence, naturally, a greater variety of products. There are fifty kinds of timber trees. Every known mineral and metal is found in greater or less quantities. The seas teem with every description of fish, great and small, to which the numerous gulfs and estuaries afford shelter. The wild animals are few, the

curious little beast known as the Tasmanian Devil only claiming mention from its ferocity.

The part played by Tasmanian settlers in founding the neighbouring colony of Victoria, on the opposite mainland, will be mentioned in the subsequent chapter. When the discoveries of gold, as told hereafter, took place there, Tasmania played an important part in supplying the Victorian gold seekers with many necessities of life. These men were entirely absorbed in their mining operations, and had neither time nor disposition to supply their own needs. This conducted to the prosperity of Tasmania.

A dwarf
begets
a giant.

A section of the north-eastern coast of Tasmania appears to have been peopled from our Dorsetshire. Thus we find a Poole, a Corfe Castle, a Lulworth, a Weymouth, a Portland, a Lyme Regis, and an Abbotsbury. Perhaps the restful grey-green tints of the wind-swept Dorsetshire coast are reproduced in the far southern island.

Dulce
domum.

VICTORIA.

RETURNING now to the separation of the three districts mentioned at the close of the chapter on New South Wales, the Central District, the Moreton Bay or Northern District, and the Port Phillip or Southern District, it was the last-named that was first dealt with. This was not nearly so old as the Northern District in order of settlement and of establishment. But the circumstances of its geographical position, and its own inherent qualities, gave it an importance and an early relative maturity that quickly pushed it to the front.

Re-
arrange-
ment.

It is curious that the early expansion of New South Wales took place to the northwards, towards the tropics, instead of to the south-west, towards the more temperate regions. This may have been because the northern coast was thought to

An
anomaly.

possess better and more numerous landing places, or because it was better known, or because it was most convenient to vessels coming from England, but for some reason or other the south-west coast was neglected.

A master-piece of nature.

On the mainland, just opposite the Island of Tasmania, the subject of the preceding paper, is the most magnificent land-locked bay that imagination can conceive. It is just at the south-eastern extremity of the Continent of Australia. This bay measures from 30 to 40 miles across in each direction, and yet the entrance from the sea is only a mile and a half; no harbour could be more land locked. To increase its importance there are half-a-dozen rivers running into it. This is Port Phillip, called after Captain Arthur Phillip, R.N.

Preliminaries.

One or two attempts were made to settle the country surrounding this bay, which had been discovered and named by Lieut. Murray, R.N., and which had been known of in a general way, but nothing came of them at first.

Sub-colonization.

Just as Tasmania was a sub-colony of New South Wales, so was the Southern or Port Phillip District of New South Wales in some measure a sub-colony of the little Settlement of Tasmania. That is to say, this district owed its first start in life as a settlement to the enterprise and courage of Tasmanian colonists. But Tasmania herself was much too small and too young to establish a colony on her own account; and the real peopling of the new district was made principally from the mother country, and partly from the neighbouring district of Sydney.

Local enterprise.

On the centre of the north coast of Tasmania, just opposite Port Phillip, is the navigable estuary of one of Tasmania's chief rivers, the Tamar. Near its mouth was and is a small settlement named Georgetown. The settlers here banded together and got up a little association among themselves to colonize the shores of Port Phillip. Perhaps they knew something, these unknown men, and perhaps they guessed much more.

John Batman.

At the head of the little company of adventurers was a certain John Batman, a native of New South Wales. John

Batman sailed from the village of Georgetown in a small schooner. In seventeen days he passed the narrow passage between "the Heads," entered Port Phillip Bay, and landed. 1835.

Then he ascended a height now called Station Peak. Just as Moses of old surveyed the Land of Promise from the top of Mount Pisgah, so did John Batman stand and gaze over the beautiful silent downs, called Iramoo by the natives—those downs to be peopled in the future by countless flocks of sheep. The Land of Promise.

But Mr. Batman was of a practical turn of mind. He wasted little time in contemplation; probably what he saw was enough. He divined the richness of the pastures, the wealth of the land and its possibilities. Here was no hide-bound book-worm or theorist, but a man who was indeed a practical colonist, trained in the school of life. Now, Mr. Batman did a bargain. A man of action.

He had interviews with the natives; then for payment of a few dozen knives, hatchets, scissors, and blankets, he acquired possession from these simple savages of 600,000 acres of land all round the shores of Port Phillip. Years before, however, the whole continent had been taken possession of in the name of the British Government. The Government at Sydney subsequently ignored Mr. Batman's bargain, and unquestionably they were right in doing so. It would have been intolerable for one individual to monopolize so much land under such circumstances. Mr. Batman received a fair money compensation, paid in cash. A bargain.

Two months later came Mr. John P. Fawcner, from the same little village of Georgetown. He sailed up a small river which runs into the east side of the bay, and which Batman had christened the Yarra-Yarra, from the native term "ever-flowing." He landed, amongst other things, two horses, two pigs, three dogs, and a cat; these were the first live stock of the colony. Then Mr. Fawcner enclosed 80 acres of land for cultivation purposes. John P. Fawcner. 1835.

He turned the first sod, he built the first house, and eventually started the first newspaper. On Mr. Fawcner's The Pilgrim Fathers.

cultivation paddock stands the present city of Melbourne, the capital of Victoria. He is called the "Father of Melbourne," just as Batman is called the "Father of Victoria."

Progress. Other adventurers from Tasmania—Van Dieman's Land they called it then—quickly followed, and a few months later 50 cows and 500 sheep were landed. Then the fame of the new country got noised about. Stock was driven overland from Sydney, and the downs of Iramoo, which John Batman had gazed on in their solitude, were soon covered with flocks and herds.

A Sub-Governor appointed. 1836. Now came the State. The Governor of New South Wales at Sydney heard of all this. He sent an English war vessel bearing the captain of an infantry regiment, to act as resident magistrate of the little community. The new Governor laid out a town on the banks of the Yarra-Yarra, to which the name of Melbourne was given, after the Chief of the English Government at home at the time. Thus we get the city of Melbourne, which has outstripped its elder sister Sydney, and become the greatest city in all Australia.

Australia Felix. 1851. Other points along the coast were gradually occupied, the most eligible situations on bays or river banks being selected. These were gradually formed up into sub-districts as population spread; and in a rough manner the settlement on Port Phillip, and the elder settlement of Sydney Cove joined hands. Fifteen years after the founding of the little town on the Yarra-Yarra, viz., on the 1st July, 1851, the whole of this Port Phillip District, originally called Australia Felix, was disconnected from New South Wales, and given a separate existence under the title of

THE COLONY OF VICTORIA.

Gold. 1851. And now what happened? That very autumn, only a few weeks after the new colony's baptism, gold was discovered, sixteen miles to the east of the little town. Not only this, it was discovered in great abundance. As if that was not

enough, it was soon after found in still greater quantities at two other spots not very far distant.

The consequence was an enormous rush of adventurers to the district. As it took some time to work out the gold, great numbers of these men came to stay. The little town on the Yarra-Yarra naturally became the port of entry for the supplies to serve this great influx of population in the undeveloped country. The new population, having plenty of gold to pay for their purchases, did not restrict their wants in the least; the result was a very great import trade of every description of commodity. So Melbourne grew.

And its
results,
1852.

Victoria is the smallest of all the Australian Colonies, but it is also the richest, and relatively to its size the most populous. It has a coast line of 600 miles, well furnished with natural harbours. Victoria is at top of the tree in education, with her smaller area has one-third more public libraries than her big sister New South Wales, and possesses twice as many books. Although the smallest in area, she has a greater railway mileage than any other Australian Colony. Indeed, Victoria, like New South Wales, is a made colony, and has long ago passed out of the stage of struggle and experiment into the calm waters of prosperity.

The baby
grows up.
Little
and good.

It is in physical contact with only two neighbours, New South Wales, from which it is separated mainly by the Murray river, and South Australia, from which it is divided by an imaginary line. The mountains of the Dividing Range, here called the Australian Alps, come quite close down to the coast in Victoria; so that the rivers are navigably unimportant, whether they flow southward to the coast or northwards to the Murray river.

Position.

How, it may be asked, did the small Colony of Victoria become so important as it is, and so quickly the richest and most populous for its size of all the Australian Colonies? It was a concurrence of physical advantages that brought about this result.

Physical
advant-
ages.

First of all the geographical position is good, and the advantages arising therefrom are great. Lying more to the

Climate
and coast.

south than New South Wales, Victoria is further removed from the Equator, and thus the climate is more temperate. This advantage she enjoys with her westerly neighbour, South Australia. But Victoria has a coast line of 600 miles studded with numerous natural harbours: whereas South Australia has only two means of access into her territory from the sea, many hundred miles of her coast being lined with gigantic cliffs.

River
system.

Again, Victoria, consisting as she does of a mere strip of country between the coast line and the Murray river, with the Australian Alps—a section of the Great Dividing Range—running nearly parallel and between the two, has another advantage. The one system of her rivers flows southward into the sea, and the other, instead of being lost in the trackless sandy plains of the interior, flows into the Murray. Although the rivers are navigably unimportant, in that they are impracticable for large vessels, they are locally important, affording most useful roads for light craft, barges, etc.

Lines of
com-
muni-
cation.

And at the back is the great highway, the Murray, which really is a highway here, and only becomes impracticable at its sea end; and in front is the highway of nations, the sea. Thus we get the northern set of rivers leading to one highway, and the southern set to another highway. These two together make a large proportion of the richest land in the colony accessible, and provide a good, though not a perfect system of intercommunication.

The
useless
metal's
useful-
ness.

But undoubtedly it was the gold, which was found in such enormous quantities, that started Victoria on the high road of prosperity. This useless, but not worthless, metal, being universally used as a medium of exchange among all civilized communities, is greedily desired; consequently its sudden discovery conferred on the little colony enormous external purchasing power. It acted as capital, and gave the colony breathing time and means to develop her resources.

The
econom-
ical
action of
gold.

Let us see how it would act. Many of the miners and discoverers would be improvident, and waste the gold thus acquired, but others would have the good sense to expend it

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in a reproductive manner. One man would, perhaps, use his gold to buy from the Government improved land, and he would buy from abroad improved implements with which to cultivate it.

The Government would in its turn use the gold acquired by the sale of the land as money to make roads, bridges, harbour works, and so to open up further districts, or to render those already opened up more accessible. The money thus expended would percolate through various classes, and ultimately find its way abroad to pay for goods imported; but the permanent works—roads, bridges, and harbours—would remain.

Ramifications.

Or another man might buy land and build on it. In this way the discovery of the gold might be the means of starting new industries, or developing existing ones; because the buildings would require stone, woodwork, glass, tiles, etc., and this would entail stone quarrying, timber felling and sawing, glass and brick making. Another man again might buy land with his gold, and import cattle to stock it. These cattle, in their turn, would increase and multiply.

Further illustrations.

And what one man would do, other men would do, so that the aggregate action of many individuals produced results on a large scale. And thus it was that the relatively small colony, Victoria, at an early age jumped into the saddle and rode away. The yellow metal, so useless in itself, performed its function of starting new industries and bringing fresh land under cultivation. That is the only ultimate source of wealth, for the gold filters through numberless hands, and is lost sight of. You cannot sow gold in the ground and gather in a larger crop, but the bountiful earth, once cultivated, brings forth every year; and the flocks and the herds increase and multiply too.

A common purpose.

The only true source of wealth.

QUEENSLAND.

Paradoxical.

It was said in the preceding notice on Victoria that the early expansion of the original settlement of New South Wales took place along the coast to the north, rather than in a southerly direction as might have been expected. How this was cannot be satisfactorily explained. It came about chiefly through the action of the Governors of New South Wales.

Wanted, a leisured class.

When the first little community under Captain Phillip landed at Sydney Cove, the life was terribly hard. No doubt the involuntary settlers were at first supplied with absolute necessities, and nothing more, from stores landed by the ships that brought them over, but these stores would not last for ever. They had to grow on the soil of the new country the crops necessary for their support, and when they had grown them, they had to prepare those crops for use. Mankind cannot eat wheat. The wheat has to go through various processes before it is made into bread. The same with many other products. All this takes time.

No time for luxuries.

And first of all, they would have to clear the land, which might be densely wooded, and was not, we may be sure, all ready and laid out into fields. For many years, then, the struggle to live absorbed all efforts, and there was neither time nor inclination to look about and to explore. Later on various little expeditions were sent out to examine the coast and the land behind; these expeditions all sailed northwards. Thus it was that some general knowledge of the eastern coast to the north of Sydney was acquired, while that to the south remained comparatively unknown.

Local exploration.

The need for a depositing ground

No attempt was at first made to effect any occupation of the more distant land. Later, thirty years after the original disembarkation at Sydney Cove, and many years after the colonizing of Tasmania, the want arose of another point of arrival for expeditions of the same nature as that which first peopled Sydney. Why this want should have been so pressing is not clear. Perhaps both Sydney and the settlements in Tasmania were growing too prosperous, and the conditions of

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life were becoming unsuitable for the purpose originally intended.

Straight up, north of Port Jackson, is an inlet of the sea into which runs a river. This inlet is protected at its sea entrance by two islands, just as Copenhagen is protected by the island of Amager, or as Stockholm is protected by the island of Waxholm. This inlet then forms a most convenient point of arrival and debarkation on a wild, and unpeopled coast, destitute of towns and harbours.

An analogy from Old Europe.

A new expedition was sent from Sydney, under an officer, Lieutenant Oxley, to find a suitable spot for a new settlement. After carefully examining the coast, Oxley entered this inlet of the sea, which had been discovered and named Moreton Bay by Captain Cook, many years before. A forlorn runaway, who had escaped from Sydney Cove, was here, leading a half savage life. He made himself known to Oxley, and showed the latter a river mouth he had found in the bay. This river mouth must have been concealed by Nature, as previous explorers had failed to find it.

A wild man of the woods.

Oxley named this river the Brisbane, after the then Governor of New South Wales. He returned to Sydney, and, bringing back again a small party of soldiers and prisoners, landed and put up a few huts a little way up this river. This is the site of the present city of Brisbane, and this was the beginning of the colonization of Moreton Bay District.

Another small beginning.

1823.

Other batches of compulsory colonists of the same nature as the first one came out, more buildings were erected, land was cleared of timber, rough roads were made. Still the district made miserably slow progress. Eight years after Oxley's landing the whole colony consisted of 1,241 people only; ten years later it was thrown open to free settlement. Then the military commandant was withdrawn by the Sydney authorities, and a resident magistrate or governor appointed, as in the case of Port Phillip. At this time legislative representation was granted—that is, this district sent its own representatives to the New South Wales Parliament. Then a newspaper was established, which exists to this day.

Slow work.

1842.

First
thoughts.

By the growth—the slow growth—of population round Moreton Bay, New South Wales became again unwieldy, and too scattered to remain under one administration. Probably after the establishment of the Southern or Port Phillip portion under the title of Victoria, it was intended to keep the whole of the east coast territory as one integer under the old title.

Second
thoughts.
Sub-
division.

But the stretch of territory was still too enormous and too disjointed to be properly administered from one centre. Hence it was that eight years after the constitution of the Southern or Port Phillip District as a separate colony, the Northern or Moreton Bay District was similarly dealt with, and was started in life on the 10th July, 1859, under the title of

1859.

QUEENSLAND.

A bap-
tismal
certifi-
cate.

The limits were fixed by Act of Parliament, in London, of course after consultation with the local authorities.

The new colony included the whole territory to the north of Brisbane, with the backland belonging thereto, right up to the extreme northerly point of the Continent of Australia, called Cape York, on Torres Strait. Queensland is in physical contact with only two neighbours, New South Wales on the south, and South Australia on the west, with the northern territory of South Australia to the west of its northermost section. At all other points its boundary is the sea.

Simil-
arity.

Just as in the case of New South Wales, so Queensland is broken up by the Great Dividing Range into three great sections or divisions of just a similar nature. This is but natural, inasmuch as, geographically speaking, Queensland and New South Wales are one country.

The Great Dividing Range, which runs north and south, here throws out towards each end lateral spurs, running east and west. Consequently her rivers run in four directions instead of in two as in the case of the sister colonies. These four directions are respectively northward to the Gulf of

Carpentaria, eastward to the Pacific coast, westward towards the interior, and south-westward towards New South Wales.

This colony is more than twice the size of New South Wales, and nearly eight times the size of Victoria. Yet its population is only 485,000, against 1,324,000 in the former colony, and 1,777,000 in the latter. Compared to Europe, it has a larger area than Germany and Austria-Hungary combined.

Com-
parisons.

All these Australian Colonies are extremely interesting, but Queensland is in some respects the most interesting of all. The territory it consists of lies very much nearer the Equator than its sisters New South Wales, Victoria, or South Australia proper. Consequently the climate is much hotter, and vegetation more varied; this, however, is little enough. In this country, which is twelve times the size of England and Wales, there are double seasons. Thus, in each year there are two winters and two summers, two springs and two autumns. What is more singular is that each set of seasons has its own class of crop.

An inter-
esting
country.

An early, but unfounded prejudice existed against the colony on account of this tropical position, but a growing conviction of its singular healthiness has greatly advanced it of late years in public estimation. The open and elevated plains to the west contain very rich black soil, covered with the finest fattening herbage in the world. The Darling Downs in the south-west abutting on New South Wales, cover an area of 6,080 square miles. This celebrated pastoral district was discovered by Allan Cunningham, the Botanist, more than 70 years ago, in 1827. It is called the Garden of Queensland, and was named after Sir Ralph Darling, the then Governor of New South Wales.

Physical
details.

The
Darling
Downs.

To the north are the scrub lands, consisting of vine scrub, tea swamps, poison plant swamps; with much magnificent soil, very difficult to clear. There is spear grass of such a formidable nature that it pierces the flesh of sheep as they graze. The extreme north of Queensland is quite unsettled. There are extensive sand ridges in the south-west.

The
Great
Barrier
Reef.

The coast line of Queensland, of which that of New South Wales is the southward prolongation, possesses a curious natural feature, not shared by the latter. Out in the sea, about the same distance from the shore as the Great Dividing Range is inland, runs a reef of coral. This reef runs nearly parallel to the coast line for the whole distance from the extreme north down to Brisbane, at the extreme south. It is called the Great Barrier Reef.

A sub-
marine
mountain
range.

Like the Carpathian Mountains in Old Europe, its outer slope is steep and precipitous, rising sheer out of the sea, which is here very deep, but sloping inwards; thus it makes a most perfect breakwater. Broken only by narrow channels or gaps, it forms a continuous buttress against the ocean rollers outside.

An
oceanic
Skoer-
guard

These gaps occur wherever a river runs in on the shore opposite, the action of the fresh water seeming to have a destroying effect on the coral of which the reef is composed. The channels so made form excellent passages for ships, just where they are wanted, opposite the river mouths. This curious condition acts something like the Skares of Sweden and the Skoerguard (with its accompanying leder or channels) of Norway. It is partly a hindrance to navigation and partly a protection. There are also numerous natural harbours in the shape of bays and river mouths, two of which are practicable for ocean-going steamers.

This Barrier Reef follows the coast for 1,200 out of 1,300 miles. In the north it approaches within five miles of the shore, diverging at the southern end to 100 miles in width. It encloses a water area of 30,000 square miles. Just outside the southern end the sea is 16,000 feet, or almost three miles, in depth.

A family
likeness.

The products of Queensland are very similar to those of the other Australian Colonies, which do not differ greatly one from another; although as so much of its territory lies within the tropics they present a greater variety. Thus its needs are somewhat similar; the most pressing ones being scarcity of water in the pastoral districts of the western slopes, and

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restricted means of internal communication from the absence of navigable rivers.

These needs, however, are being grappled with in the same bold and practicable manner as in the other cases. The descendants of these early settlers who fought Nature—primitive Nature—almost without armour or weapons, and triumphed, are not likely to stand still now the tide of battle has set in in their favour. The very first Queensland Parliament organised a good school system, established religious equality, and passed a simple and practical Bill dealing with the allocation and tenure of land. Every town has its School of Art, with evening as well as day classes.

The
flowing
tide.

Queensland has very large coal deposits. Sugar cane, rice, and coffee are readily grown. There are trees 100 yards in height (nearly the length of five cricket pitches), or higher than the monument in London. One monster near the Johnstone river is 50 feet in diameter at the base, or the breadth of a very wide road. The beche de mer, or sea slug, is found on the northern shores. This is a greatly esteemed delicacy, and fetches £100 per ton when dried. It is used for the making of soup, and for export to China, where it is consumed in very large quantities. Then there is the dugong, or sea pig, a species of seal (there is a stuffed one in the Kensington Natural History Museum), from which they extract a valuable oil, while excellent bacon is made from its flesh. Its hide is used to make belting for machinery.

Some of
the pro-
ducts.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

THE eastern coast of Australia, as said before, was practically discovered by Captain Cook. Other nations may have had a knowledge of it, for voyages of discovery were incessant from the very old days down to recent times; but Captain Cook was the first to turn the discovery to practical account, by recommending it to his Government for settlement purposes,

A prac-
tical
mind.

Desultory investigation, 1619.

The case of the western coast was different. The Dutch sighted the country, and even landed there over and over again, throughout a long series of years. The early reports of the land lining the coast were not inviting; fresh water was extremely scarce, and the soil was described as barren. From time to time expeditions, many of them carrying botanists and zoologists, were sent out by the English, the French, and the Dutch, to explore; and even careful surveys of portions of the coast were made.

1684 to 1773

The effect of remoteness.

This coast was at too great a distance from Sydney and other Australian centres of population to make it convenient for the colonists themselves to spread so far. Nor was it likely they would do so, their hands being full with the work they had already before them. Thus it happened that it was occupied from England, under the auspices of the Home Government.

Westward Ho.

1827.

About thirty years after the establishment of the first little settlement at Sydney Cove, which was becoming a big place now, an English man of war was sent from there to this western coast. The commander, Captain Stirling, was instructed to explore the Swan River with a view to founding a settlement. Swan River was known; its mouth having been discovered some 100 years earlier, by the Dutch, who called it Zaanen Riviere, or the Swan River, after the black swans they saw on its waters.

Why Swan River mouth was chosen can be guessed. Shark's Bay, higher up the coast, would seem a much more eligible position, being a very deep and extensive bay, protected at its sea entry by an island, a large river draining into it; but then Shark's Bay was some 500 miles further from Sydney, and that was before the days of steam navigation.

The return journey.

1826.

Stirling had with him Mr. Fraser, the colonial botanist of New South Wales; after three months investigation they returned to Sydney. A year earlier a small detachment of soldiers had been sent to occupy King George's Sound, nearer Sydney, which had also been previously explored. They visited this little community on their return journey, and

found it in a poor state. The soldiers did not make good colonists. Eventually this place was abandoned; now the place is a thriving seaport named Albany.

1830

Fraser made a very favourable report of the Swan River country, and recommended the Home Government to establish a settlement at once. Accordingly, two years later, another English war vessel anchored at the mouth of the river and took formal possession of all that part of New Holland which is not included in New South Wales. By this act the whole of the enormous Island Continent became technically British; a case of nominal but not of effective occupation.

The Botanist's report.

All Australia.

Then Captain Stirling returned, bearing the title of Lieutenant Governor of the new territory, with the first little batch of intending settlers—only sixty-nine all told; one of the sixty-nine was eleven months old. A few days later came one company of an English foot regiment, to protect the settlers.

The advance guard. 1829.

This little community was first called the Swan River Settlement, and was the nucleus of the present Colony of Western Australia, which latter became at once its official title. The collection of shanties they put up became ultimately the City of Perth, the present capital of the colony.

A western nucleus.

Perth. 1829.

Soon after this other settlers arrived, sent out from England. The Home Government held out great inducements to emigrants, by tempting offers of land; and what was very important, a cargo of live cattle arrived. The colonists were not very happy at first. "Western Australia," said a writer, "was, like other colonies, founded without principles or system; and the hardships endured were enough to have shaken the stoutest hearts."

Reinforcements.

Lack of system.

It was the same, more or less, in all colonies in the early days. Here were men who had had—who could have had—no training whatever in the methods to be employed. What were they to do on setting foot in the strange land of the black swan and of the laughing jackass? They had to learn as they went along; and while they were gathering the necessary

Unqualified probationers.

experience, they were in danger of starving. Fortunately the first batch had stores for one year.

Isolation.

It is difficult to realize the terrible sense of isolation they must have felt. Even to-day what would it be? But then? The nearest white community, 1,200 miles distant, across a trackless and unknown waste! And recollect, in those days were no railway, no land telegraph, no submarine cable, no ocean steamers, and above all no Mr. Henniker Heaton with Imperial Penny Post.

Might
have
been
worse.

Many were quite unqualified for a settler's life. Among the first sixty-nine was only one agriculturist; still, their lot was child's play compared to the early English settlers on the coast of Virginia, and on the banks of the James River, in the Continent of America.

Man is a gregarious animal and does not like to live alone; and at first there are so few of them. They could not, when their work was done, stroll into the nearest town. There were no towns; they themselves constituted the nearest town. Outside of them, nothing—nothing but kangaroo scrub, dingoes or wild dogs, snakes, and black natives.

Dis-
courage-
ment.

The cattle and other stock that had been so wisely introduced, took to going suddenly blind, or falling dead, from eating the mysterious poison plant—at that time unknown to them; and the blacks speared their cattle and rooted up their crops. What was that company of soldiers doing? Food became scarce, and all who could left the colony in disgust.

The
virtue of
necessity.

The poor men who remained, remained because they could not help themselves. But there were compensations. Abundance of fish along the coast and in the rivers to be had for the catching; wild turkeys, pheasants, pigeons, ducks and wild fowl of every description, and no game laws—just think of that! God's earth free and open to every one.

And its
reward.

Then the inevitable happened. Just as a continual dropping wears away the stone, so did the ceaseless efforts of the colonists bear their fruit. They began to prosper in a rough way. The colony, like a young tree, took root in the soil and

began to grow, and to spread, and the settlers became reconciled to their new homes.

They saw they had a healthy climate; magnificent timber, especially the Jarrah, which grows only near the coast region, that is, handy to the earlier groupings of population; trees ninety feet high, and sixty feet to the first branch, therefore without knots: in a word, timber suitable for export, as well as for local use; a fairly rich soil, varying much, however, in different localities; and later on, minerals—coal, gold, copper, etc.

Reflec-
tions.

All this, and the best uses to which the capabilities of climate, soil and minerals could be applied, together with the best method of working them, were not found out in a day; and fresh applications and developments are being made even now. But above all system began to assert itself at last; this was due to the efforts of a succession of able Governors.

Gradual
evolution.

Western Australia is the largest in area of all the Australian Colonies. She is in physical contact with one neighbour only, South Australia (including the northern territory), her only other boundary being her own sea coast; this, with indents, is variously estimated at from 3,000 to 5,200 miles. There are a fair number of bays and gulfs, but with one or two exceptions they do not form good natural harbours on account of their shallowness, or exposed position. There are numerous small islands off the coast, but few or none of any importance, and little is known of them.

Physical
features.

The mountains are in detached groups of greater or less length, and do not form one continuous range. They are of low elevation, and run for the most part quite close to the coast. The consequence is the rivers are few and unimportant, mere storm water channels filled only during the rainy season; hence few are navigable even for very small boats, and as arteries of communication they are useless.

Rivers.

As with the rivers, so with the lakes. There are, in some localities, numerous salt and fresh water lakes, but many are nothing more than swamps in the dry season, some being only a few inches in depth. Near the coast the country is

Lakes.

undulating, and towards the interior, flat, with sand plains and immense forests. Settlement is confined chiefly to the south-western corner of the colony.

Willy-
Willies
and cock-
eyed
bobs.

There are only two seasons, the wet and the dry; no spring, summer, autumn, and winter, as with us. Each season lasts about six months; but on account of the enormous area of the territory, the northern portion being in the tropics and the southern in the temperate zone, these seasons do not coincide throughout the whole colony. There are terrible storms sometimes, which cause damage to property, and even to human life. These are called "willy-willies" and "cock-eyed bobs."

Climate.

Generally the climate is pleasant, although it varies much with the different localities. It is different in the south to that in the north, and again the climate of the coast is naturally different to that of the interior. In the south the rainfall is regular and sufficient, in the centre there are heavy and abundant dews, and in the north the great heat is made tolerable by a beautifully dry atmosphere.

A
question.

But if the country is in great measure destitute of rivers, and therefore of water, if much of the land consists of sandy plains and dense forest, and if the heat is great in many districts, and other districts are liable to devastating storms; what are the attractions of this colony, and wherein lies its future?

The
answer.

All ordinary crops and fruits of tropical and of temperate climates grow with great luxuriance, but that is a small matter. In Western Australia are no less than 3,700 different species of what are called extra-tropical plants, of which 2,460 are to be found, so far as is at present known, nowhere else. In addition to this, there are also 2,050 distinct species of intra-tropical plants.

Boon
nature.

Try and realize what this means. Think of the flowers, fruits, grains, seeds, tubers, roots, fodder plants, gums, saps, oils, resins, juices, all capable of being turned into some useful purpose for the needs, enjoyment, or sustenance of man, or of his domestic animals. These useful purposes may

lead to the foundation of many great and small industries in the future.

And then recollect that the study and thorough investigation of the properties, capabilities, and uses of only a few specimens of these 2,460 plants is the work of a lifetime for one man. You will then form some idea of a small portion only of the work that is in store for the present and future generations of Western Australians.

A task
for the
future.

The French say there is no rose without a thorn, and so it occurs that among the total of 5,750 plants above mentioned, are twelve species of poison plants—unfortunately the live stock will insist on eating these if they can get at them. To eradicate these, the Government make easy grants of "poisoned lands" (the lands where these plants grow), on condition that the poison plants on the land granted are completely rooted out in a certain term of years.

No rose
without a
thorn.

Again, of the 600 species of trees known to grow on the Continent of Australia, a great number are found in the Western Colony, some of which assume gigantic dimensions. Take one instance: the Karri tree grows quite straight, and is 120 to 150 feet to the first branch. Fancy a tree two to three cricket pitches long to its first branch, and four feet thick. Imagine the planks to be obtained from such a tree.

Timber.

And then, gold has been found; and now the gold industry is assuming large dimensions, and the output is increasing every year. Then there are enormous deposits of haematite, the most valuable iron ore known; and if workable coal is discovered in convenient proximity, a very great industry will spring up.

Gold

The question of water supply is of even greater importance than in the case of the other Australian Colonies. Water is the essential element not only of the sheep and cattle industries, but also of the gold industry. This question is only beginning to be dealt with.

Water

It was on the 18th August, 1898, that Sir John Forrest, the first Minister of the great little colony, asked, "What is to be her future destiny?" Proceeding to answer, he con-

1898.

tinued, "I hope and pray that the day is near when Western Australia will form part of a federated dominion, encircled by the ocean, and bound together with the rest of Australia, by the ties of nationality and of kindred Our duty is to help forward that destiny, to help build up a nation which shall be the chief power dominating these Southern Seas, but never forgetting those little islands in the Northern Sea from which our fathers came."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Recapitu-
lation.

REVIEWING now the foundation of the various Australian Colonies, we have seen how and under what circumstances New South Wales was the first to be established. The next step was the settlement of Van Dieman's Land, due to the initiative of the juvenile colony of New South Wales itself acting under the direction of the resident Governor, and aided by subsequent contingents from the mother country, Great Britain.

Con-
tinued.

Then we saw the Colony of Victoria originated under the title of the Port Phillip District by some enterprising settlers of Tasmania. Fed from New South Wales, and also aided by contingents from England, it soon grew. Next came the settlement from Sydney Cove of the Moreton Bay District, which ultimately became the Colony of Queensland; and it will be remembered that these two, together with Tasmania, were at first treated as mere appendages of New South Wales.

Con-
tinued.

Then we had the mouth of the Swan River investigated by an expedition sent from Sydney Cove. Right on the opposite side of the continent, and 2,500 miles distant from Sydney, it was colonized direct from England on the report of the officers in charge of that expedition. Thus it followed that New South Wales obtained the title of the Mother Colony of all the Australias, a title that is really appropriate.

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For purposes of classification the various colonies have been dealt with in the above order, as laid down in the general remarks on Australia, but this was not at all the order in which they were originally started, which was as follows:

Classifi-
cation.

1. New South Wales.
2. Tasmania.
3. Queensland.
4. Western Australia.
5. Victoria.

This was the order in which they went into the factory of Time, but this was not the order in which they came out in a finished state. Moreover, as we have seen, they each went in as raw material under one name, and came out as finished products with quite another title.

The
factory
of time.

Thus, whereas New South Wales was always New South Wales, Van Dieman's Land became Tasmania, The Moreton Bay District became Queensland, the Swan River Settlement became Western Australia, and the Port Phillip District became Victoria.

The
finished
products.

We now come finally to the youngest of all the Australian Colonies; the youngest, because the most recently founded, but by no means the least vigorous.

The baby
of the
family.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

This includes also the great district called North Australia, or more correctly, the Northern Territory of South Australia, while the original settlement is often designated South Australia Proper. In this case the procedure was very different to any of the foregoing. This colony owed its origin to a company formed in England.

It came about in this way. As New South Wales progressed, successive Governors in charge of that settlement sent out from time to time exploring parties, to learn what they could of the little-known land on which a footing had

Ex-
plorers.

been obtained. The men who conducted these explorations endured terrible dangers from hunger and thirst, battled with frightful difficulties, and showed magnificent courage and tenacity.

Collet
Barker.

1830,

Among these was Captain Collet Barker. Barker had been in charge of the first tiny settlement in Western Australia. When this was abandoned at the time Swan River Mouth was occupied, he was ordered, during his return journey to Sydney, to explore a certain gulf on the southern coast. This was St. Vincent's Gulf, which was known of in a general way, having been discovered and named years before by Matthew Flinders.

A natural
proceed-
ing.

What would any explorer do, arriving by sea to investigate an unknown shore? Naturally he would look out for the highest ground, for the highest hill. Having found that, he would climb to the top in order to get a view of the surrounding country. Now there are not a great number of hills along that coast at a convenient distance from the shore, and Barker had little difficulty in pitching upon one.

John
Batman
over
again.

Next, Barker did what John Batman did. John Batman climbed the hill as we have seen, now known as Station Peak, and gazed over the silent downs of Iramoo. Collet Barker climbed the hill now known as Mount Lofty, and looked upon the beautiful plains beneath, which are now the plains of Adelaide. A few days later, he lost his life, being treacherously killed and even eaten by the natives. But the story of his new Land of Promise was told by his companions on their arrival at Sydney, and duly reached England.

The
enchant-
ment of
distance.

This report, aided by repetition, and coloured perhaps by distance, led to the founding of a society to turn the discovery to practical account. It was called the South Australian Association. England at this time was in a very unsettled state; there was much discontent. Thus it was that the new society found plenty of recruits, men willing and anxious to try their fortunes in the new land.

Hobson's
choice.
1836

After tedious delays the Society set to work, and two batches of settlers were sent out in two small ships. What,

it may be asked, determined the selection of the particular district first occupied? It was the report of Barker's companions that mainly dictated the point of arrival. In reality, however, there was very little choice. This is owing to the peculiar conformation of the coast line.

Travelling westwards from Victoria, the coast assumes a new aspect; the numerous gulfs and bays which characterise the outlines of the easterly colonies become scarcer. The shore is lined with shallow lagoons, one of which, called the Coorong, is of enormous length. After passing this are two very great gulfs. Leaving these gulfs on one side for the moment, and continuing the westward journey, we come to the Great Australian Bight, a line of cliffs of great height, extending for several hundred miles.

Physical
features

It is obvious that there is no way into the country by these cliffs, nor is there any practicable entry by the lagoon-studded coast. We come then to the two great gulfs as the only means of access; these are Gulf St. Vincent and Spencer Gulf. Although contiguous, they each administer different districts, St. Vincent's Gulf serving the country to the south-east, and Spencer Gulf, which runs much further inland, that to the west and to the interior. One of these two gulfs, then, had to be chosen by the pioneer expedition. Gulf St. Vincent, the more easterly of the two, was selected. The officer in charge made a careful search for a spot with a good water supply, suitable for head quarters; these he established near the foot of Mount Lofty, the hill ascended by Barker, close to, but not on, the sea. These head quarters are now the City of Adelaide, the capital of South Australia.

The two
great
gulfs.

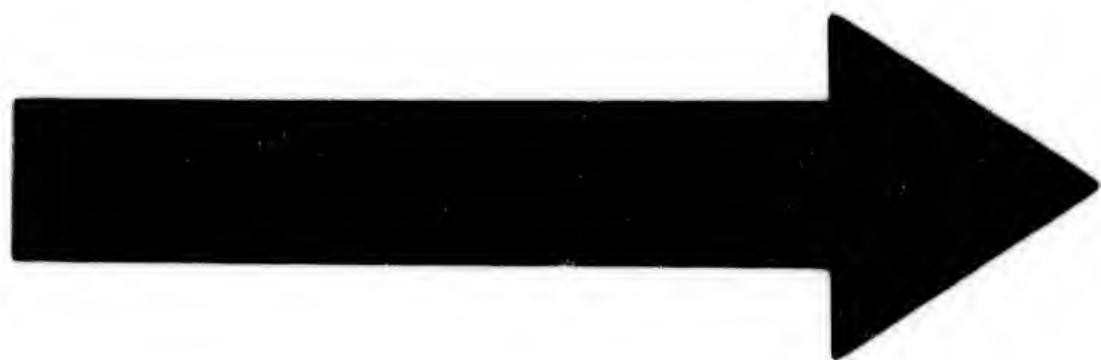
Gulf St.
Vincent.

1836.

Adelaide,

A poor
start.

The start of the community was not very well managed, and its early years were neither happy nor prosperous. There were various reasons for this. The Colonizing Company was directed by able and well-meaning men, but all sorts of unforeseen difficulties sprang up, and it was almost impossible to conduct affairs from so great a distance. Conflicting views arose between the Directors of the Company and the Government at home, regarding policy and expenditure. The only



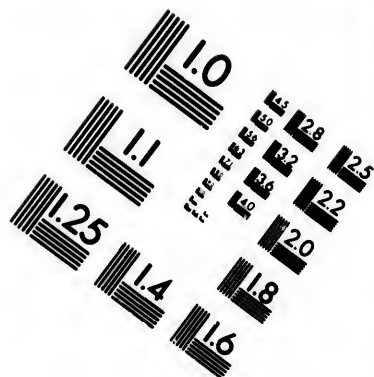
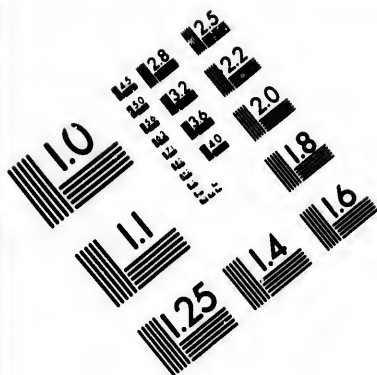
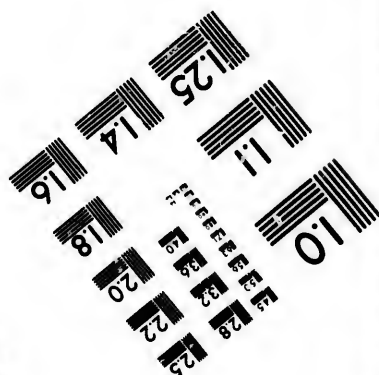
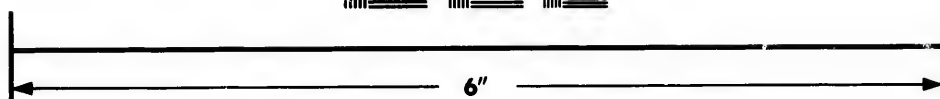
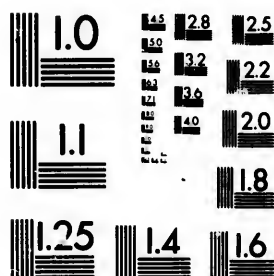


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1839. Governors sent out to manage the new community were excellent and qualified men, but somehow they came into conflict with their subordinate officers. Naturally all this hampered the movements, the progress, and the welfare of the new settlement.

Progress
1844. Nevertheless, the development of the colony was fairly rapid. There were some bad years no doubt; there were times of hardship, of course; but over a series of years there was very little to complain of. There were heavy sets-back—what single colony has been without them?—but the net result was—progress.

Yester-
day and
to-day. And to-day we find that whereas the original little party that landed at Kangaroo Island, and ultimately settled on the shores of St. Vincent's Gulf, numbered 546 souls, all told, the population of South Australia is now 346,000. That is little enough compared with New South Wales and Victoria; but then we must remember that South Australia is only half the age of the former, and that the latter had exceptional advantages.

The
Murray
River. This colony has the unique peculiarity of containing the mouth of a very great river—the only great river in the whole of the great continent—the Murray. When it is said that the Murray, with its affluents, is 2,400 miles long, and that it rises in New South Wales and runs all along Victoria, and that 300 miles of its lower course are in South Australia, its extent can be realized. It ought to be a tremendous advantage for the colony which has the sea exit of such a great waterway.

No
thorough-
fare. But it is not. First of all the Murray flows parallel to the coast, just beyond the mountain range spoken of in the general remarks on Australia, hence it does not open up any great internal region; but this is of little importance. What makes it relatively valueless is that its mouth is lost, owing to the peculiar nature of its issue to the sea.

The
Coorong. Reference was made to the Coorong Peninsula. Just before entering the sea, the Murray expands into a large and shallow lake. Beyond this lake again is this curious formation. This

Coorong is nothing more nor less than an enormous sand-bank, evidently caused by the current of the great river on the one hand meeting with the tides of the sea on the other. It is a gigantic river bar which has grown up out of the waters and become dry land.

This formation runs for 150 miles parallel to the coast, with the great lake or lagoon all along the interior side. Its mouth is extremely narrow, extremely shallow, and constantly shifting. The consequence is, this mouth, which is the mouth of the Murray, is absolutely impracticable for ocean-going ships, and extremely difficult for small craft. And then, a short distance inland the river is lined by steep cliffs from 100 to 300 feet high, which make wharfage and landing stages impracticable, and preclude the formation of centres of population along its banks.

The
Mouth
of the
Murray.

Had the Murray River possessed a navigable mouth, nothing could have prevented the capital of South Australia from being located there; and nothing could have prevented this capital from becoming the greatest commercial city in all Australia. But as it was, a way of getting into the country had to be sought elsewhere, as we have seen.

Nature's
veto.

It is curious that Adelaide, the actual capital, should stand where it does, six miles inland from the eastern shore of the smaller Gulf St. Vincent, on an insignificant water-course. Its location is due to the fertility of the surrounding country. The harbour stands seven miles to the north, and is called Port Adelaide. It is to Adelaide what the Piræus is to Athens in Old Europe.

Athens
and the
Piræus
over again.

But the natural capital of South Australia is undoubtedly Port Augusta, at the head of Spencer Gulf, the more important of the two great arms of the sea. The territory surrounding it is not sufficiently peopled yet; when this takes place Port Augusta will assert its natural supremacy, and become the converging point for all produce coming from the interior to the north of it. But this will take time, as the back land is not very fertile.

The
future of
Port
Augusta.

At present the enormous territory of South Australia

A restric-
ted area.

Inter-colonial prerogatives.

means, as a colony, the district in the immediate neighbourhood of these two gulfs; and it is only here that the country is divided into counties. The limits of the province were originally fixed, like all the other Australian Colonies, by Act of the Home Parliament. The two westerly provinces stretch right across the continent from sea to sea. The three eastern ones, New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria, have only their own coasts with the stretch of back land appertaining thereto.

A unique position.

South Australia, with the Northern Territory, cuts the continent in two parts, and its proper designation should be the Colony of Central Australia. It is the only colony which is in touch with all its sisters—Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria on the east, and Western Australia on the west.

John M'Dowall Stuart

About twenty-five years after the original settlement, a South Australian colonist, named John McDowall Stuart, succeeded in crossing the continent from Adelaide on the south coast, to a point on the north coast; in other words, from sea to sea.

The magic number: three. 1858 to 1862.

Twice he tried and failed; the third time he succeeded. It is easy to write; it is easy to read; it sounds easy to do; but four poor fellows had tried it before, and all but one perished in these trackless and unknown wastes, treeless and waterless. It has been done since, though not very often, but these later explorers had the benefit of their predecessors' experience, which made it a very different task. Still all honour to them too.

Expansion.

1863.

Stuart, on his return, represented the northern country as suitable for settlement. Accordingly application was made by the colonists to the Home Government for permission to annex the whole country to the north of their existing frontier, right up to the seaboard. This tract of territory was formally granted to South Australia, one year after Stuart's return, under the title of

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

One year later, the first colonizing expedition was despatched from Adelaide, and ultimately established itself on the shores of the great Bay of Port Darwin. This is the official centre, although it is too small at present to be called a capital.

A small
begin-
ning.
1864 to
1870.

The Northern Territory lies mostly within the Torrid Zone. It runs from an imaginary line in the interior, which separates it from South Australia proper, right up to the northern coast. The interior consists of enormous tracts of scrub, salt and sandy plains, with some large grassy areas suitable for pasture; but the great prevalence of sandy scrub makes much of it unfit for settlement.

The
northern
territory.

The coastal region would be adapted in some parts for colonization, owing to its numerous inlets and river mouths. But being much nearer the Equator than the interior, the climate is tropical, and thus it is unlikely to become a thickly settled colony for English-speaking people just yet. It is little wonder, then, that this Northern Territory has made but scant progress since its inclusion with South Australia.

The
torrid
zone.

The hill country and mountain ranges, spoken of as approximately encircling the whole continent, lie here at a greater distance from the seaboard than along the other coasts. Moreover, the rainfall is greater, hence the rivers are larger and more numerous; several are navigable, but they are little explored.

Natural
facilities.

There is at present little but a nucleus in all this great territory. This has received the name of Palmerston. It is situated on the magnificent natural harbour of Port Darwin; it is the northern terminus of the great overland telegraph line, which runs right across the continent from Adelaide on the south. This was made possible by the explorations of John McDowall Stuart. At the Adelaide end the lines radiate east and west, to the capitals of the other Australian Colonies, and from those capitals to other and smaller centres. At port Darwin it connects with the sub-

A
northern
nucleus.

The
Trans-
Conti-
nental
tele-
graph.

marine cable, thus bringing the system into direct communication with every part of the civilized world.

A great
railway
project.

This is not all. Port Darwin is also the head of the projected great trans-continental railway to Adelaide on the south. Of this railway 146 miles have been constructed southwards. On the other hand, construction is actively proceeding from Adelaide northwards; and 688 miles, via Port Augusta, have been laid to the present temporary terminus, Oodnadatta. There are no physical obstructions to the making of this railway; there is not a mountain, not even one hill to tunnel; there are no cuttings to be made, and probably no embankments; there are no rocks to be blasted, few or no rivers to be bridged, no dense forests to be cut through.

An
analogy
from
Siberia

The difficulties imposed by Nature are not engineering obstacles, but they are not less formidable on that account; they are want of population and water, and the drawbacks inherent to a tropical climate. Still, if the great Siberian Railway can be made and worked in that far northern climate, and where population is so sparse, why cannot the Australian Continental Railway be made and worked under somewhat similar conditions in the equatorial district? Of course it will be many years before such a line could pay its working expenses and its maintenance. Its utility would be entirely political and economical; probably very many years will elapse before its completion. There still remains a gap of 1,000 miles to be spanned before "The Port Augusta and Trans-Continental Line" will become an accomplished fact.

The
"Can-
adian
Pacific"
of Aus-
tralia.

"When once the Northern Territory," said the Hon. John A. Cockburn, Agent-General for South Australia, in a paper read before the Royal Colonial Institute in London on the 14th March, 1899, "can be reached from Adelaide in a few days, instead of several weeks as at present, a new era of activity will dawn on Australia. The Northern Territory is abundantly supplied with all the elements that go to make a country of rare opulence, and only awaits accessibility to be the scene of the next great boom of the Empire."

South Australia has been well to the front in the solution of all those modern political problems roughly alluded to in the introductory chapter. The sons of the youngest Australian Colony have shewn themselves unfettered by mental bias. They realise, as the writer quoted above happily puts it, that "the traditions of past ages will not serve to solve modern problems, any more than it is possible to open a modern Chubb safe with the key of a mediæval lock."

The
absence
of mental
bias.

AUSTRALIA. COROLLARY.

WHAT the future of Australia may be, no mortal man can conceive. The material future that is; but with the material future come the industrial, the commercial, and the political future, for all these matters are inseparably bound up and interwoven, just as the coloured fibres of cotton and wool are interwoven to produce a sample of cloth or other material.

Lifting
the
curtain.

Look at Russia. Russia is a flat country; she has been gifted by Nature with many rivers. Then the art of the Russians has come in. By their skill and industry that flat country is covered with a network of canals uniting each and every river together. There is no one river and no one canal running right through the country from east to west, or from north to south; yet you can go by boat or barge from the Baltic Sea on the north to the Black Sea on the south, or from the Volga, on the east, to Warsaw—the city of a plain—on the west.

An
analogy.

But where does Russia get the water to fill all these canals? From her magnificent system of rivers, which run in every conceivable direction. But where does she get these rivers from? That is difficult to say, for she has no mountains, except the Urals, which separate Europe from Asia; and these are but big hills, poor as the feeders of a great river system,

The gift
of
Nature.

and no more qualified for the purpose than the low mountains of Australia. Her rivers are the gift of Nature.

Aguin, why do the rivers of flat Russia pursue their way to the sea, forming great arteries of communication for the conveyance of produce, whereas the rivers of flat Australia lose themselves in internal swamps and shallow lakes? That cannot be said: perhaps it is on account of the character of the soil; but it has been ordered by Nature.

Per mare
per
terram.

The sea is a wonderful place, and there are strange and marvellous things in it. What do we know of the sea? We know only of its surface. Think of the mountains and the plains in its depths, the tangles of sea weed, the fairy palaces of coral, and the strange inhabitants thereof that we little dream of. But if the sea is a strange place full of wonders, so also is our earth. What do we know of it? Almost nothing, save of the surface, and little enough of that. But what of the interior, the ground beneath our feet?

Amere
scratch.

We sow seeds and the crops come up; we plant trees and they take root and grow; we dig for coal or for minerals, and we get down, perhaps, a mile in depth, and we say it is wonderful, and perhaps we are right. But what is a mile? Recollect there are eight thousand of these miles—four thousand each way—and then say if our one mile is more than a scratch; and then think what wonders the audacity of science may have in store for us, and what treasures the daring courage of the soldiers of science, those men who devote their lives to these investigations, may not unfold.

The
philos-
ophy of a
gimlet.

Take a gimlet. For twopence at any tool-shop you can acquire one by purchase, just as a great merchant acquires by purchase a whole ship's cargo. But in the idea of the twopenny gimlet may be more than in that whole ship's cargo. The gimlet is a little boring tool. It is in the form of a spiral tube, with a sharp-pointed screw at the end. Drive that gimlet into a piece of wood, gradually you will get it down to its full length; then in the spiral tube, when withdrawn, you will find a core of the wood through which you have bored.

This is somewhat the principle of the Artesian well borer. The machinery is erected; down goes the borer through the different layers, or strata of the earth; the borer is withdrawn, and in the core or tube are found the earth, clay, sand, rock, and gravel through which it has passed. As it gets deeper and nearer the water stratum, so the core gets moister. "Stand clear," shouts the man in charge to his subordinates; the water forces its way up through the pipe with irresistible force, to the extent of many thousands of gallons per hour. Upwards it pours in increasing volume, forced by subterranean pressure, conveying its life-giving fluid to all in its neighbourhood—men, cattle, sheep, and plants.

The
artesian
borer.

This is what is being done, and will continue to be done in many parts of the interior of Australia. Each of the colonies has inaugurated a system of Artesian boring, some more, some less, but all, or nearly all, with happy results. But what are these colonies? Each of them is but a fringe of population running round the coast line at varying distances; the great interior is untouched.

A system-
atic
effort.

Take a map of the Island Continent and look at it. You will see up in the north a deep arm of the sea; this is called the Gulf of Carpentaria. Again down in the south, as was seen in the separate notice on the Colony of South Australia, are two other great arms in close proximity, Spencer Gulf and St. Vincent Gulf. There are scientific men who think that in the remote past the eastern and the western parts of the Continent of Australia constituted two great separate islands.

A scientific
theory.

Between these two flowed a wide stretch of sea; then by some great convulsion of Nature the ground was thrown up, the waters were thrown off, and these two great islands were united into one continent by what are now the salt-permeated lands of the central plains of the interior. This would also explain the almost universal presence of salt.

The sea
made dry
land.

The surface water, hemmed in by the tall cliffs of the great Australian Bight on the south, and by the table lands of

The
waters
were
divided.

the northern territory on the north, percolated through the soil, and perhaps ultimately formed great subterranean reservoirs. Weight is lent to this theory by the fact that the vegetable world of Western Australia differs greatly from that of Queensland and New South Wales on the east. The mountain ridges and peaks of the interior existed, perhaps, as the cliffs and uplands of many groups of islands resembling those of the neighbouring Pacific Ocean.

The
human
grip.

The wars and battles of Australia have not been as in Old Europe, undertaken with the object of killing neighbours. They have been the battles of the forces of man against the forces of Nature; and recollect where man once lays his grip he rarely loses it. He may relax it for a time, only to tighten it the more strongly later on.

A modern
Prometheus.

Let us take the case that Artesian boring is resorted to on a colossal scale in Central Australia. Prometheus of old conveyed fire from Heaven in a hollow tube, in order to benefit mankind. What if some modern Australian Prometheus should arise to convey water on a huge scale from the interior of the earth in a colossal tube, to bring benefits to the mankind of Australia?

Through
the
looking-
glass.

Think of canals in that country, radiating in every conceivable direction. Think of those great shallow lakes, some of them 100 miles long, narrowed in, banked up, and dredged out. Think of those lost rivers flowing internally from the Dividing Range, being caught, and their waters conserved and utilized; and then think of the future of Australia. One Chicago would no longer be enough; she would want half-a-dozen. And then would come the railways; and Australia has the iron for the rails within herself, and the sleepers to lay them on within her own forests.

NEW ZEALAND.

In the chapter on Canada reference was made to the French Roman Catholic Missionary Priests. It was said how these missionaries wished to convert the Indian tribes of Northern America to Christianity. This raises the question as to what a missionary is. The word comes from the Latin *Mitto*—I send—a missionary being someone sent; and so it comes to mean a messenger or envoy sent somewhere with a definite purpose.

Missionaries.

The first missionaries were the eleven followers or Apostles of the Founder of the Christian Faith. It was to them he said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." It was in this way that the blessings of Christianity were early diffused among the European nations. When these European nations became consolidated, and religion took a strong hold upon them, they in their turn wished to extend these advantages to the brown, the black, and the yellow men of the new countries which were from time to time discovered.

The earliest missionaries.

These old nations did not all profess the same form of Christianity, although they all agreed in the main principles, as laid down by the Founder of the Faith.

Diversity and inconsistency.

Thus it came that the French Catholic Missionaries were not the only people who went out to convert the heathen. Many of the sects in England aspired to the honour too. In this way an association called the Church Missionary Society came to be founded exactly one hundred years ago. This had for its object the conversion of the heathen to Christianity—the heathen being those peoples that did not acknowledge the true God.

The Church Missionary Society.

In the far southern seas is a group of islands, more or less scattered, clustered round two principal ones. These two are about the size of our England without Scotland; they are 1,000 miles distant from the nearest land, the Continent of Australia. They appear to have been found out by Tasman, the discoverer of Tasmania, and on the same voyage. After-

The far south.

1642.
1770.

New
Zealand.

1773.

wards they were visited by Captain Cook, of Botany Bay fame. Tasman christened the two large islands New Zealand, after his native province in Holland. Cook visited the islands several times, and after a time occasional intercourse took place between them and the English settlements of New South Wales.

Early
isolation.

One thousand miles distant from the nearest land! It sounds a great deal, and in the early days of sailing ships it was a great deal, but now it only means four days in a steam-driven liner. The islands are long and thin in shape, and they lie end on end, almost north and south. Just to the south of the southerly one is a small island, about the size of our own Isle of Wight, and occupying much the same relative position.

Relative
position.

They used to be called, in order, the North, the Middle, and the South Islands, but now the two big ones are called the North and the South Island respectively, and the little one is called Stewart's Island. The northern end of the North Island is just opposite Sydney Cove, at the distance stated, most conveniently situated for intercourse by sea, with a perfectly clear run between. The South Island is, roughly speaking, just opposite the Island of Tasmania.

Out of the
world.

Between the two is a narrow strait, Cook's Strait; and between the South Island and Stewart's Island is also a narrow strait, Foveaux Strait. Nowadays, communication between the islands is easy and frequent. So far removed from all busy human life, from any great centre of population, they seemed in the old days out of the world.

The grain
of
mustard
seed
again.

But the establishment of the little forlorn settlement on the shores of Sydney Cove was going to change all this. That tiny beginning, like the cloud no bigger than a man's hand, had mighty results, and these mighty results are not by any means finished yet; indeed, they are only just beginning to begin. The settlement and growth of Sydney made these far distant islands accessible, and brought them in touch, through itself in the first instance, with the outer world.

And now the motive power of steam, the invention or rather the discovery of the little boy sitting by his mother's fire-side, and applied to water-carriage instead of land-carriage, has brought these remote islands into the busy world. All you had to do was to make two wheels go round. Whether they go round on the land or on the water, the result is the same: motion.

The power of rapid motion.

So here are our islands of New Zealand, the North Island, the South Island, and Stewart's Island; taking their name of Zealand after the flat province of that name in the State of Holland in Old Europe. This was in consequence of their discovery by Abel Jans-Zoon Tasman, the rugged old Dutchman of early days.

The old Zealand and the new.

But how did we, the English, come to get there? For that we must go back to the Church Missionary Society, spoken of above. It was said how these islands had been visited several times by Captain Cook. In consequence of Cook's visits, and in other ways, the islands had become known in a general way.

A process to trace.

And it was known that these islands were inhabited by brown men, natives, called Maoris. These Maoris were fine fellows, very brave and intelligent, with ready understanding and appreciation of things in general. "There is," said an English writer (Mr. Ward), "a natural politeness and grandeur in their deportment, a yearning after poetry, music, and the fine arts, a wit and eloquence that remind us of the early Greeks. They are passionately fond of music."

The Maoris.

The noble savage

Another writer said of them that there is not a single tree, vegetable, or even weed, not a fish or a bird, for which they have not a name. That would mean, of course, a name for the different species, not for the individual specimens. They are also apt at learning, and of agreeable manners; and the old method of salutation of rubbing noses is now giving place to the formal bow—doubtless a more convenient proceeding.

Oceanic culture.

Now there is a fibrous plant called flax, which grows in Northern Europe, and out of its fibres are made cloth, thread,

Phormium tenax.

cord, and all sorts of useful material. This plant grows two feet high; but in New Zealand it grows wild to the height of ten feet: "the precious New Zealand flax, with tall, red, honey-laden blossoms." An attempt was made to introduce into Australia this splendid flax, whose existence had become known, perhaps through Captain Cook, perhaps from shipwrecked sailors, or in other ways.

A lesson
in flax.

Two Maori chiefs were brought off by an English war vessel, to teach the method of cultivating the flax, and of preparing the raw material for use. In the course of the lessons on flax, it came out that these Maoris, though intelligent men in other respects, had no knowledge of Christianity.

The
advance
guard of
two.

The official clergyman to the young Government of New South Wales—chaplains they are called—heard of this state of things—his name was the Reverend Samuel Marsden—so he sent over two missionaries to make known the blessings of Christianity to the Maoris, and he reported the matter to the Church Missionary Society in London.

The main
body.

So other missionaries were sent out, and what they call mission stations were established under the auspices of the Church Missionary Society; and it must be said that these missionaries did, in the main, good work, and they did that good work well. Then members of the other religious sects or bodies, into which England is split up, heard of this. They thought they would like to send preachers out also.

Little
forts.

Other
fingers
in the
pie.

The
pictorial
advertisements of
nature.

In this way a good many missionaries came over; and then the inevitable happened. They saw that the land was good. They could not very well help seeing that, inasmuch as the fact was advertised all over the country by the sublime posters of the greatest of artists, Nature.

What
went ye
out for to
see?

What did they find? They found two long narrow islands, with the resulting incalculable advantage of a disproportionately large coast line. They found this coast line studded with innumerable inlets, great and small, the most perfect gates of entry into the country beyond that heart could wish for. They saw tremendous mountains—tremendous that is for the relatively small size of the country, with glaciers

cradled in their upper reaches. In these glaciers were the constant sources of supply for never-failing rivers. In these rivers were the means of life, health, movement, and fertility.

They found a beautiful climate, neither too hot nor too cold; especially was this the case with the South Island, which lies more remote from the Equator than New South Wales, Victoria, or even Tasmania. They found also beautiful scenery, mountain, plain, and valley, hill and prairie, forest and open glade, with every conceivable variety of soil; marshy land, loam, sand, and rich black earth.

These were some of the physical features. As to the products, they were wonderful even to those men coming from the rich and fertile land of Australia. Ferns 40 feet high; the magnificent flax already mentioned, of which there are seven varieties, and whose fibres are taken from the leaf and not from the stem as in the common flax, and which are twice the strength of the latter; numerous edible shrubs and grasses, including the celebrated porcupine grass; a very large number of delicious fruits and berries not found elsewhere; and timber of far greater value than that of the neighbouring Continent of Australia, so much so that the Australians now import it.

It is not surprising, therefore, that these men should have talked; tidings soon pass from mouth to mouth, even across the sea. And at first single adventurers would come across, traders, prospectors, and others. By-and-bye, as the Maoris became less hostile, owing to the influence and efforts of the missionaries mentioned above, rather numerous bodies arrived and established themselves in the neighbourhood of the mission stations; and then again came others, who settled in different spots. In this way little centres of white population sprang up at various points on both the North and South Islands. They were naturally confined to the coast.

It was said in previous papers that the rainfall in the southern parts of Australia is often scanty. From this want of rain failure of crops frequently results. Vegetable life can-

An estate agent's catalogue.

Remarkable inducements.

To view the estate.

Little nuclei.

The force of opportunity.

not be supported without water, any more than animal life. In one of the periods of scarcity resulting from drought, the people of New South Wales were in danger of want. Consequently supplies had to be sought elsewhere. No doubt Tasmania was laid under contribution, but New Zealand was also visited. Then the amazing fertility of the land was seen, and Sydney traders established agents there for the collection of produce. This again led to further settlement.

A strong
man
armed.

And now comes a great step. A good deal of lawlessness prevailed. There was always a strong Government at Sydney Cove, a Government that enforced authority, and which had been supplied and maintained by England from the very first arrival of Captain Phillip in Port Jackson. A batch of settlers in the North Island applied to the Government at Sydney for protection. The latter promptly sent over a magistrate as British Resident. Without doubt this Resident had a suitable force behind him to support his authority.

1833.

Regu-
larity.

1840.

The
rights of
citizen-
ship.

Thus we get the commencement of a regular government. A few years after this came another great step. A Lieutenant-Governor was despatched from England; and a little later still a treaty was made with the native Maori Chiefs, assembled in conference for the purpose. By this treaty all rights of sovereignty possessed by those chiefs were ceded to Great Britain; the latter guaranteeing to the chiefs free and undisturbed possession of their lands, and imparting to the whole native population the rights of British subjects. This was really putting matters upon a stable footing.

The
Colony of
New
Zealand.
1840.
1841.

Now a third great step. Three months later all three islands, the North, the South, and the little Stewart's Island, were declared to be under the sovereignty of Great Britain. One year later again they were proclaimed a separate colony, independent of New South Wales, under the title of New Zealand. Thus we see again how the original little settlement at Sydney Cove was not only the Mother Colony of all the six Australias, but of the seven Australasian Colonies. So it is that small beginnings lead to great results.

Alma
Mater.

Wellington.

While all this was going on batches of emigrants arrived

from time to time from England. One of these founded the town of Wellington, at the southern extremity of the North Island, on the narrow strait dividing the two islands, called after Captain Cook, Cook's Strait. Wellington is now the capital and seat of government of the entire colony. Its position between the two large islands makes it very central for this purpose. 1839.

Still New Zealand was very sparsely settled, the white population being a mere handful. And now came another great step. It was seen in the case of South Australia how the colonization of that province was primarily due to a company established in London. About this time a somewhat similar company, called the New Zealand Company, had been founded in London to promote the colonization of New Zealand. This company had more to work upon than the South Australian Association, because it found a settled government ready to hand. Consequently it had an easier task. The New Zealand Company. 1839.

Later on three other Companies were formed, and the work of colonization proceeded apace. The settlement of New Zealand was now fairly under way, and rapidly developed. The result to-day is that the white population is 730,000, as against 162,000 and 363,000 respectively in the much larger colonies of Western and South Australia. This far more rapid development of New Zealand is due (the distance from the mother country being about the same) to its greater natural advantages. These lay in its relatively much greater length of coast line, its numerous natural harbours, its many never-failing rivers, and the relatively more extensive area of productive soil. Owing to the narrow conformation of the islands, there is no spot in them at a greater distance from the sea than seventy-five miles. In the New Zealand Islands there is room for a population of twenty millions. A fair wind into port.

Tasmania was described as an Oceanic Scotland; New Zealand may be described as an Oceanic Ireland, the Emerald Isles of the Southern Seas. Indeed, the North Island is A Southern Ireland.

called New Ulster, from the northern Irish province of that name. In the same way the South Island is called New Munster, from the southern Irish province of that name, and the little Stewart's Island, New Leinster. Examining now the general characteristics of these three component parts, let us begin with

THE NORTH ISLAND, OR NEW ULSTER.

Physical
confor-
mation.

The formation of this is most peculiar. The northern part of it for about half its length is exceedingly narrow; and it is twice nearly cut into separate islands by the approach of arms of the sea from opposite sides. So narrow are the two isthmuses resulting from these deep indentations, that each is but a few miles across. It is impossible to follow this without reference to the map; it will well repay the trouble. Going southward you come to the estuary of the Thames, at the mouth of which is the city of Auckland. This was fixed upon as the capital of the whole colony by one of the early Governors, but was afterwards abandoned in favour of Wellington for the reasons mentioned above.

Sweet
gem of
the
ocean.

After leaving Auckland, the country bulges out very considerably, the section above referred to being a mere strip. This North Island is a wonderful place. It is impossible to tell all its marvels; you really must go there and see for yourself. The coast is enchanting, and the interior is enchanting. It is like the old land of the Scandinavian Vikings, and ought certainly to be peopled as that was, with giants and gnomes and trolls, with swan-maidens and werewolves and man-bears, amid enchanted castles in magic forests. Instead of this it was only peopled by Maoris, as described above.

The
Marvels
of Mother
Earth.

There are big mountains and little mountains; mountain chains running half the length of the island, and isolated mountains rising like gigantic molehills from the level plain. There are ordinary mountains partly clad with snow, and partly with forest; and there are volcanic mountains with

great basins or craters at the top, whence the lava has bubbled over and streamed down the sides, like hot jam from an over-boiling saucepan. There are deep and solitary lakes; hot lakes and cold lakes; hot springs and cold springs, and medicated springs; so that you can get a bottle of Nature's medicine without going to the chemist's shop, or a hot bath without lighting a fire; and all out in the open air. One of these lakes, Lake Taupo, is 250 square miles in extent.

The area covered by these wonderful springs is close upon 1,000 square miles. Just think of that. And there are in this Thermal district of this far Southern Island the same freaks of Nature as in the far Northern Island of Iceland. These are the Geysers, a word borrowed from that far northern land. These are not springs merely, they are great spouts of positively boiling water, which shoot up from the ground with great force, and to varying heights. And as if this was not enough there are mud springs, and these muds have healing properties.

Just as
Iceland.

And the beauty of it does not even stop here. These medicated springs are not all of the same description. There are many different varieties and kinds, so that nature provides a cure for nearly every evil. All this is surrounded by mountains clothed with extraordinary luxuriance and beauty.

Nature's
hospital.

Just as the interior, so is the coast. There is every variety of scene and formation. In one bay the early adventurers found a shore of black metallic sand. Above high water mark they made a few rough gardens in it, which they planted. From one patch of this wonderful ground they reaped 60 bushels of wheat to the acre, the average yield in Europe being 12 bushels per acre. But the properties of this marvellous sand went further; after the wheat, they got gold, in large quantities, not in small doses; and after the gold they got iron; and then with each successive storm that washed up a fresh deposit of sand, they got more gold and more iron. Wouldn't you like to be there with your

A magic
sand.

wooden spade and tin bucket? Now we must not linger more in this paradise, but must cross Cook's Strait to that other fairy land,

THE SOUTH ISLAND, OR NEW MUNSTER,

The twin
sister.

formerly called the Middle Island. This is longer and much thinner than the North Island. It contains a ridge of mountains which runs the entire length of the island from the extreme north-east to south-west, exactly as the Appenines run down the leg of Italy, or as the Dovrefeldt mountains run down the Scandinavian Peninsula. These are called the Southern Alps. They are much higher than the Appenines, their peaks being for the most part covered with perpetual snow. East and west of this central ridge radiate spurs towards the respective coast lines. At the extremities of these spurs lies a belt of splendidly rich and level plains, perfectly adapted both for pasturage and agriculture.

Water,
water
every-
where

As in the case of the Great Dividing Range of the Australian Continent, there is not room between the central ridge and the coast on either side for the development of any great river; but the snows of these mountains furnish an inexhaustible supply of water for numerous streams and short rivers, which convey life and fertility to the country beneath. One of these, the Clutha, which runs into the sea at the south just opposite Stewart's Island, is of some magnitude, being 154 miles in length; yet it is only navigable for boats or small steamers for about 30 miles from its mouth. There are a few rivers of minor importance; these, by improvements, have been made partially navigable.

Moun-
tains,
lakes,
and
fiords.

So mountainous is this South Island, or New Munster, that four-fifths of it is occupied by mountain land. Mount Cook, the highest peak, is 12,000 feet high, as against the 15,000 feet of Mont Blanc, the greatest mountain of Europe. There are also numerous lakes, two or three of which each cover some hundreds of square miles. The eastern coast is

studded with many excellent harbours. The south-western coast has some magnificent deep gulfs or fiords such as occur in Norway, surrounded by precipitous mountains, but their depth is so great that it is impossible to find anchorage in them; hence they are of little use as harbours.

It is impossible to conclude an account of New Munster without a reference to the curious extinct bird, the Moa; a kind of gigantic wingless ostrich. It is to the previous existence of this great bird that the South Island owes its numerous treeless plains. In the Natural History Museum at South Kensington, in London, there is a skeleton of this huge bird, together with one of its eggs; this egg is about the size of a small Rugby football—a Rugby football is oval. On a shelf by the side is a little tray of smooth pebbles about the size of walnuts. Go and look at it for yourself; it is worth a visit and there is nothing to pay; the Museum being the property of the English nation—that is, of all of us.

The skeleton is that of a bird ten feet high, with a neck the length of a small giraffe. Look at the great legs, as thick as your wrist, and the great feet, twice the size of the ostrich's in the next case. Now this Moa used to run away with the Maori children, carry them off and eat them. So the Maoris, to get rid of the pest, systematically burnt the forests in the flat country which harboured them. The birds were all destroyed and thus became extinct; but the forests were destroyed too; thus the land became cleared, and grasses sprang up and took the place of the trees.

So much was this the case, that the settlers in ploughing often came across great charred trunks and branches, which having fallen, had become silted over with earth. And in certain districts, until recently, when in want of fire-wood, they dragged for it through the ground with a great iron hook, which fished up the buried logs. But what about the little tray of smooth pebbles at the London Museum? These are found dotted in little heaps about the plains. Just as our hens eat grit and coarse sand to assist their digestion, so did the Moa swallow rough pebbles for a similar purpose.

The Moa

A bird
giraffePlough-
ing for
fuel.

Grit.

In process of time these pebbles became smooth by internal friction, and so, useless for the purpose required. The Moa then ejected them, and replaced them by a fresh lot of rough ones. These are the little heaps from which the specimens in the tray were gathered.

STEWART'S ISLAND, OR NEW LEINSTER.

The little brother. This is only a small island, about 40 miles across. It is very little settled, and is chiefly used by men employed in the seal and whale fisheries, on account of its excellent harbours, and its proximity to the sealing grounds.

Distant relations. There are many detached islands all round the coasts of New Zealand, and three more distant outlying groups which are considered to belong to this colony. They are the Chatham Islands, the Kermadecs, and the Auckland Islands. At one of the latter the New Zealand Government maintains a depot of provisions and clothing for shipwrecked mariners—a most humane proceeding.

Fauna. It is a curious thing that the New Zealand Islands contained no native animals, and no fish in the rivers except eels. Captain Cook in the course of his numerous visits left a few pigs, a few dogs, and a few goats. The goats were soon hunted down and eaten by the Maoris, the dogs and the pigs thrived well; the latter especially multiplied exceedingly, and gave rise to a numerous stock of wild boars, the descendants of which are there to the present day.

internal
The Moa
of rough
specimens

THE CAPE GROUP.

AFRICA.

is very
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GENERAL REMARKS.

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THE great Continent of Africa is 5,000 miles in length and 4,800 in breadth in its widest part. The whole of it is equatorial, inasmuch as the Equator passes nearly through the centre. Consequently it is known as the Hot Continent, though it shares this equatorial attribute with South America. In shape it is something like an irregular pear, with the stalk cut off. The crown of the pear abuts on the Mediterranean, where are the French possessions of Algeria and Tunis, and the tail of the pear is the English Colony of the Cape.

Shaped
like a
pear.

The configuration of this great continent is extremely compact. It is scarcely indented at all, much less so even than Australia; hence there are few or no facilities for penetrating into the interior. There are some great rivers, but they are not very numerous; and most of those that there are have some disqualification. Moreover, many of the greatest are in the torrid zone, with their sea-issues in that zone; and this detracts from their value, for white men at least. So scarce are Nature's water-ways, that in Northern Africa there are four million square miles from which not a single river finds its way to the sea.

Too
compact

This is the desert of the Great Sahara, lying immediately to the south of the French possessions. It is of this that the Arabs say "the soil is like fire, and the wind like a flame." In the south, in the semi-independent British Protectorate of

Great
Deserts.

Bechuanaland (not to be confused with its immediate neighbour British Bechuanaland), is another great desert called the Kalahari, but this is only one-fourth the size of the Great Sahara. The greatest heat is not found in the equatorial districts of the interior, because it is there tempered by the elevation of the surface; and by the shade of gigantic and dense forests.

The
Sectional
Eleva-
tion.

The surface conformation of Africa is somewhat like a shallow dish turned upside down, or a rather flat pear, cut in half lengthways. Place one half cut-side downwards on the table, and you have a miniature Africa. The general trend of the whole continent is that of a series of sloping terraces, rising in successive steps from the shores to a central plateau, or series of plateaus. The surface of these plateaus is, of course, very diversified and full of inequalities, rising into elevated peaks and ranges here, and dipping into depressions forming great lakes there; but the main outline is as said above.

The
coastal
fringe.

Almost the entire length of the coast line—the southern half at least—is fringed by successive ranges of mountains, much the same as in Australia. This fringe lines almost the whole of the western, southern, and eastern shores, at varying distances from the sea, but generally in close proximity. It is from this fringe that the plateaus, or table-lands, rise towards the interior.

The
White
Man's
Grave

The general average elevation of this table-land is about 4,000 feet. The lowest land, therefore, is almost universally along the shores; there is little cliff-lined coast. Now this is a very important consideration, as bearing upon the settlement of Africa by white men, because a low coast in the tropical zone invariably means a fever-stricken coast-belt, as far as white men are concerned. These fevers are no child's play. So much is this the case that the west coast of Central Africa has long been known as the white man's grave. This greatly militates against the existence, present or future, of cities at these river mouths—their otherwise natural location.

A general
scramble.

Only a few years ago there was a general scramble of the

European Powers for African territory. Why this took place is a little difficult to explain. They thought, and they still think, that they would find among the black races an outlet for their manufactures. It was a curious mania, and perhaps the future will justify it. The best part of Africa for the white man, is that farthest removed from the Equator, viz., the crown of the pear, and the tail. The crown was taken up by France with her Colonies of Algeria and Tunis, and the tail by England with her Colony of the Cape of Good Hope. Portugal had, from very old days, a huge strip of land on the south-east coast.

1886 to
1896.

For a wonder these Powers did not go to war over it. They parcelled out enormous tracts of the Dark Continent among themselves. Germany got a good share, little Belgium got an inconveniently large slice, Italy was given some worthless territory to make her happy, which it did not altogether do; France and England each got another big helping. They changed about among themselves afterwards, to try and bring their new possessions into line with the old.

Dividing
the spoil.

In this way England acquired new territory (or had the previous acquisitions thereof confirmed to her) adjacent to her old settlements in the south and elsewhere. It is almost too early to say whether these new territories will be of any great use to her. The main point was doubtless the feeling that if she did not take them someone else would; and this would perhaps interfere with her future expansion in these regions, or bring her into ultimate conflict with a European neighbour. Let us see now how England first got a footing in South Africa, and what it may mean in the future.

An eye to
the
future

THE CAPE GROUP.

INTRODUCTORY.

The
reward of
good
feeling.

It was shown in *The Making of Europe*, in the chapter on Portugal, how the Portuguese were the first people of the European countries to hear of a route round the south of Africa to the rich Asiatic shores beyond; and further, how they probably owed this knowledge or idea to friendly intercourse with their former enemies, the Moors.

The
whet-
stone of
rivalry.

In the early days of Europe, trade—that is to say distant, as opposed to local trade—was centered chiefly in a few maritime cities of the Mediterranean, and there was keen rivalry between them. The Portuguese would naturally keep their ears open, so as not to be left behind in this rivalry.

Geo-
graphical
advan-
tages.

The position of Portugal, and of the Portuguese seaports, was not merely convenient for intercourse with the Atlantic coast of North-Western Africa. It was pre-eminently convenient; take the map and see for yourself. You will see that when they got outside their own gates they had only to turn to the left and keep straight on, and they were at the Atlantic shores of Morocco directly.

A natural
direction.

This was much more natural than going round through the Straits of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean. Moreover, we may be sure the Mediterranean trade of those days was already pretty well monopolised by Marseilles, Genoa, and Venice, and naturally so. The Biscayan coast was also out of the way, in a less degree. The natural trade expansion of Portugal, in the early days, lay to the south.

The seed
and its
crop.

So the Portuguese crept down that West African coast, and no doubt their sailors learnt many strange things. Hence arose those brilliant Portuguese mariners who sowed the seed which produced the crop of trading posts, possessions, and settlements. This crop was subsequently reaped in greater abundance by the clever Dutch; they in their turn were ousted later on by the English. Of course, if the

Portuguese had not made the discoveries, others would have, some time or other; but then we are seeing how it did happen, not how it did not happen.

It was the Portuguese navigator, Bartholomew Diaz, who first discovered and sailed round the Cape of Good Hope—"the Lion of the Sea, the Head of Africa." Cabo Tormentoso he called it, or the Stormy Cape; but the Portuguese King of that time altered its name to the pleasanter one of Cabo de Buena Esperanza, or the Cape of Good Hope. This was because its discovery as the southernmost point of Africa, where you turn round the corner eastwards, afforded good hope of a safe passage to the rich Indian coasts beyond.

It was said in the chapter on Holland, also in *The Making of Europe*, how the Spaniards, during their occupation of the Portuguese seaport of Lisbon, made prisoners of the sailors of some Dutch ships in harbour there. This was grand work for the Spaniards, because they were at variance with the Dutch too.

Among these prisoners, it will be remembered, was a man named Houtman. Houtman talked to the Portuguese sailors during his captivity. From them he learnt much concerning the southern coast of the great Continent of Africa, on the other side of the Equator, and the marvels of the gorgeous East beyond.

The Portuguese would naturally be friendly to the captive Dutchman. There was a community of feeling between them, because both were suffering at the hands of the same enemy, the Spaniards; and there was the brotherhood of a common interest, the sea and its marvels; and then sailors love to spin their yarns. The Portuguese seamen would be delighted to recount their adventures, and to tell Houtman of the Eastern Seas, and of the wonderful lands thereof. They little realised what a clever man they were talking to—one of a clever nation—or they would have thought twice.

It cannot be too often said what a gifted and brave race the Dutch are, nor how high they stand in the comity of nations. Every inch of their country was won by their own dogged

The
stormy
Cape.
1487.

Two
birds
with one
stone.

Sailor's
yarns.

The
brother-
hood of
seafaring
life.

A gifted
race.

tenacity from two cruel enemies—the sea and the Spaniards. But what a good thing there are so few of them. Fancy a Dutch nation as big as Russia. Where would all the rest of us be?

Houtman did no wrong. The Portuguese talked, and he listened. We may be sure he pondered in his mind all he learnt.

The
reward of
good
sense.

Then he returned to his native Holland. Columbus pondered over his idea of the land beyond the Western Seas for seven long years. He was only a poor sailor; he could not fit out an expedition for himself, and no one would listen to him. Houtman was only a poor sailor too, but he soon became a rich one. The practical, hard-headed Dutch, listened to him quickly enough when he told them his wonderful story of the lands of the Indian Seas; and the result was the establishment of that great trading concern, the Dutch East India Company.

1602

A remote
result.

But what has all this to do with Cape Colony? Cape Colony is an English Colony. That is true, but in the first instance it was a Dutch Colony; and that a colony was planted there was due to the existence of the Dutch East India Company just spoken of. It came about in this way.

The need
of a half-
way
house.

The distance from little Holland to the coasts of India and the Indian Archipelago was very great. There were no steamships then, only slow-going sailing vessels. It was very necessary to have a half-way house. A half-way house was, in the old days of coaching, a house of refreshment equi-distant between the two points of a long stage—too long for the horses to go without a feed of corn and a draught of water.

Var.
Riebeck.

A clever Dutch ship's doctor, Van Riebeck, conceived the idea of a half-way house for the ships to and from Holland and the far East. The next thing was where to pitch this house of call. It must be somewhere along the southern coast of Africa; there was nowhere else. And then came the question of what particular point along this coast. This was not quite so easy to determine. It must be the spot

where there was the best and most suitable harbourage, with suitable surroundings as to water, fertility of soil, etc.

There was a bay called Saldanha Bay, evidently an old Portuguese name, a little to the north of the Cape of Good Hope. This forms the most perfect harbourage; but there was little fresh water there, and the soil around is poor and arid. At the Cape itself are two bays, one on the west side called Table Bay, the other on the east side called False Bay. The former was selected, no doubt for some good reason, for those old Dutchmen never did anything without a reason, though perhaps either would have done. Here Van Riebeck planted his little settlement, which those acting under his orders immediately fortified. Thus we get the nucleus of

And his
half-way
house.

1630

THE COLONY OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

This was the first real footing obtained by white men in the land of South Africa. The little station of Van Riebeck is to-day the City of Cape Town, the capital of the British settlements in South Africa. And just as New South Wales is the mother colony of all the Australias, so is Cape Colony the parent of the British possessions in this part of the world. But it was not our footing at all in the first instance; it was the footing of those clever Dutchmen; and that is why in this English possession, only a few months ago, a statue was erected to Van Riebeck in the market place of Cape Town.

The
Sydney
Cove of
South
Africa.

Now, having got this white settlement in the land of the black Africans, let us see how it grew and spread, and how it fell into English hands and then went on spreading; and we shall have to see what it is like and of what it is capable.

A rest by
the way.

CAPE COLONY.

THE small Dutch community quickly began to increase. About this time the religious persecutions in France broke out, and a body of French Protestants, or Huguenot refugees, came over and joined the young settlement. It will be remembered that the Dutch were Protestants too, that is why they had been so cruelly persecuted by the wretched

The
Dutch
grain of
mustard
seed.

Philip and his Spaniards in the old days, before the English destroyed the Spanish Armada. So these French Huguenots received a hearty welcome; and the Dutch East India Company made it a policy to foster and protect the settlement.

Growth.

Now all this country was fairly peopled by races of black men, Hottentots, and Quaequae, or Kaffirs. The Dutch settlers had fire-arms, or probably they would not have lasted long; the natives had not. As the whites increased in number, and spread out towards the interior, the blacks receded. Meanwhile colonization continued from the mother country. The original station founded by Van Riebeck was a most convenient point of arrival. The old settlers helped the new ones, showed them the way about, and what to do.

Aggressiveness.

Soon the Dutch began to feel strong; then they became aggressive towards the natives. From their own experience in the mother country at the hands of the Spaniards, they ought to have known better. Perhaps they could not help themselves. The English have always done the same. The consequences of this were seen later on; it produced lasting hostility of the natives towards the whites. Among its subsequent results it brought nine successive Kaffir wars upon the English.

1819 to
1877

The tidal
wave.

The Dutch settlers advanced against the natives. Whether this was done by order of the Chief Government at Amsterdam, or the Local Government at Table Bay, is not quite clear. Commandoes or military parties were sent out; the natives were either reduced to servitude or killed off; their flocks and herds and their lands were seized. The outlying native tribes retired further and further inland, leaving the country vacant. This went on for nearly 150 years.

Marvel-
lous dis-
interest-
edness.

Meanwhile the Cape was being used as a house of call not only by the Dutch, but by the ships of all nations trading with the East. When, after their great Revolution, the French conquered and annexed Holland, an English fleet was sent "to protect the Cape in the interests of the Dutch and others." It was subsequently restored to the Dutch; but

1795

when later on Holland was dragged into one of the incessant wars between England and France, as the ally of France, an expedition was sent out by the English to seize the Cape.

1802.

During that temporary occupation "in the interests of the Dutch and other nations" (a most charitable action), the English saw what a nice place the Cape was; and they probably realised what a good half-way house it would make not only to their great Empire of British India, which was now assuming very important dimensions, but to Australia beyond. The Dutch Colonists made a strenuous resistance, but their resistance could be of no ultimate avail, because the English had command of the sea. The British occupied Cape Town, and the whole colony surrendered. It was finally ceded to Great Britain at the downfall of Napoleon. Thus we get the Cape into British hands.

1806

A change of proprietorship.

1806

1814

This coincided with the cessation of European wars. Now English immigration set in rapidly, and the development of the country received a great impetus. The population of Cape Town is to-day 85,000; and the European population of the whole colony, English and Dutch, is close upon 400,000. The total area of Cape Colony proper is about double that of Great Britain and Ireland.

A fortunate coincidence.

1820

The country is divided for administrative purposes into nine provinces, comprising seventy districts. The nine provinces are (1) The Western, (2) The North-Western, (3) South-Western, (4) The Midland, (5) The South-Eastern, (6) The North-Eastern, (7) The Eastern, (8) Griqualand West, (9) Trans-Kei and Griqualand East. The chief towns are Port Elizabeth in Algoa Bay, the principal port after Cape Town; Grahamstown, in the same important district; and Kimberley, right up on the frontier of the Orange Free State, in Griqualand West, on the north side of the Orange River. This town owes its existence to the discovery of very large diamond fields in the immediate vicinity.

Dry, but necessary

The original boundaries of the colony were fixed by proclamation of one of the Governors; but they have shifted about since with the natural expansion of the young and

Movable hurdles.

growing community, and they may shift more yet. The old boundary to the north was the Orange River, and it is still the boundary for much of the distance, but this limit was broken in time. The first instance was the incorporation of Griqualand West, north of the Orange River, into Cape Colony. It will be seen this was not the only instance, and just as the frontier shifted to the north, so also did it shift to the east.

Physical
features

The territory consists in the main of three successive mountain ranges, rising in terraces and running parallel to each other and to the outline of the coast. The outward or coast range is called the Lange Kloof, or Long Pass, at a distance of from 20 to 60 miles from the sea. The belt between this and the sea consists of deep and fertile soil with a beautiful variety of vegetation. The second range is the Zwarte Berg or Black Mountain, higher and more rugged than the first. The terrace between the two contains well-watered and fertile lands, with large tracts of arid desert called Karroo. Beyond the Zwarte Berg is the Nieuveltdt Berg or Snowy Mountains, the highest range in South Africa, generally covered with snow.

The
Great
Karoo.

These mountain ranges are called by different names in different sections, but the main sections are named as above. North of the snowy range is much veldt or level plain and Karroo country, little inhabited even by native tribes. It is called the Great Karroo, a vast plain with little vegetation stretching for 100 miles up to the great Orange River. From and between these mountain ranges run numerous rivers and watercourses in various directions. The rugged gorges through which the streams run are called kloofs.

A natural
kaleido-
scope

The Karroo or Steppe was spoken of as a desert land, but it is not always so. It is of great value to the sheep farmer. There is no such thing as turf as we know it; the vegetation grows in tufts. That is said to be characteristic of all South Africa. Grasses never grow continuously as with us, but in a series of isolated plants. The Karroo is much more valuable than the interior plains of the Australian Continent,

because it gets so much more rainfall. It is a brown desert ; then come the rains, and the soil becomes covered with a green clothing ; this in its turn is completely hidden by the glowing colours of myriads of flowers ; these fade and fall, but succulent plants remain, and furnish at once both food and drink for animal life.

The coast line is homogeneous. There are no deep gulfs like Spencer Gulf or St. Vincent's Gulf in South Australia, no fiords as in New Zealand. There is a very near approach to a Port Phillip in Saldanha Bay, which affords the most perfect harbourage in all South Africa, but there is no fresh water there. If ever science remedies this defect, Saldanha Bay will become a great seaport, although it is somewhat shut in by mountains—but then so is the great Mediterranean seaport of Genoa shut in by mountains. The former could be tunnelled just as the latter are.

There are several other bays which, with a little artificial aid to Nature, furnish fair harbourage. Here seaports have sprung up, but there are great stretches of coast without any harbourage at all. Thus the ports of entry are barely sufficient for the requirements of the country ; but by the extension of railways these might be made of efficient service to districts at present devoid of sea-access. The rivers are of less utility than a glance at the map would indicate ; great and small, there is an incredible number of them. Many are raging torrents in the rainy season, which in the dry season become simply beds of snag and rock.

If only these rivers were navigable and amenable to management, and if there were more harbours, this Cape Colony would become such a wonderful place as never was seen. Take the map and study it ; look at all that great line of coast, then look at all those mountain ranges rising in parallel lines all round, some throwing out spurs at right angles, and so varying the direction of rivers and their valleys ; next look at all those rivers running, some west, some east, and some south. One authority gives 122 rivers between Port Natal and the St. John River, a distance of

An un-
built
South
African
Genoa.

A want of
doors and
gates.

A land of
rivers.

about 150 miles ; nearly one river mouth to a mile of coast. Above all, look at the Orange River.

The
Orange or
Gariep
River.

This great watercourse runs for 1,200 miles from east to west, and empties into the Atlantic Ocean. About halfway down its course it is fed by another great river longer than itself, the Vaal. Although the latter is not technically in British territory, it would not be the less valuable as a waterway, were it navigable ; but no river system is of much value if it has not an estuary practicable for large vessels, even if its internal waters are navigable. Had the Orange River a practicable mouth and a navigable channel, nothing could prevent the establishment of a great city at its mouth. It would grow up spontaneously, like a seed that is sown, and the Orange River would be the St. Lawrence of South Africa.

No
thorough-
fare.

But its mouth is barred with hopeless sand banks, which all the waters of the rainy season are unable to wash away. Inside it is navigable for short distances, but numerous reefs and snags of rock occur which, crossing the river, form fearful rapids. Its banks are described as dismal and savage, in parts flowing between deep and perpendicular cliffs, so that one may die of thirst within sight of its waters through sheer inability to reach them.

Where
the good
niggers
go.

Were it not for these disqualifications, neutralizing to a certain extent some of the Cape's many advantages, this otherwise favoured land would be perfect ; a place to send the good people to, just as those who were supposed to be not good were sent to Sydney Cove. If all these rivers, great and small, were navigable, if the coast were studded with natural harbours like St. John, New Brunswick, or Halifax, Nova Scotia, and the great Karroo were susceptible of irrigation—what a story there would be to tell.

The
power
of water.

With its excellent climate, the rich soil of the lower terraces, and its superb and abundant vegetation, the Cape would long ago have been the home of countless millions. Remember it is only half the distance from Europe that Australia is. No country in the world is more splendidly

watered—hardly excepting Canada—but the magnificent Canadian waterways give freedom of movement to a whole nation—in summer by water, in winter by ice. On the other hand the Cape rivers, owing to the prevalence of only two seasons, the wet and the dry, are not all perennial.

In the dry season there is too little of them, in the wet season too much. Then owing to those steep natural terraces, instead of watering the country they drain it, and carry the floods rapidly off to the sea, leaving the empty beds; it is very simple. If they could make water run uphill, what a country the great Karroo would be! The fertile plains of Hungary would be a mere goose-common in comparison.

Too little
and too
much.

A day-
dream.

Many of the rivers are permanent, however, of which some, like the Great Fish River, are navigable for short distances; but often their mouths are half closed by bars of sand or rock. The table land of the interior varies from 1,000 to 4,000 feet elevation, the average being 3,000 feet. Climb a hill 1,000 feet high—there are not many such in England—then multiply your climb mentally by three, and you will see what this means; and remember that the higher you go, up to a certain point, the more healthy it is.

An
elevated
country.

These table lands are dotted about with little rocky hillocks called kopjes; there are sure to be snakes in those kopjes; and there are shallow pools where surface water collects; these are called vleis. Including the Karroos, nearly two-thirds of old Cape Colony are taken up by vast arid plains, with shallow beds of richest soil interspersed.

The
table-
lands.

The early history of Cape Town and that of Cape Colony are one. The pioneer Canadians had the Red Indians to contend with, and bears and wolves too. The Australians had, in some of the colonies, the blacks to contend with, and poison plants, and want of water in nearly all. The New Zealanders had the Maoris, and quite enough too, for the Maoris were most formidable antagonists when they choose to be hostile.

"The
heroic
work of
coloni-
zation."

And what did the early Cape Colonists find as they spread

Home
surround-
ings.

out and proceeded inland? In some places undulating seas of verdure as far as eye could reach, conveying the idea of peace and tranquility. Those seas of verdure concealed venomous reptiles, ferocious beasts, and more dangerous still, the crafty, treacherous natives. Elsewhere would be secluded ravines with noble trees and limpid brooks, but these were peopled by jabbering apes uttering unearthly yells, huge baboons, panthers, and tiger-cats, and beyond in the open, the brown lion and the black lion, the elephant and the rhinoceros.

Butter-
cups and
daisies.

As to the vegetable world, it was and is as varied as the animal. Most of the European garden flowers came originally from the Cape, in fact they were South African wild flowers; their daisies and buttercups are scarlet geraniums and lilies. Holland has long been the home of the trade in bulbous plants, tulips, hyacinths, lilies, and such like. Where did they get them originally? They transplanted them from the Cape to the sandy soil of the Dutch river mouths, where they greatly flourished. Then there are flax, and hemp, and tobacco, and almost every species of fruit imaginable.

The
purple
grape

The early Dutch settlers introduced the culture of the vine. When the French Huguenots came over, they greatly improved this culture. Fresh from sunny France they understood the work well, and their descendants keep it up to this day. The climate of the Cape is said to excel that of any other country for vine culture. The consequence is there are now nearly 100 million vine plants in the colony, and the output of wine, with its bye-products, vinegar and brandy, is on a very large scale. Other staple products are wool and ostrich feathers. The production of the last-named has assumed the proportions of an industry, the ostriches being regularly reared in farms for their feathers, as sheep are for their wool.

Wool and
ostrich
feathers.

THE EXPANSION OF CAPE COLONY.

Here it is fitting to leave the nucleus at Cape Town with its surroundings on one side for a time. The general conditions of colonial existence in South Africa were and are less simple than in Australia. In Australia there is only one English-speaking white race, and the native races there were only scattered and numerically weak. These people were troublesome as individuals to the white settlers in the early days; but there was little concerted action and little cohesion among them.

A digression.

In South Africa it was very different. There were some very powerful native races, or rather small nations. These native nations—as distinct, though not as large as the nations of Europe—were exceedingly well organised in their simple way, and thoroughly united. The different nations, fortunately for the white man, were not united, but each was united in itself. These native nations were simply great collections of warriors, admirably disciplined, and yielding implicit obedience, both in the field and in time of peace, to the Central Authority, generally a King.

Complex conditions.

Native nations.

And then instead of the one English-speaking race of white colonists, there were the old Dutch settlers too, and those Dutch settlers were there first. Naturally they had their own views, their own ideas, and their own interests. There were the two white peoples, the Dutch and the English, living side by side; but unfortunately their views, ideas, and interests did not always harmonize. People do not always agree among themselves. It is little wonder, then, that the English and their Dutch neighbours often held conflicting opinions.

Two sets of white men.

Divergent interests.

The early expansion of Cape Colony from the nucleus of Cape Town took place somewhat as follows. The Dutch Colonists became very discontented; having, or considering they had, numerous grounds for complaint, many of them banded together and resolved to leave the colony *en masse*.

The beginning of expansion.

One of their grievances was want of protection by the English Governor against the inroads of the natives, who seized or destroyed their cattle. It seems strange that they should seek to remedy this evil by going more into the midst of savage tribes; but their object was to manage for themselves, without the restraint imposed by the British Government at the Cape.

Nomadic
instincts.

Again, although the interior districts bordering the Cape were thinly populated, the population pressed hard upon the local means of subsistence—for a great proportion of the land is barren from want of water—thus a large tract could only support a few families. Moreover the country was suitable for pasture rather than for cultivation, so that the colonists required a wide range for the feeding of their flocks and herds. For some time many colonists, singly, or in small parties, had wandered eastwards in search of pasture and water for their cattle; in this way the eastern province of the Cape became sparsely settled.

Ten-
drons.

As centres were formed, they became local nuclei, and fell gradually into line with one another, adapting themselves by a natural process to the advantages and necessities of their new surroundings. Then, speaking figuratively, they would get down from the garden at the back to the front door at the sea, if there was a front door, for there are not many natural ports along that coast; and still speaking figurately, visitors would come to that front door to gain admission. Somewhat in this way arose the district of Port Elizabeth, in Algoa Bay.

Botanical
coloni-
zers.

It is familiar to all how strawberry plants throw out tendrils; these run for some distance from the parent stem, then they take root, and still run on from that root and take root again. Each tendril will do this in suitable soil; then, if the connection between the little root centres is cut, each of these become a new plant, which in time repeats the same process. Each strawberry plant will throw out half-a-dozen of these tendrils; each tendril must be staked down or else it does not form roots.

There are many other instances—the ivy, the convolvulus, the nettle, all do this more or less, either above ground or below. Some form continuous roots like the ivy, and then there is no need for a disconnection; some form intermittent roots like the strawberry, which, as said before, become fresh centres of separate existence. It is in a somewhat similar way to the above that the expansion of colonies takes place; sometimes one course is followed, sometimes another. It is a natural process dictated by necessity or expediency.

Further
illustrations.

This brings us to the first sub-colony, namely,

NATAL.

Now distances in South Africa are very great, just as they are in Australia and in the Dominion of Canada. It was said in the general notice on the Continent of Africa that it is a compact country, rather devoid of gulfs and bays. There are great stretches of the coast with no natural harbours, consequently the few that do exist are rather remarkable. "When found make a note of," as Captain Cuttle said. This is the case with the natural African harbours.

Prominent
because
scarce.

Away round on the east coast of South Africa, facing straight over to Western Australia is a rather good natural harbour; it is a circular basin, ten miles across, with a narrow mouth. This narrow mouth, unfortunately, is rather blocked by a sand bar, otherwise the harbour would be nearly perfect; two streams run into it, so that there is plenty of fresh water, and there are more streams in the immediate neighbourhood. This bay was first discovered, just 400 years ago, by the old Portuguese mariner, Vasco de Gama. It was on the 25th December—Christmas Day—1497, that he sighted the headland at the entrance to this bay, so he called the surrounding country Terra Natalia, or the Natal Land, in honour of the day, and that is how it gets its name of Natal.

Terra
Natalia.

1497.

The Dutch once formed a settlement here, but it was abandoned. Soon after the English occupation of Cape

Chaka.
1721.

1812. Colony, Chaka, King of the native Zulu nation, overran into this country, destroying the other natives, and seized it. Then came Mr. Thompson, an English merchant of Cape Town, with two English Naval officers in a little trading vessel. They landed here to have a look round. Next year one of the officers, Lieutenant Farewell, came again. He found out how to manage Chaka, for he obtained a grant of land from him round the bay; here he hoisted the British flag. This was the tiny start of the present Colony of Natal.
- A passing call.
1823. A few English settlers seemed to have squatted there, probably introduced by Lieutenant Farewell. It is a splendid country, but they could not have had a very pleasant time. They were what the Americans call "a little too previous."
- Forerunners. Shortly after this Chaka was murdered by his brother Dingaan, who took his place. The next step is obscure; either Dingaan communicated with the Cape Authorities, or vice-versa. At any rate, white settlers were introduced with the tacit permission of Dingaan, and the township of Durban, on Port Natal, was founded.
1835. Some of the wandering Dutch farmers had penetrated as far as Port Natal. They sent back such good accounts of the district, that others were induced to follow—to trek, as they called it, which is their expression for shifting from one place to another. The Americans say "to make tracks." Now came a great departure. Influenced by a variety of motives, the chief of which was discontent with the English rule at the Cape, the desire to trek took a strong hold on the Dutch in Cape Colony. A large party of them spread themselves along the banks of the Vaal, a tributary of the Orange River, which formed the northern boundary of Cape Colony. About this time the migrating Dutch farmers began to be called Boers, which is the Dutch word for farmers.
- The first trek.
1836. Fortunately for them the Boers did not all go in one party, under one chief, at one time. There were several divisions of them under different leaders, Louis Triechard, Pieter Retief, Pieter Maritz, Potgieter, Andreas Pretorius, and others. These old Boers knew their work well; they travelled with
- Boers.
By instalments.
1835 to 1837.

ox-waggons. At every nightfall these ox-waggons were formed into a hollow square, constituting a little fort, for protection against attacks by the natives; women, children, and cattle in the middle, and the tired men, on guard by reliefs, on the outer waggons. The different bodies at the different times kept in some sort of touch each with the other, as much as possible, for support.

Arrived at the Vaal they were suddenly and savagely attacked by Mosilikatze, King of the Matabele, a native race, and suffered terrible losses. They were not to be caught twice, however, and at a subsequent attack the natives were fearfully cut up; but in consequence of this state of unrest, the Boers trekked again, this time south-eastwards, under the guidance of their chief, Pieter Retief, and made their way across the Drakenberg mountains to Port Natal; here they were ultimately followed by other parties from the Cape. They succeeded, with the aid of an English missionary, in getting from Dingaan, a cession of, roughly, the whole territory of Natal.

Immediately after this, Retief and his followers were treacherously attacked by Dingaan, who attempted to extirpate the Boers throughout the length and breadth of the land. These attacks were repeated again and again, and one division of Boers was nearly annihilated, men, women, and children, at the fatal Umkongloof, called by the Boers Aceldama, or the Field of Blood.

Then up came Andreas Pretorius, from Graaff Reinet, with a body of Boers to the rescue. How he heard of it all that long distance off, and how he made his way in time to save his countrymen from utter extermination, is a marvel, but he did. The stubborn remnants of the first band rallied round Pretorius and his newcomers, just as their ancestors had rallied round William the Silent against the Spanish. Then they in their turn attacked Dingaan and his blacks, just as the Gueux-Marins in Old Holland attacked Alva and his Spaniards.

They drove Dingaan and his beaten Zulus northward into

Laagers.

Mosilikatze.

The second trek.

Treachery. 1838.

Aceldama.

Andreas Pretorius.

A precedent from Europe. 1838.

Exit Dingaan 1840.

The town
of Pieter
Maritz
1842.

The Re-
public of
Natalia.

Rival
claim-
ants.

1843.
The third
trek.

In two
divisions.

The
Orange
Free
State.

1848.
The
"Trans-
vaal."

The
colony
of
Natal.
1856.

Swaziland, where he was soon after killed by his own people. His successor, Panda, was friendly to the Boers. The Boers now founded Pietermaritzburg, called after Pieter Maritz, one of their leaders, with a view to make it their capital; and they constituted themselves the Republic of Natal, or of Natalia.

Now came the English. "It is our country," they said, "for we were there first." "It is our country," said the Boers, "for Dingaan ceded it to us." "A pretty cession," said the English, "seeing he tried to kill you all." "At any rate," said the Boers, "we drove out Dingaan, and made the country habitable." "But we," said the English, "got our ground from Chaka, who was before Dingaan's time, Dingaan was only a usurper; besides, there is no good having two rulers in South Africa, it must be all English or all Dutch; if you stay here you must be under our rule." There was a short conflict; the end was, some of the Boers stayed, but the majority trekked again.

These departing Boers trekked in two bodies. They went across the Drakenberg mountains, the dividing range which separates the broken country of Natal from the undulating table-land of the interior to the west. The southern division settled just on the other side of these mountains, between them and the Vaal river on the north; this is now known as the Orange Free State. The northern division went further, and crossed the Vaal river once more into the former land of the defeated Mosilikatze, whence they had originally come into Dingaan's Natalia. As it was across the Vaal river they called the new country the land of the "Trans-Vaal," or the country beyond the Vaal, and there they have been ever since.

Then Natal was annexed to the Cape. After that it was constituted a separate colony under its present title. Natal is a good colony and a valuable colony, and like the Cape, a place of settlement for white men; this is because it is far enough removed from the equatorial districts to be healthy and for the climate to be good. Above all, the coast is

healthy; this is very important. It is after you get north of Natal that the low coast commences, with its marsh fevers and malaria.

Inland, the country rises in a succession of terraces just as described in the chapter on the Cape. It is densely wooded in parts, very fertile, with excellent pasturage in others, and thoroughly well-watered throughout. There are no navigable rivers, the Drakenberg mountains, which dominate the whole of the interior, being too near the coast. It is a very small colony compared with the Cape, the area of the latter being 750,000 square miles as against Natal 21,000, or only a third of the size of England and Wales.

It is in physical contact with the State of the Transvaal, or the South African Republic on the north, and with the Orange Free State across the Drakenberg mountains on the west. Both of these States are Boer communities, enjoying or otherwise a patriarchal government. To the south are native territories, they are Basutoland, Griqualand East and Pondoland. Of these the former, Basutoland, is nominally independent; it is a most beautiful country, with a delightful climate, and is called the Switzerland of South Africa.

All these divisions must be carefully followed on the map, or it would be impossible to make head or tail of them. The two latter, Griqualand East and Pondoland, are called the Transkei region, because they are across the Kei River as from the Cape; they consist of very beautiful and rich country, almost wholly peopled by natives, who here are peaceful and orderly. This district has been formally annexed to Cape Colony. It is separated from Basutoland by the Drakenberg Mountains. This great range is the dividing range of south-east Africa. One of the highest peaks, the Mont aux Sources, two-thirds as high as the European Mont Blanc, is at the junction of the three States; Natal, the Orange State, and Basutoland.

By means of the Transkei region, the continuity of the coast line in British hands is maintained unbroken. All the way from the mouths of the Orange River on the west, round

Little and good.

Neighbour.

The places they live in.

Unbroken continuity of sea-board.

by Table Bay, through Natal on the east, right up to where Portuguese coast commences, is in British hands. Between Natal and the Portuguese coast is a strip of country called Zululand; it is in native hands, no European settlement being allowed, but has been made nominally a British Colony, as part of Natal.

The
Garden
of
Africa.

Before proceeding further let us look at Natal a little. Natal is a gem. In South Africa are indeed many gardens, but Natal is called the Garden of Africa. The climate is hot but healthy, with cool winds in summer. The coast line is only 100 miles in extent, yet there are no less than 22 rivers in this short expanse, running parallel from the Drakenberg Mountains on the west to the sea on the east; or about one river to about every five miles of coast. None of these are practicable for navigation; but just think how beautifully they water the land, for they can be made available for irrigation.

The
fruits
of that
garden.

The interior is highly fertile; sugar cultivation has not been introduced so very long, yet this little garden of Natal supplies all South Africa with sugar, and exports to Europe as well. Tea cultivation has been introduced, then there is coffee, tobacco, indigo, and cotton. This cotton is said to equal the best American from the banks of the Mississippi. There was wild cotton from the first, then some seeds were imported from America, and sown in the garden of a Mission station. The plants derived therefrom thrive amazingly, and produced cotton both summer and winter. The quality improved as the quantity increased, so that "Natal Uplands" were soon known in the English market.

Pasture,
coal,
marble,
and
fish.

On the high table-lands of the interior are immense tracts of the finest pasturage. Then in the Klip River district to the north-west are 1,400 square miles of coal area. The coal runs in seams from 4ft. to 10ft. thick, a readily workable formation; some of it is good for steam, some for gas, and nearly all of it for household purposes. The district in which the coal is found is called Newcastle, after the famous district in the north of England; there are also vast deposits of marble; the coast abounds with fish of all kinds.

To this pleasing prospect there are some drawbacks. What land is without them? The lion, the leopard, the python, and the alligator have been driven back; the caterpillars are less easy to deal with. Vast armies of these curious insects suddenly appear. Advancing over large tracts of land they devour all vegetation in their line of march; this continues until they change to chrysalids, from which state they ultimately emerge and fly away as butterflies, and lay fresh eggs. Then there are the hailstorms; these are of such violence that the hailstones kill fowls, dogs, and goats, and even sometimes cut through corrugated iron roofing.

The reverse of the medal

THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.

It was said the Orange River is the old northern boundary of Cape Colony. North of the Orange River on the west is Namaqualand, nominally in possession of Germany; it is very little settled. Again, north of the river on the east are the Orange Free State, the Transvaal State, and Portuguese East Africa. Now between these two separate stretches of territory, outside of British rule, is an enormous area of country stretching for a thousand miles up to the next great river, the Zambesi.

The hot North.

This great river has its mouth on the east coast just as the other great river, the Orange, has its mouth on the west coast. Speaking very roughly, they run parallel to one another in opposite directions with a thousand miles of country intervening. Between the two is a much smaller one called the Limpopo, or Crocodile River, with its mouth also on the east coast, in Portuguese territory. There must be some finality to everything, even to British South Africa, so north of the Zambesi we will not go. Besides north of the Zambesi Central Africa may be considered to commence, and we are in South Africa.

Parallel rivers.

An end to all things

Now the whole of this intervening territory between the Orange river and the Zambesi, within the limits indicated, is subject to British rule. First of all comes the tract called

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

A poor
country.
1878 to
1885.

This is about 45,000 square miles in extent, with about one inhabitant per square mile. It is a little difficult to explain how it got into British hands. A military expedition was sent to re-establish peace and order, which seem to have been threatened. Then a permanent force was established, called the B.B.P., or British Bechuanaland Police. This body now patrols this enormous territory, and preserves the peace and order so re-established. A good deal of the country is desert, and there seem to be scarcely any rivers.

Hands
off.

North of British Bechuanaland is a much larger area, under the dominion of various native chiefs; this is called the British Protectorate of Bechuanaland. Protectorate means that although we do not colonise the country ourselves, we do not allow others to do so. It must be remembered that the Germans have a footing next door in Namaqualand.

The Kala-
hari.

The Protectorate of Bechuanaland is more devoid of rivers and other natural advantages than even its southern neighbour, British Bechuanaland. In its westerly area lies one of the great deserts mentioned in the General Remarks on Africa—the Kalahari. This is many thousands of square miles in extent; a parched and almost uninhabited waste of scrub bushes, interspersed with gigantic tree stumps.

A right
of way.

It may be rather useless as a country, but in conjunction with British Bechuanaland it may not be only useful but absolutely essential as a road from the Cape to somewhere beyond; and this brings us to the most recent of England's greater colonies,

THE TERRITORY OF THE BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY,

A colonial
Ben-
jamin.

otherwise called Charterland, otherwise Rhodesia. The acquisition of this huge territory was primarily due to a private individual, affectionately called Cecil John by his friends, but known to the world as Mr. Rhodes.

The northern boundary of the Transvaal State, where one of the bodies of Boers trekking from Natal settled, is the Limpopo River previously mentioned. Between the Limpopo and the Zambesi is an enormous stretch of country ten times the extent of Great Britain, formerly inhabited by a powerful native nation called the Matabele. From the king of this country, Lobengula, Mr. Rhodes obtained certain rights or concessions. He then organised a Company in London to work these concessions. This Company is somewhat similar to the Hudson's Bay Company mentioned in the chapter on Canada.

Rights
and
conces-
sions.

Char-
tered
Company
of
B. S. A.
1889.

It is called the Chartered Company of British South Africa. This raises the question as to what is a Company. It is as follows: Suppose a man wants to work a new industry that he has conceived; he may be a poor man without means to proceed. Suppose he has one sovereign only to spare, and the new industry will require £500 to start it, then he goes to another man. The other man perhaps has not £500 either, so he finds others and persuades them all to take a share or shares until the £500 is made up. This is called the Joint Stock, and the men contributing are called the shareholders. This is a good idea, because if the new industry were a failure, and the capital were lost, it might be a serious thing for one man, but spread about among so many the loss to each is much less so.

The
joint-
stock
principle

Suppose the new industry is a great success, it seems unjust that the originator should have only one five hundredth part of the profits, so at the outset of it all he is given what is called a founder's share. This founder's share carries with it special privileges. It was roughly in this way that all our great railways were made. It is in this way too that all our great waterworks and other important undertakings have been carried out.

Founder's
shares.

Now this British South Africa Company was founded in the way described above, only instead of there being but a few joint stock holders, as described in the imaginary case, there are now no less than 30,000. The 800,000 square

The
30,000.

Colonial
prelimin-
ary
expenses

miles constituting Rhodesia do not belong to Great Britain, and they do not belong to the settlers, they belong to the shareholders. When in the course of years, as it is intended, Rhodesia is made into a separate independent colony, the settlers will have to repay these 30,000 shareholders the monies they have expended in throwing open the territory for settlement; that is to say in surveying, in prospecting, or sending out parties to explore, in cutting roads, in maintaining an expensive and efficient police force, and in prosecuting two very formidable wars against the natives. This repayment will be effected, not by cash down, but in annual payments by way of interest, or return on capital. These annual payments will not amount to a very formidable sum, and if settlers only flock into the country in fair numbers, the amount per head will be light, because distributed among a large number.

Cecil
John

Certain-
ly
gandia.

Mr. Rhodes may be a wise and sensible man as his friends say, or he may be a dreamer as his detractors say; but there is no mistake he has the magic touch, the electric spark that kindles men's minds. This was the great secret of Napoleon's success. He had to say but a few words and men went frantic with delight. A word from him, and his soldiers would rush with acclamation to wounds, suffering, and death.

Similarly, difficulties and doubts vanish before Mr. Rhodes. All seems discouraging; there is war between the natives and the whites; Mr. Rhodes appears and interviews the black chiefs, and behold there is peace! Fresh funds are wanted for the development of the country; he speaks, and the 30,000 shareholders find the money. Railways are wanted, he speaks again, and that money is found too.

A
stimulus
needed

To attract settlers to a new country which is not very accessible, something more than mere agriculture is needed. There is the land waiting to be tilled—enough for five times the population of the British Isles—but there is plenty of other land much nearer: Natal, the Cape, Canada. What then is relied upon to fill up Rhodesia? It is the presence

of gold. If gold exists to a large extent in payable deposits, then the successful future of Rhodesia is quite certain. Deposits of payable gold mean a large influx of population to work that gold; but the gold-workers must be fed, and that means large areas of land brought under cultivation, which again means an influx of farming people to work the land. But these farming people require to be housed and clothed; they also require implements; this again brings builders, smiths, artificers and men of all sorts of crafts.

Gold and
what
it means.

This is the way in which one single staple industry, if by its nature it is a durable one, ensures the success and stability of a new country; and those who believe in Rhodesia, Mr. Rhodes and his friends, say there is enough gold to afford a staple industry for a hundred years to come; and this, they say, is not confined to any one district, but spread over thousands of square miles in every part of the country. The country, it seems, is riddled with ancient workings, hundreds, perhaps thousands of years old. It is said to be the old land of Ophir, whence the ancient Jewish and Egyptian kings derived much of their treasure; and these old workings are mere scratches, because the Ancients had not the appliances which we have now-a-days for efficient working.

A staple
industry.

The land
of Ophir.

Let us see now what Mr. Rhodes tells us about the new country. Speaking on the 21st April, 1898, he says: "The people who will benefit by bringing Rhodesia into civilization are those who come after us, as far as settlers are concerned. A new country is very difficult; everything is raw, everything is against you. You have read the stories of the Governors of Australia. When they commenced the country was regarded as almost hopeless; now it has 4,000,000 people and a revenue of £100,000,000. We have now reached the intermediary stage of semi-responsible government. If the settlers desire to become a fully self-governing state (in other words an independent colony), and take over the responsibilities of government, they must balance revenue and expenditure. The money spent in the conquest and development of the country should become a debenture debt—that

A direc-
torial
state-
ment.

Con-
tinued.

The land
of
Rhodes.

is to say a national debt. I have faith in the minerals of the country. I feel sure of its future. It is fitted to support a white population; it is not tropical; it is one in which white men can work and bring up their children. The land is, I believe, impregnated with gold. There are 10,000 white people living there. There are some paid newspapers which write bad reports about this country which bears my name. Compared with the rest of South Africa, Rhodesia is a very fine country. You may be sure that Lobengula, the greatest king in South Africa, took the best; and he went many miles before he stopped there. It will have in a very short time 1,000 miles of railway."

Another
speech.

Again, speaking on 2nd May, 1899, he said: "I think the country will have a great white population. It is a peculiarly good country for cattle, but its real wealth does not lie there. I am not only satisfied that it is a highly mineralised land, but I think these minerals will be highly payable. The whole country is full of old workings."

Peri-
patetics.

Now let us glance at the procedure followed, and see how the Chartered Company set to work. Mr. Rhodes referred to the case of Australia: "A new country is difficult," he said, "everything is raw, everything is against you." This is indeed true; nobody knows who has not tried. But the work of the Chartered Company was child's play compared with that of the early Governors of the Australian Colonies. Yet neither Company nor Governor can make a colony. It is the man with spade, pick and shovel, that makes a colony.

The
Company
sets to
work.

A body of 400 pioneers and four troops of armed police, all carefully selected men, specially organised, were sent to examine the new territory. This was the advance guard; others followed, and an Administrator, Dr. Jameson, was appointed.

Meeting
streams.
1893.
The
resources
of civili-
zation.

The pioneers soon came into conflict with the native king, Lobengula; they were but a handful. The Matabele warriors, most formidable and fearless troops, splendidly organized, numbered many thousands. But these are the days of magazine rifles and machine guns. Their courage and numbers

were of no avail. The king and his beaten warriors fled northwards towards the Zambesi. The Company occupied the king's kraal, or collection of huts. This kraal is now Buluwayo, a town of 15,000 inhabitants, with the electric light, waterworks and hotels. It is connected with Cape Town by a railway running down through Bechuanaland, across the Vaal river, the Orange river, and so on to Table Bay in the extreme south.

The
king's
kraal:
Bulu-
wayo.

A few years later Lobengula's warriors tried their luck again. This time the Matabele were practically destroyed as a fighting machine. Mr. Rhodes behaved with great personal gallantry by meeting their chiefs in their own stronghold. At this conference he induced them to surrender their arms and return to their homes. Since then there has been peace in Charterland.

Peace
with
honour.
1896.

The Chartered Company's territory is divided into Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia. The former is the ill-defined district to the north of the Zambesi River; the latter is the better defined district to the south of the same. Southern Rhodesia is divided into Mashonaland, capital Salisbury, and Matabeleland, capital Buluwayo. Both of these districts are from 4,000 feet to 5,000 feet above sea level, which makes them very healthy. The seat of government is Salisbury. Salisbury is the Ottawa of Rhodesia, while Buluwayo is intended to be its Montreal. It is said to be very well watered by rivers, although it does not appear that any of them are navigable; probably not enough is known of them as yet. Valuable timber is plentiful.

Rhodesia.

An
analogy
from
Canada.

Charterland is a purely inland territory. This is perhaps a good thing, because its natural sea coast, which has been for almost hundreds of years in Portuguese hands, is very unhealthy. South of this Portuguese territory come the two Boer States of the Transvaal and the Orange River. These have to a certain extent the status of Foreign States, although it looks as if they would soon be British. Consequently there is only one English road in English hands into Rhodesia, and that is up from the Cape through British Bechuanaland

The only
road.

and the Protectorate; and that is the route the through railway to Buluwayo and Salisbury takes.

The func-
tion of
Bechu-
analand.

Now we see the uses of Bechuanaland and the Protectorate. They furnish our road into Rhodesia. Had they fallen into other hands, we should have been cut off from the northern territory altogether. It is true they were acquired before the establishment of the Chartered Company, but probably their acquisition was carried out with an eye to the future. And now comes another consideration. It is said the establishment of the Chartered Company was rather hurried at the last moment. There was an idea that Germany was after the territory. Had Germany got a footing there she would immediately have made an alliance with the two Boer States of the Transvaal and the Orange River. Then South Africa would have been a house divided against itself, and British supremacy south of the Zambesi would have gone for ever. Whether the story is true or not you must ask Mr. Rhodes. The next step will be the Federation of British South Africa.

No inter-
lopers
wanted.

Absit
Omen.

Federa-
tion.

THE WEST INDIAN GROUP.

BRITISH GUIANA.

In the chapter on Portugal in *The Making of Europe*, it was related how that little State managed to get a footing on the great Continent of South America. This footing ultimately developed into the enormous territory or Empire of Brazil; and the French, the English, and the Dutch tried at various times to dispossess the Portuguese—not all together, but separately. From this it will be seen that the leading nations of Western Europe had a very real knowledge of the great Continent of South America, and were anxious to obtain a position there.

Early
know-
ledge.

This resulted, no doubt, from a knowledge of the great wealth of precious metals that Spain and Portugal had acquired in this continent. There were generally wars going on in those days; and the Dutch, the English, and the French war-ships used to capture the richly-laden Spanish and Portuguese vessels returning from their South American possessions; and there were private war-ships called privateers—the highwaymen of the seas—which used to go out and do a little capturing on their own account. Sometimes these privateers caught a Tartar, and then they did not get much mercy.

A new
harvest
of the
sea.

When the capture of one of these richly-laden vessels used to take place, and the prize was brought into port, the people would think, and think naturally, "Oh, if the Spanish and the Portuguese can go to South America and get all this gold and silver, why cannot we go too, and get it for ourselves?"

The force
of
example.

But the greater part of the coasts of this immense continent, both east and west, was already taken up by the

A logical
conclu-
sion.

Spaniards and the Portuguese—especially the former—who were first in the field; and then they thought perhaps a good deal of the precious metals had been extracted from these occupied lands. So they thought if they found a coast for themselves where they would be first in the field, they might be as fortunate as the men from Spain and Portugal; and from the coast they could get up into the interior.

A new
Mesopo-
tania.

Now up on the northern coast of South America, at the most convenient, because the nearest, point of arrival for vessels from North-west Europe, are the mouths of two enormous rivers—the Orinoco and the Amazonas—called so from their native names. So gigantic are they that the great rivers of most other countries are mere streams compared to them.

No man's
land.
1626 to
1667.

The coast between these two great rivers was unappropriated by either Spaniard or Portuguese, although no doubt their vessels had often passed along. This led to the English, the Dutch, and the French establishing themselves at intervals and from time to time along here. It will be seen presently that this is a low swampy coast, and like all tropical countries, dangerous and unhealthy for the white men of Northern Europe, though less so for Spaniards and Portuguese.

A ques-
tion.

Why did they want to go to these dangerous climates? Even to-day when medical science is so splendidly advanced, when the use of quinine and other fever-resisting drugs is known, you are alive and well at breakfast-time, and by supper you are dead and even buried. This is no doubt chiefly in the times of Yellow-Jack. But in those days the visitations of Yellow-Jack were frequent, because the drainage of the country had not been improved as it is now.

And the
answer.

But why not go to healthy climates like Australia or New Zealand, which are also rich countries? The reason is simple; they were not known then. But why did they not go to the country of Northern America? They did, but the winters there are frightfully severe; and this land of

Southern America has a luxuriance of vegetation like a fabled paradise.

Guiana is the generic term given to the North-east coast of South America and its back-land. There is British Guiana, Dutch Guiana, French Guiana, and Spanish Guiana, the latter termed Venezuela, now independent. There is also Portuguese or Brazilian Guiana. With the four latter we have nothing to do. British Guiana is watered by three rivers which flow parallel to one another from the same range of mountains in the interior, to the coast. The coast here faces northwards. These are in their order the Essequibo on the West, then the Demerara, then the Berbice on the East. They divide British Guiana into three districts, called respectively after them. It is along the mouths of these rivers and their banks that the settlements are. These settlements do not extend for many miles towards the interior, nor for much more than a mile inland from the river banks.

Five
Guianas

British Guiana is generally known as Demerara; its capital, situated at the mouth of the river of that name, is Georgetown. The capital of Berbice is Berbice, or New Amsterdam; it is a village of timber-built stores and dwellings of one main street. The settlement consists of strings of plantations. Beyond the plantations there is nothing but forest and swamp, which goes by the generic term of "bush." There are no roads except the one shore road mentioned below, and those along the river banks. The latter are only constructed to serve the estates or plantations, which run in a continuous line. When you come to the last estate towards the interior, the road ends, and the "bush" begins at once.

British
Guiana.

Essequibo comprises a very large territory. The river pursues a course of 640 miles, all in the territory of British Guiana. It is only navigable 35 miles from its mouth, owing to cataracts. The estuary is 15 miles wide and contains three islands, very rich and fertile, which are cultivated like gardens and produce luxuriant crops of sugar and coffee. The Dutch in former times had plantations far up the river,

Esse-
quibo

where they had an old capital. All traces of these are now lost in the dense forest overgrowth.

Demerara.

The Demerara River is navigable only for sailing barges for 85 miles from the sea. Its entrance is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles across, and is sheltered from every wind. So great is its depth that it affords splendid harbourage, but there is a difficult bar which spoils this. There are several large villages, chiefly inhabited by coloured population. The productiveness of the soil along this river is marvellous.

Berbice.

The Berbice river is navigable for 175 miles, but only for small craft. The plantations extend nearly 50 miles from its mouth, and about 50 miles along the coast towards the Demerara river. A carriage road, 60 feet broad with parapets on each side, runs along the shore from Georgetown, the capital of the colony on the Demerara River, to Berbice, or New Amsterdam.

A South American Holland.

The seaboard extends for 300 miles from the eastern mouth of the Orinoco on the West, separating it from the neighbouring State of Venezuela, to the river Corantin on the east, separating it from Dutch Guiana. The country, like Holland, has a very flat shore, and the land lies below the level of the sea. In consequence of this and of its rivers, it is a great country for canals. These run up from the river banks into the plantations, from them again at right angles run smaller parallel canals. Each estate has its own series of canals, which serve at once to irrigate the plantations and to convey the produce—sugar canes—to the mills. These estates are laid out exactly like gigantic watercress beds.

Cane-sugar.

The staple product of British Guiana was for a long series of years, and is still, cane sugar and its bye-products. So much was this the case that it formed nine-tenths of the exports of the colony. In the old palmy days, when this was the only sugar known, its cultivation proved a regular gold mine to Demerara, and brought immense wealth to the estate owners; but since the discovery of the making of sugar from beetroot, this industry has fallen on bad times. Beet-sugar has had the same effect on cane-sugar that the

discovery of the wheat-fields of Manitoba had on the production of wheat in England.

The beet-sugar could be produced so much cheaper and in such much greater quantities, that it drove the old cane-sugar out of the market. Beetroot can be grown almost anywhere; but sugar-cane can only be grown in the tropics, and not always there. It must have a concurrence of soil and moisture as well as climate. The restricted area over which cane-sugar could be grown kept up the price. The very large area over which beet-sugar can be grown in the countries of Europe, soon brought down this price, by its cheap production and its enormous output. But this was not all. The European Governments, influenced by some queer motives which are difficult either to understand or to explain, took to paying their beetroot-sugar makers an annual bounty or reward. This put the unfortunate cane-sugar growers at a further disadvantage, although cane-sugar is immeasurably superior. This no doubt has checked the development of British Guiana and other West Indian Colonies.

Now let us see how this country fell into English hands. As long as 350 years ago a small mixed band of adventurers, partly English, partly foreign, established themselves on this coast. Twenty years later this little settlement was taken under the protection of Great Britain. This was about the time of Cromwell. Then came the Dutch and captured it, the Dutch West India Company having established other settlements in the same neighbourhood. And now comes a very interesting incident. The Dutch had established a settlement on an island on the coast of North America, which they called Manhattan. The settlement they called New Amsterdam. Then they exchanged their settlement on Manhattan Island for the English settlement on the North coast of South America, as a definite possession.

For once those clever Dutch did not get the best of the bargain. The English renamed the old settlement on Manhattan, New York. New York City is now the capital of the Empire State of the Colossus of the West, the United

Beetroot
sugar.

Quantity
beats
quality.

In the
begin-
ning.

A momen-
tous
ex-
change.

A one-
sided
bargain.

States of North America, and one of the greatest cities in the world. On the other hand, the little settlement on the Demerara River is not greatly changed ; it has improved, but has not grown much.

The final
result.
1796.
1802.
1814.

A hundred years later Demerara, as we will call it, was again captured by the English and again restored to Holland. Finally, at the downfall of Napoleon, it was ceded to England once more, and has remained an English possession ever since.

A rich
man's
colony.

Now we have got it let us see its capabilities. In British Guiana we have neither an Australia, a Canada, a British South Africa, nor even a New Zealand. Situated almost on the Equator it is in the heart of the Tropics, consequently it is no place for settlement on a large scale for Englishmen. It is a rich man's colony, not a poor man's colony ; and remember, it is the poor men who make successful colonies. British Guiana is no place for the man with axe and spade, with pick and shovel. It is a place for the young capitalist who can buy land and lay it out as an estate, and hire an army of coloured men to cultivate it, with overseers to manage it, and with expensive machinery.

No prac-
ticable
expan-
sion.

As to expansion, there is little expansion possible, There is nowhere to expand to, except into the bush towards the interior. Clear the bush, you will say. Yes, but so luxuriant is the vegetation there that what you clear away of that tangled mass during the day grows up again in the night. As a colony British Guiana can never be much more than it is now, a fringe of mixed population ; a few Europeans, English, Dutch, and Portuguese, as overseers and shopkeepers ; and the vast majority, negroes, Chinese and Indians, as labourers. There is scarcely an estate to-day but has a Dutch name, the currency is chiefly Dutch, and so are the laws.

Circum-
spice
viator.

But as we are in British Guiana let us look round. The Jersey cabbages grow tall ; they make walking sticks of them. But look at that cabbage there, one hundred feet high, as tall as a five storied house, with a stalk two feet

across and the cabbage on the top as big as a balloon, and with seeds as big as nuts. What do you think of that for a family dinner? The fairy story of Jack and the beanstalk would, in Demerara be called Jack and the cabbage-stalk. Then look at that great tree throwing out its own buttresses somewhat as our beech trees do, only on such a gigantic scale that a dozen people can get shelter between them. Then there is the bullet tree, whose timber sinks in water and never rots; the hiarree, another tree, the smoke of whose wood, when burnt, is fatal to animal life; and an immense list of others too numerous to mention; and all these bound together by living ropes as thick as a ship's cable (a kind of vine called the "supple-jack"), which interweave like nets, and catch wild animals in their meshes.

Then there is the spotted tiger and the red tiger; and the howling baboon, uttering a yell worse than London newsboys or milkmen, and almost as continuous. Lizards as long as a tall man is high, and peccaries, a kind of wild pig that will hunt you just as our dogs hunt foxes; and, to crown all, the pipa, which is a frog as big as a duck, and which bellows loud enough to frighten you.

Then you can have your choice of a great variety of snakes, from the oroocookoo, whose bite kills you in two minutes, to the camudi, ten yards long and two feet thick. The birds range from the mighty eagle and the huge vulture, down to the tiny humming bird not bigger than a cherry. Then there are butterflies as big as a prayer-book, but prettier to look at. There are bats three feet across the wings, which bite your toes while you sleep, and suck your blood till they are satisfied.

There are little fish which, if you try to catch them, blow themselves up like a balloon out of spite, and big fish and alligators which try to catch you, also out of spite; land crabs and water crabs, each good to eat. There are fireflies so brilliant that if you put two or three under a glass, you can see to read and write by them; spiders as big as cricket balls, centipedes a foot long, and beetles as big as mice. In this

Beasts.

Reptiles.

Birds.

Fishes

And insects.

strange country you can go for miles and miles without seeing a stone ; and so rich is the soil that it is, or was, actually dug up and carried away to the neighbouring island of Barbadoes, 300 miles distant, for agricultural purposes.

The area of British Guiana is just double that of England and Wales, and yet of all this great territory, only a small extent, not exceeding in the aggregate that of our little county of Surrey, is under cultivation. All the rest is bush, that is to say, forest and swamp. The total population is only 285,000, or about one twentieth of London ; and of this only a very small proportion are Europeans.

Now having seen what the mainland of the West Indies is, we will proceed to the Islands, after a passing glance at British Honduras.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

A broad
distinction.

From all that has been said above, it is evident that British Guiana is rather a possession than a colony. It can grow within its own limits, and that neither much nor quickly ; but it can hardly expand beyond its limits like the preceding groups. Such growth as it may have will not be due to an increase of the white population, either by influx or otherwise. It will be due to the growth of the coloured population, Asiatics and Africans, who are brought into the country like cattle, to till the soil.

A fort-
iori.

If this is true of British Guiana, it is true in a much greater degree of that other colony of England on the mainland of the West Indies,

BRITISH HONDURAS.

West Indian, they call it, and colony they call it. It is neither the one nor the other. It is so far a colony that it is under the nominal control of the Colonial Department of the British Government, but that is all. Not one British emigrant out of 10,000 would ever dream of going there.

Its proper designation should be a British possession in Central America, for that is where it is situated. However, as we have got it, it is worth retaining. It may become a place of some importance in future, if the Atlantic and Pacific Canal should ever be cut, either through the Isthmus of Panama, or further to the north. But even then it is somewhat out of the way, its position being what is colloquially called rather "round the corner," as a glance at the map will show.

An amended title.

Moreover, its coast is made somewhat unapproachable by being lined with a chain of coral islands or reefs, very much like the Great Barrier Reef, off the coast of Queensland, in Australia—mentioned in the chapter on that country—on a smaller scale. This reef runs parallel to the land at an average distance of fifteen miles, though sometimes it approaches to within half-a-dozen miles of the mainland. It runs for a distance of 130 miles, and is broken by only two channels, through which none but vessels of light draught can enter. In addition to this the navigation is made extremely dangerous by violent currents.

An analogy from Queensland.

Again, its only town, and its only seaport, is Belize. This is a little place on the mouth of the small river of that name. There is excellent harbourage, but only for vessels of very light draught. It is, therefore, out of the question for Belize ever to become an important port. The town consists of one long street, with a few little side streets; the houses are built on pillars of the celebrated Honduras wood, mahogany. By means of these pillars they are raised to a height of ten feet from the ground before what we should call the ground floor begins. The whole population of Honduras is only 34,000, of which only 453 are whites; the rest being coloured gentlemen of various hues. As the town is closed in with woods and marshes, suburban plots are to be had cheap.

Undisputed sovereignty

Honduras owes its existence as a British possession to its two staple products, mahogany and logwood. The former is the handsome wood so well known in the manufacture of furniture; the latter is used in the doctoring of so-called

Staple products

French wines for English connoisseurs, and also in the making of various dyes. But beyond this, much of the soil is inconceivably fertile, and many other valuable timbers are produced.

Gen-
ealogy.

Honduras appears to derive its name from the river Hondo, its northern boundary. Belize is the Spanish corruption of the name of Wallace or Wallis, from its having been the haunt, real or supposed, of an old buccaneer or pirate of that name. Soon after the conquest of the Island of Jamaica by the English, the latter formed a small settlement on the mainland, to the north of the present district of Honduras. This settlement was made for the purpose of cutting logwood and mahogany.

1667.

In
English
hands.

The settlers soon came into conflict with the Spaniards, who exercised a nominal sovereignty over all those lands. Treaties were made from time to time with Spain, which guaranteed the English certain rights in these districts. Strife of a more or less intermittent nature continued, and armed conflicts were of frequent occurrence. Ultimately Spain, who was growing weaker and weaker at home, relinquished all rights in this part of the world, just one hundred years ago. Since then British Honduras has remained in possession of England. It only remains to be said that it is a beautiful and luxuriantly fertile country, but its physical conditions make it unsuitable as a colony for Englishmen. It might possibly become a rich man's colony hereafter, which means no colony at all.

1783

THE SLAVE TRADE.

A
horrible
traffic.

All the islands of the West Indies, whether in English hands or otherwise, are largely peopled by Africans. The original Indian tribes who inhabited them, mostly Caribs, were either killed off in the early days or died out. A passing reference was made to the slave trade in the General Remarks on Australia. The infamies of this horrible traffic and insti-

tution, in which, to their shame, Englishmen were largely concerned, cannot be entered into here. It was ultimately suppressed by all civilised nations, although it took some hundred years to extinguish it.

The Portuguese were the first to start it, very nearly 500 years ago. It was owing to the efforts of three courageous and outspoken Englishmen that the first steps towards its suppression were taken. You would think these men were kings, or sons of kings, or at least statesmen, or cabinet ministers. No, the Christian Kings, Princes and Governors, whose power was greater in those days than it is now, had other but perhaps not weightier matters to occupy them. They were just three private men—Thomas Clarkson, Wilberforce, and Thomas Dillwyn.

Three
English-
men.
1481.

But what was the slave trade? When Europeans first settled in the tropical lands of the Southern States of North America and the West Indies, they found a most luxuriant soil, yielding a marvellously abundant vegetation; but on account of the terrible heat they were unable themselves to cultivate the land; they would get sunstroke and die; so they followed the Portuguese example, and imported slaves to till the ground for them. An old French writer computed that up to his time, 1777, nine million Africans had been carried off by the Europeans.

A Portu-
guese
example.

They brought over ship loads of blacks from Africa—negroes. It was a regular trade, but how it was managed is a mystery. The Arabs on the East Coast of Africa are at it still, though when Her Britannic Majesty's warships catch them they don't do it twice. How those great, powerful blacks, were ever so completely subjected and dominated by the relatively weaker white men is inexplicable, but they were. It is like our driving horses and oxen. The horses and the oxen don't know their strength, otherwise we should be in the harness, and they would sit on the box-seat with the whip and the reins; or we should be the cattle, and they would be the drovers.

Human
mer-
chandise.

"The
trade in
ebony."

Un-
scious
strength.

The
divine
right of
kings.

Eman-
cipation.

About
1862.

The old
order and
the new.

A dark
problem

Niggers

So it was with the African blacks. They did not know their strength; and then the European whites had fire-arms, and the negroes had not. But the strange thing is how they caught the unhappy Africans, hundreds and thousands of ship loads. Perhaps they bought them of the native kings and chiefs. The divine right of kings no doubt ran in Africa as it did in Europe.

However, hundreds of thousands, millions of Africans—men, women, and children—were brought over to the Southern States of North America, to the West Indian Islands, and the adjoining mainland of British Guiana. After a long series of years they were all made free in a body, so that they were not slaves any more; and then all sorts of troubles arose. The whites and the blacks were both so accustomed to slavery that they could not adapt themselves to the changed conditions.

The slaves had become in the main a happy and contented body, especially in the British West Indies. Pleasant and happy relations often existed between them and their owners or employers. Certainly they were much better off than under the dominion of their horrible native kings in Africa. But as soon as they were freed by legislative enactment, they began to give themselves airs. So much so is this the case that even to-day they often speak of themselves as "coloured gentlemen," and their European neighbours as "white pussons" (persons).

But the result is that they are there to-day in enormous numbers, all over the British West Indies and the Southern States of America. In many of the West Indian Islands they constitute nine-tenths of the whole population; and you meet them far up in the North American Continent, not only in the United States, but even in the cold North, the Dominion of Canada. In the English Churches of Canada you will generally see a pew of coloured ladies and gentlemen, singing lustily. This is the choir. They are great people for singing, and go by the generic term of "Niggers."

THE WEST INDIAN ISLANDS.

TAKE Mercator's projection of the Map of the World. Now look at the two great continents of North and South America respectively, you will see they are joined together by a narrow strip of land called Central America. It looks small enough on the map, but it is nearly 1,200 miles in length. Almost exactly parallel to this, towards the east, is a long series of islands. There are big islands and little islands, long and short ones, islands of every conceivable shape and size; but roughly speaking they all lie in a curved line, parallel to the great neck of Central America, running from the south of Texas in the United States to the main Continent of South America, at the mouth of the Orinoco, some 1,200 miles from Panama.

Study
the Map

Now imagine all these islands joined together, end on. Then they on the east, with the Isthmus of Central America on the west, and the two great continents at either end, would enclose one large sea. The northern part of this sea is called the Gulf of Mexico; and the southern part is called the Caribbean Sea, after the Caribs, a very old and large native tribe of Indians which peopled the neighbouring lands. These two seas are sometimes spoken of as the Mediterranean of the West. It is not a bad term, as the name, signifying "surrounded by land," roughly describes the seas in question. Geological researches point to the conclusion that in remote ages this was actually the case. The chain of islands formed a great causeway parallel to the Isthmus of Central America.

A Western
Mediterranean.

The Gulf of Mexico, or northern section of this western Mediterranean, can be left on one side, as it is out of our

The
Carib-
bean Sea.

course. It is the southern section, the Caribbean Sea, on the eastern fringe of which all these islands are situated, that concern us.

The
Antilles.

The islands in the Caribbean Sea are called the West Indian Archipelago, or briefly the West Indian Islands, or Antilles. There are such a great number of them, and they are so widely spread about that they require a large classification. They range from the great Island of Cuba, as big as our Ireland, only of a different shape, down to little places like Montserrat, which is only 40 square miles in extent; and still smaller ones.

The
Greater
Antilles.

The Antilles is the generic term for them all. They are divided into the Greater and Lesser Antilles. The Greater Antilles are very easy to remember because there are only four of them. They are Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola or San Domingo, and Porto Rico, all large islands. Cuba is called the Pearl of the Antilles, but they are nearly all pearls. The whole range of islands from Cuba in the extreme west down to Trinidad on the extreme south-east—a stretch of nearly 2,000 miles—may be called a chaplet of pearls.

A chaplet
of pearls

Classifi-
cation
and dis-
tribution.

The Lesser Antilles are sub-divided into three groups—the Virgin Islands, the Leeward Islands, and the Windward Islands. In addition to these there are some outside this grouping altogether. The above is the geographical grouping; the political grouping is different. Of the Greater Antilles only one, Jamaica, belongs to England; of the Lesser, about twenty, besides many that are insignificant. Of the rest, seven belong to France, four to Holland, three to Denmark, and one to Sweden. The greatest of all, Cuba, which belonged to Spain for 400 years, has recently been acquired by the United States of America.

Inherent
con-
ditions
give
various
results

It is evident that such a great number of islands could not all have been discovered at one time, although they are in close proximity. It was a physical impossibility. Nor could they all have been settled at once, or all acquired at one time in any other way. Many of these pearls of the Western Seas changed hands frequently before settling down

under their present ownerships. It was owing to the considerations set forth in the general remarks in the chapter on Australasia, that so many of these beautiful islands fell to the share of England, against such a much smaller number to other European Powers.

It was Christopher Columbus who first discovered them.

Colum-
bus.
1492.

Other discoveries of these islands quickly followed, either by Columbus and his followers, or by adventurers of other nations. The later ones went practically to a certainty; Columbus had paved the way for them. Some were occupied or acquired almost immediately, others not for one, two, or even three hundred years.

Hap-
hazard

These islands are all subjected to one prevailing set of winds—the trade winds. Summer or winter, wet or dry, the winds blow always in the one direction, from the north-east. This is due to the dislocation of air caused by the set of the great Gulf Stream in the opposite direction. The Gulf Stream sets from these seas towards the north-east, the winds blow from the north-east. “The air,” says Macbeth, in Shakespeare’s play “has bubbles, as the water has.” So also the air has currents as the water has, and these trade winds are of them. Some of the islands are considered more exposed to the trade winds than others, hence the former are called the Windward Isles, and the latter the Leeward or more sheltered Isles. In reality they are all windward islands.

The trade
winds.

The
nomen-
clature

To sum up, we have the West India Islands divided into the Greater Antilles and the Lesser Antilles; the latter subdivided into the Windward Islands, the Leeward Islands, and the Virgin Islands. Then there are those outside the above classification, namely, Trinidad, Tobago, and Barbadoes, right down by the South American Coast of British Guiana. It is necessary to try and remember this classification to avoid confusion.

The
summing
up

Extended as they are over a very wide area, they differ considerably in physical characteristics. Some are compact, with rather uniform shores; others are broken up with inlets serving as harbours. Some are mountainous, others are

A miscel-
laneous
assort-
ment.

rather flat; but all are very beautiful with the luxuriant vegetation of the tropics.

Politically
unimportant.

It is impossible to give more than a very general account of them. There are so many that a detailed notice of each would take too long; and though they are full of surpassing interest, they are not politically important. That is to say they cannot be the future home of millions of white men united under one flag, in the sense that each of the three great groups, the Dominion of Canada, the Australian Continent, or British South Africa is going to be. Let us begin with the group rather nearest to Old Europe,

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Group
one.

There are ninety of these little islands altogether, none large, some very small, mere specks. Only about thirty of them belong to the English, and they are quite insignificant. They have all sorts of queer names, some English, some Spanish, and some Dutch.

Privateers.

In the chapter on British Guiana, reference was made to the privateers, a kind of private war vessels that used to prey upon richly-laden merchantmen. If you were sufficiently rich you could get what were called letters of marque or licence from the King or Government, and fit out a warship of your own. Then you could go out into the seas and prey upon the merchant ships of any nation England was at war with. As England was generally at war with somebody, after the enlightened and amiable fashion of those times, you did not have long to wait.

Pirates.

These privateers naturally did not confine themselves to merchant ships of "the enemy." All was fish that came to their nets, and any defenceless cargo-ships that came along fell victims, often those of their own country. And other countries took to privateering too. They naturally degenerated into pirates—sea-robbers, who were ready for any deed of cruelty and bloodshed. At last they grew into such a dreadful pest they were put down.

There were many names for them — privateers, pirates, buccaneers, corsairs—they were all the same. Many used to sail the seas with a black flag having a white skull or death's head on it, to indicate that they showed no mercy. There were no police of the seas then in the shape of steam-driven war vessels and fast gunboats. What would those old pirates say to "Torpedo-catcher number 32," or rather, what would "number 32" say to them?

The
black
flag.

It was through these pirates that some of these Virgin Islands fell into English possession. They were first occupied by a party of Dutch buccaneers, who settled at Tortola, the largest of them, about the time of our Cromwell, 350 years ago, and built a fort there. Then came a stronger party of mixed pirates calling themselves English. They dispossessed the first lot and pretended to take possession for the English Crown. Cromwell's successor adopted this arrangement; and they were ultimately annexed for governmental purposes to the neighbouring group, the Leewards.

When
thieves
fall out

The English Virgin Islands are politically and economically unimportant. The total population of the whole 32 is only 5,000, men, women, and children; a few are whites, most are blacks. The inhabitants are engaged in cultivation on a very small scale, and a little fishing industry is carried on. We come now to

Mere
handfuls.

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

The Leeward Islands, like their neighbours, are not all in the hands of the English. Some of them belong to the French and some to the Dutch. The principal English islands of this group are:

The
English
Lee-
wards

Dominica,
St. Kitts or St. Christopher,
Antigua, and
Montserrat,

but there are many smaller ones.

A Sunday
lesson
1493.

Dominica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd November, 1493. It happened to be a Sunday, so Columbus called it Dominica, which is the Spanish name for that day. It is nearly the size of our Isle of Wight. It is very beautiful, with numerous high mountains and abundant streams. Only one-twentieth of the land is cultivated. The population is 27,000, of whom only 350 are white. It was once captured and held for some years by the French.

Three
younger
brothers

St. Christopher's was named by Columbus after himself. It is smaller than Dominica, but contains more people; the same is the case with Antigua. Montserrat, the smallest of all, is perhaps the most beautiful, but they are all beautiful and interesting. There are several still smaller of the Leeward group in English hands; they are politically insignificant. The French hold the best, Guadeloupe. The English Leewards were federated into one group about 30 years ago. We now come to

1871

THE WINDWARD ISLANDS.

Of these, the French also hold the best, Martinique. The English Islands are St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Grenada, with its subsidiaries called the Grenadines.

St. Lucia

St. Lucia, like Dominica, is about the size of our Isle of Wight, with nearly double the population of the former. It is almost divided by a mountain range, and although so small, has several splendid natural harbours. It was alternately held by the French and the English over a long series of years. One of its mountains contains hot springs and great deposits of sulphur.

St. Vin-
cent.

St. Vincent is smaller than St. Lucia, about half the size of our county of Middlesex. The products of all these islands are of much the same description. St. Vincent, like St. Lucia, has a mountainous backbone running right across it, and like St. Lucia it has volcanic mountains; but it has or had one product peculiar to itself, and that is pozzolana. What is pozzolana? It is a volcanic earth, a species of ash.

Pozzo
lana.

It is used in the making of certain kinds of cement, and is also valuable as a fertilizer.

The history of St. Vincent is peculiar. Two hundred years after it was discovered by Columbus, a ship was wrecked upon its shores. This ship was a slaver, a vessel engaged in the wretched trade described in a preceding chapter. Great numbers of these negroes escaped into the woods and mountains, and peopled the island; they received the name of black Caribs. The French and the English both made settlements on the island, but were much harassed by these people.

Black
Caribs

At the end of nearly a hundred years the English finally subdued them. The black Caribs were shipped off to an island called Rattan in the Bay of Honduras, with provisions, implements, and seeds, to found a settlement for themselves. The French agreed that the right to the islands should devolve on the English, but the final establishment under British rule was made in 1783.

Grenada is about the same size as St. Vincent. Included with it are seven or eight smaller islands; they all go by the generic name of "The Grenadines." After a chequered existence this little island fell into the hands of England about a hundred years ago, at the same time as St. Vincent. Here we get again a similar ridge of mountains as in the two previous cases. There is a splendid natural harbour in Grenada.

The
Grena-
dines.

1783

We now come to the outlying islands, Barbadoes, Tobago, and Trinidad. Let us begin with

BARBADOES.

This also is about the size of our Isle of Wight. It is on quite a different footing to the rest. It is very densely populated, more so than any other West Indian Island, having about 1,100 people to the square mile, against 200 to 300 in most of the others. There are no mountains, no valleys, no streams, and no forests. Every bit of cultivable

A bee-
hive.

land is cultivated. It is all given over to sugar-growing. The absence of forests led to its being so heavily cultivated in the first instance. The people of this island have always greatly prospered; they are spoken of as the "proud Barbadians," and call themselves "little Britons." This is, perhaps, because Barbadoes was never held by any other Power.

Little
Britons

"The
Olive
Blossom."

1605.

A merchant's
enterprise.
1625.

Barbadoes was almost the only one of the West Indian Islands that was acquired without bloodshed. Perhaps this freedom from the taint of blood is why it has prospered so greatly. Three hundred years ago the crew of an English vessel, the "Olive Blossom," landed and erected a cross as a memorial of their visit, cutting on the bark of a tree "James, King of England, and of this Island." This was the James, the father of the unhappy Charles who had his head cut off.

After this a ship belonging to a London merchant called here; it was then uninhabited. The merchant having received a favourable report of the place sent out two large ships with settlers to people it. The little community soon prospered. Fifty thousand English settlers arrived in one year. It was the very first West Indian Colony where the sugar-cane was planted, probably introduced from the Cape. Its fisheries are valuable, the anchovy being often driven up on the coast in shoals. Flying fish are eaten as we eat herrings.

Deriva-
tions

The name Barbadoes is derived from a Spanish word for the hanging branches of a tree (somewhat after the style of the vine) which strike root in the earth. The capital, Bridgetown, received its name from a rude bridge built by the Indians over the creek about which it stands. This little bridge has long been replaced by a solid structure.

TOBAGO.

1642

Tobago is a small island. In spite of its proximity to the Equator it is very healthy. The Dutch settled it originally, then came the Spaniards and killed every one of them; then

the
Eng
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the English got it; then the French captured it; finally the English got it again. The soil is wonderfully fertile and the scenery beautiful. The island is watered by abundance of springs. Unlike many of its neighbours it is free from hurricanes, as it lies just out of their track. We now come to

Battle-
dore and
Shuttle-
cock.
1672.
1814.

THE ISLAND OF TRINIDAD.

This is a large island, the next in size to Jamaica. It is right down off the mouths of the Orinoco, near the mainland of British Guiana on the north-east coast of South America. Almost as large as our great County of Lancashire, it is an important place, although it does not possess a much greater population than its neighbour Barbadoes. It was originally a Spanish settlement. The Spaniards offered most favourable terms to Roman Catholic settlers. This was just 100 years ago. The consequence was, many Roman Catholic families who were discontented at home came out from Old Europe, and the little colony got an excellent start. Ultimately it fell into the hands of the English; but even to-day Spanish and French are spoken as well as English.

The free-
masonry
of creed.

It is shaped almost like a square. Port of Spain is the chief harbour and chief town, a specially safe anchorage. Even among its fair neighbours it is spoken of as pre-eminently beautiful. Its chief products are of the usual West Indian description, but it has two special to itself.

1802

Prima
inter
pares.

One is a tree called by the Spaniards *La Madre del Cacao*, the mother of the cocoa, and by the French, the "*Bois Immortelle*," or Immortal Tree. This tree, growing amongst the cocoa, moistens, shades, and nourishes the trees in the driest weather by collecting the dews. The other is the pitch or asphalt lake, called *La Brea*, or *Bray*. It is 90 acres in extent.

The
mother of
the
cocoa

This is a circular, undulating surface, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles across. The depth is unknown, but as fast as the pitch is taken out, it fills up again. This material is put to all sorts

Lacus
asphalt-
ites.

of purposes, road-making, paving, and coating the timbers of ships, etc., and forms the principal article of export. The soil around this curious lake is light in colour, and grows a species of pine-apple peculiar to the district.

The last, which ought to be first, and the largest of our West India Islands, the only member of the Greater Antilles held by us is

JAMAICA.

The work
of Colum-
bus.

1494

This great island is nearly three times as large as Trinidad, and about half the size of our principality of Wales. Like most of its sisters it was discovered by Columbus. It is so easy to say "discovered by Columbus;" but just think what he did. That old Genoese mariner, who fretted his heart out hanging about the Court of Spain for seven long years, must have known his work well. Just think, there were no maps and no charts of the West Indian Coasts then.

Difficult
navi-
gation.

And he went in a little wooden ship not much bigger than our herring or pilchard boats, and probably much less comfortable. How did he ever thread the dangerous passages of the Bahamas, where the Gulf Stream rushes through like a mill race, or the mud shallows with only three feet of water?

An easy
prey.

Jamaica was first settled by the Spaniards. The Spanish methods of colonization were very different to ours. About 150 years later the Spaniards abandoned all their settlements throughout the island except one, the present Spanish Town, still one of the principal towns, about six miles from the sea. Why they did this is not clear, probably on account of native hostility. This was the time of our Oliver Cromwell; and that very year Jamaica was captured by an English expedition, the one point of resistance being easily overcome.

1665

The
plough-
share
instead
of the
sword.

The Parliamentary war in England was now over, and they did not quite know what to do with the soldiers. So they sent a large number, about 4,500, forty times the number that first attempted the settlement of the great Continent of America, to settle in Jamaica. This gave the colony a fair

start. As some of the disbanded soldiers belonged to one side and some to the other, it is a perfect marvel that they did not get to fighting, but they did not.

On the surrender of the island to the English, the negro slaves of the Spaniards fled to the mountains. This was a pity, as the English would certainly have treated them better than the Spaniards did. Their descendants, called Maroons, took to harrying the planters and settlers; and there was great unrest for many years, followed by two terrible little local wars. Happily all this is a thing of the past, and the Negro population to-day appear to be happy and contented. The island has never been out of England's possession.

Maroons

1795

The position of Jamaica is very central for trade, either with its neighbours or with the mainland of Central America. Should the Atlantic Pacific Canal ever be cut, Jamaica is splendidly placed to benefit by it, forming as it would then a sort of half-way house between England on the one hand and the Australasian Colonies on the other. It might become a famous emporium in that case, but it would be far more than this. Jamaica at present leads nowhere except locally. It is just at the end of what the French expressively call a *cul de sac*.

A unique position.

But the moment the Atlantic Pacific Canal is opened, Jamaica becomes the insular centre of the civilized world, as far as trade and commerce are concerned. What a future there is for the wonderful places of this wonderful world of ours, if men would abandon the pernicious trade of killing, the culture of militarism and the apotheosis of grab; if they would only seek, instead of clutching at fresh territory that can be of little or no use to them, to develop and turn to good account that which they already have got!

The centre of the world of trade.

Jamaica, the little pearl of the Western Seas which the restless Columbus happened on in his soul-driven wanderings, has perhaps a great destiny as the England of the West. "Columbus," said the beautiful Franco-German writer who died sadly and painfully in Paris not so very many years ago, "was a hero. Without blemish like the sun, like the sun

The England of the Western Seas.

An old-time Captain Cook.

also his soul was prodigal. Many men have much given, but it is an entire world that this one has given to our earth, and this world is America."

Pros and
cons.

Traversed by health-giving mountains in many directions, plentifully watered by rivers and streams of limpid water, beautifully adorned by every variety of tree and vegetation, served by several bays affording excellent harbours, if it were not for a few drawbacks it would be like the fabled abode of the blest. These drawbacks are trifles in the shape of tempests, hurricanes, months of rain, and occasional outbreaks of Yellow-Jack, or fever.

A long
list.

The products are those usual to the West Indies—sugar, coffee, cotton, tea, tobacco, spices, fruits of all kinds, and the rather newly-introduced ramie. This is a fibrous plant, a native of Eastern Asia, used for making textile cloths, twine, and cord. It is finer than flax or hemp, more lissom than jute, and stronger than any of them. The wild cotton tree attains such dimensions that a boat capable of holding one hundred people was hollowed out of one single trunk. It would take too long to describe all the wonderful and interesting plant growths. Scarcely one-tenth of the island is under cultivation even to-day. The population is about 700,000, of which not one-twentieth are whites. Attached to Jamaica are three little subsidiary groups of islets: the Cayman, the Caicos, and the Turk's Islands—the two latter really belong to the Bahama group, noticed hereafter.

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THE BAHAMAS.

OUTSIDE the Antilles, partially divided from them by the curious Peninsula of Florida, lies yet another group of islands, Still they come.

THE BAHAMAS.

These are classified separately under the above heading, although geographically speaking they all form one group. This latter, perhaps, is a matter of opinion; it depends very much upon the size of the map you look at, and whether you take a local or a general view.

These Bahamas all belong to Great Britain, technically if not actually. It is not quite certain how many there are. It depends upon whether the very small ones are counted in or not. There appear to be twenty-nine islands more or less inhabited, 661 islets—called locally “Cays”—and no less than 2,387 rocks. The combined area of all of them is nearly twice the size of our County of Devonshire. The largest is called Andros. The seat of Government, however, is at Nassau, in the much smaller island of New Providence, because it is the most central and the most accessible.

A World
of
Islands.

The principal islands are at the north-east end of the group, abutting on Florida; they lie for the most part on two shallow banks of the sea, called respectively the Great Bahama Bank and the Little Bahama Bank. Between the two is a passage called Providence Channel, through which the Gulf Stream runs at a terrific rate. This channel, which is 135 miles long and 45 miles broad, is said to be absolutely unfathomable. Perhaps this is because the current carries the sounding lead away.

The un-
fathom-
able sea

Difficult
naviga-
tion.

These islands are traversed by only three navigable channels, namely, (1) the Florida Channel to the north; (2) the Providence Channel just mentioned; and (3) the old Bahama Channel which passes to the south-west, between the islands and Cuba. The rest of the water area surrounding them is studded with rocks and shoals. The shores are generally low and flat. The highest hill in the whole range of islands is only 230 feet. Except in Andros there are no streams of running water in the whole group. The inhabitants derive their water supply from wells. Curiously enough the water in these wells rises and falls with the tide of the sea, although their contents are perfectly sweet and fresh.

Physical
condi-
tions.

Black
beard.

It was said the little island of New Providence contains the capital and seat of Government. This is because it alone possesses a safe harbour, and that is only for vessels of very light draught. In the very early days it was a head quarters of lawless villainy, being a chief seat of the pirates previously spoken of. The particular desperado who made this his haunt was a buccaneer named Blackbeard, who killed all that fell into his clutches, crew or passengers, armed or unarmed.

A letter.

1492.

The story of these little islands is singularly interesting. San Salvador or Cat Island, one of the outer Bahamas, was the very first land to be sighted by Columbus on his first voyage. This was on the 12th October, 1492. He gave it the name of San Salvador—or Holy Saviour—after the curious religious fashion of those days. From New Providence, where he touched, he wrote to the King of Spain—Ferdinand—who sent him out. He must have sent the letter back by one of his ships, while he prosecuted his journey with the rest.

And its
contents.

In this letter he said, "This country excels all others, as far as the day surpasses the night in splendour. The natives love their neighbours as themselves, their conversation is the sweetest imaginable, their faces always smiling, and so sweet and gentle are they that I swear to your Highness that there is not a better people in the world."

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What was the lamentable result? Some score of years later the Spanish Governor of Hispaniola, one of the Greater Antilles, wanted labourers. He turned his thoughts to the Bahamas, and was authorized by this very Ferdinand to procure them from there.

Want of
labour.

Now the reverence and love of these natives for their dead relatives was very great; so the Spaniards promised to convey these unhappy "savages" in their ships to the "heavenly shores," where their departed friends dwelt. In this way about 40,000 of them were kidnapped and transported to Hispaniola, where they perished miserably working in the mines. These Spaniards were the subjects of "his most Christian Majesty" Ferdinand of Spain, whose wife, Isabella, instituted the Inquisition; and now say which were the Savages and which were the Christians—the Spaniards or the natives?

Treach-
ery.

Chris-
tians

After that date there is no record of a Spanish visit to the Bahamas, except the extraordinary cruise of Juan Ponce de Leon. This man spent months here searching for the Island of Bimini, which was reported to contain the Elixir of Life, the miraculous "Fountain of Youth." A hundred years later the deserted islands were visited by the English, who formed a settlement in New Providence, whence after a time the Spaniards expelled them.

The foun-
tain
of youth.

1629
1641

Later on the English made a fresh settlement. The same King Charles who brought Bombay to the English nation made a grant of these islands to some of his favourites. The French and the Spaniards, however, made a descent on New Providence, blew up the fort, burnt the settlement, and carried off the Governor and the inhabitants to Cuba. News travelled slowly in those days, and when a new Governor arrived from England to take over the administration, he found no one to govern, there wasn't a single living soul in the place.

A
deserted
settle-
ment

It was after this that the islands became the resort of pirates. Things got so intolerable that some Bristol merchants petitioned the English Government, who sent

In
English
hands

1783

out a man of war to exterminate the pirates. They were formally ceded to the English in 1783. Then English families arrived and settled on the islands, and they have remained English ever since.

Summary

The climate is healthy; the chief products are cotton and hemp. The islands are, or were, a great seat of the turtle fishery. The largest, Andros, has no harbour, although it is 100 miles long; it is low and swampy. New Providence, where is the capital Nassau, is only 17 miles long. Politically, the group is insignificant. The surroundings are such that its future cannot be otherwise than of local importance.

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THE ISLAND OF CEYLON.

WHEN we acquired our great Indian Empire, the ultimate acquisition of the Island of Ceylon was quite certain, because Ceylon is to India just as the Isle of Wight is to England. Although a large island, it is relatively too small and too close to the mainland to have a continued separate existence.

A cer-
tainty.

Now it is an unfortunate thing that England ever acquired this island, because if England had not possessed it we should not have felt bound to learn all about it. It is such a delightful place, and so very interesting, that we shall want to linger in its beautiful forests till perhaps one of those great anacondas comes and eats us up; but the pity is that Ceylon can never be a real colony for us white men. It lies too near the Equator. It is a rich man's colony, a place for the planter who can pay others to do his work, but no place for the real colonist, the man with axe and spade.

Not a
poor
man's
colony.

This Ceylon of ours—for it is ours—was a relatively civilized place long before Julius Cæsar with his Romans landed in Kent. Its history is a much older one than that of our England, but we got on the quickest. It is King Frost and King Coal and King Iron did that, the three real permanent Kings of England—Cool Climate, Motive Power, and Industry.

The three
kings of
England.

Ceylon is about the size of our Wales. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to get hold of it, then came the Dutch, and finally the English acquired it. For hundreds of years, in the very old times, bands of armed men poured into the island from the adjoining peninsula of Hindostan in successive waves. When Francis de Almeida, the first

An
Oriental
hep-
tarchy.

1505 Portuguese adventurer, landed at Colombo, on the west coast, he found the island divided into seven little kingdoms, exactly as our England was before Egbert, King of Wessex. This was just 400 years ago.

The Portuguese arrive.

The Portuguese were very polite at first; they had to feel their way. Twelve years after Almeida's first visit they got permission from the King of the district adjoining Colombo (you will see Colombo directly you look at the map, just on the west coast where the Portuguese would be sure to arrive) to erect a small trading post, a sort of shop-warehouse in fact.

What they did

Now the fun began, not for the Cingalese (the people of Ceylon), but for the Portuguese. The big shop was surrounded by palisades for protection at night. Stone walls quickly took the place of wooden palisades, the trading post became a fort, cannon were brought from the ships, and mounted so as to command the approaches by land and sea. Alarmed by this, the Cingalese attempted to expel their new friends, but they were already too late. The Portuguese had fire-arms and they had not, and the newcomers were soon in secure possession of the whole west coast.

Enter the Dutch

They behaved with the most remorseless cruelty to the unhappy Cingalese over a long series of years. About seventy years later appeared the Dutch on the opposite side of the island, the east coast. They sought an alliance with the King of Kandy, right in the interior. The King of Kandy said, "Oh, yes, if you help us to drive out the Portuguese."

Exit the Portuguese.

Nothing come of this then. Forty years later the Dutch attacked and destroyed all the Portuguese forts on the east coast where the latter had now penetrated. A few years after they established themselves at Negombo, a place on the west coast, in convenient proximity to the Portuguese at Colombo. Then they attacked and captured Colombo, and soon drove the Portuguese and their wretched methods out of the island.

1664

Amelioration and deterioration

The nature of the Dutch tenure of Ceylon is not easy to define. It was founded on wisdom and humanity. They rendered the commerce between the island and Holland very

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profitable; they established new industries; they instituted a system of education among the natives, and made roads and harbour works. But as time went on the freshness of novelty wore off, Dutch methods deteriorated, and the Dutch colonists, enervated perhaps by the tropical climate and beautiful scenery, lost the starch of their bonny native land. A century-and-a-half wrought changes in their mental and physical status.

Now came the English. The English had by this time established a firm footing in the neighbouring great land of Hindostan. An embassy was sent from Madras, the chief town of Southern India, where Robert Clive first became famous, to the King of Kandy; but the latter said, "No thank you."

Enter the
English.

1713

Then just a hundred years ago, when war broke out between Great Britain and the little State of Holland in Old Europe, an English force was sent against the Dutch possessions in Ceylon. The resistance offered was slight; the English had the command of the sea. In twelve months' time all the Dutch forts were in English hands, and the English were practically masters of Ceylon. At first it was administered by the East India Company.

Exit the
Dutch.

1795

But later on the whole seaboard was made a direct British possession. The interior, hedged in by impenetrable forests and precipitous mountains, remained under the control of the last native king, who showed no desire whatever to cultivate the acquaintance of his new neighbours. At last the cruelty and infamies of this coloured gentleman became so horrible, that his own chief officers begged for British intervention.

A bad
neigh-
bour.

Wikrama Sinha—that was his name—was captured and sent away. With him ended a long line of native kings whose dynasty could be traced for 2,000 years, one-third the entire existence of this earth according to the old-fashioned ideas. By convention with two of his chiefs the sovereignty of the island was vested in Great Britain, who guaranteed in return complete civil and religious liberty to the natives.

Exit
native
rule.

British
sover-
eignty.
1815.

Shaped
like a
pear.

Having traced the process by which the island fell into British hands, let us see what it is like. It is in the shape of an inverted pear. At the stalk or northern end is a series of islands very irregular and indented. There are no navigable rivers; the coast, however, is broken by many great inlets, some of which form natural harbours.

Trin-
comalee.

The principal of these is the magnificent basin of Trincomalee, on the east coast; unsurpassed for extent, security and beauty, by any haven in the world. It is the principal English Naval Station in the Indian Seas. But it is far removed from the productive districts, which are round to the south and the west; consequently it has little value as a commercial port. Trading vessels have to resort to the south and west coasts, where the principal port is Colombo, the site of the first settlement of the Portuguese. The eastern shores, where Trincomalee is situated, are bold and rocky; the water deep. The north, north-east, and north-west coasts are so flat, and the water area so full of sand banks and shallows, that they are quite unapproachable. In some places there are only from four feet to six feet of water.

Old
designa-
tions.

In the Sanscrit, or language of the old supposed Eastern Gods, it was called Lanka, that is, holy or resplendent. The modern name is taken from Singhala dwipa, which means the Country of Lions, although the lion is not now found in it. The old Portuguese called it Selan; the Greeks and Romans knew it as Taprobane. The natives believe their island was the primitive Paradise, the first place to be inhabited on this earth.

Three
zones

The central part of the interior is covered with lofty mountains, intersected by deep and impassable ravines, clothed with thick jungle or forest. This mountainous district is encircled by a complete belt of lower country, exceedingly fertile, and much used for the raising of rice. So dense is the vegetation here that the uncleared valleys are impassable. This second belt is encircled by a third, the maritime belt abutting on the coasts. These are frequently wet and marshy, and in consequence of vegetation in various

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stages of decomposition the air becomes loaded with noxious vapours. At the sea-coast itself industry and cultivation is carried on under favourable conditions.

A description of all the products of this beautiful land becomes positively monotonous, especially just after leaving the West Indies. All the great staple agricultural industries of the tropics flourish—tea, coffee, rice, tobacco, and indigo. For the natives the cocoanut palm is the most valuable of the trees. It grows in great abundance along the entire western and southern sea coasts. It furnishes all that a native requires. Its fruit, when green, supplies food and drink, when ripe it yields oil. The juice of the flower gives spirit and vinegar; the fibrous case of the shell makes ropes, nets, and matting; the shell itself forms drinking vessels; and the leaves serve as thatch for the houses; the stalks are used for garden fences; the trunk, when sawn up and hollowed out, forms alike a canoe or a coffin.

The usual catalogue.

A useful tree.

As to the animal world, there is everything you want from the elephant down to the deer, and a great many you don't want. The anaconda, a huge snake, grows from twenty to thirty feet long. The lizards are charitably furnished with pads to each toe, by which they can climb perpendicular walls, and walk along your ceiling head downwards. There are water leeches and land leeches; the latter drop on you from the trees. They easily bite through your clothes, and do their work so quietly that you know nothing until you see the coloured result. Eighty have been taken off one person at one time. From all this it will be seen that Ceylon is a rich man's colony, as was said at the outset.

Superfluous luxuries.

CONCLUSION.

An
endless
pro-
cession.

IN addition to the four preceding great groups, the Dominion of Canada, the Colonies of Australasia, British South Africa, and the West Indian Islands, there are numerous other dependencies and possessions, great and small, in many other parts of the world. Some of these are of old standing, and some are only recently acquired. Some are important either as trading posts or as links in a chain, stepping stones leading to some place beyond. These will be dealt with in a separate volume.

The true
colony
and the
false.

But in few cases can the places outside these four great groups become colonies in the true sense of the word; in the sense indicated by Mr. Cecil Rhodes when he spoke of Rhodesia as a place "where white men could go and live and bring up their children." Now-a-days the mania for seizing places hitherto unoccupied by white men seems to be degenerating into positive lunacy.

The
yellow
press.

This practice is much fostered by newspapers who like to pursue a course calculated to win the favour of the unthinking multitude. This is a most undesirable state of things, for an enormous number of people blindly follow their newspapers just as a child follows its nurse. In this way an artificial public opinion is created. This, when once started, is very difficult to eradicate. A new term has been invented for this mania for seizing the territories of the coloured races. It is called earth-hunger.

Short-
sighted-
ness.

These people cannot see that beyond certain limits an extension of territory means an extension of weakness. Circumstances are easily conceivable in which excessively scattered territories, by causing a dispersal of forces, might

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become an extremely serious danger. Meanwhile the game of grab goes merrily on, and each new acquisition is heralded with a flourish of newspaper trumpets.

Would it not be far wiser to develop the vacant ground we already possess, rather than to go on seizing new territories with a haste that is little short of ludicrous? In our existing great colonies we have more land than we can people and develop for hundreds of years. The peopling of Canada, of Australasia, and of South Africa is so far a mere drop in the ocean of land existing in those enormous territories.

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