

SIMMONDS ' S  
**COLONIAL MAGAZINE.**

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OUR COLONIES :—

**WHICH, AND WHERE ARE THEY?**

THE New Colonial Magazine destined to record the facts, record the history, and protect the interests of our Colonies, cannot surely better commence its first number, than by briefly **re-minding** its readers which those Colonies are, and where they are situate. France has her Colonies, few and weak; Russia has hers, military and extensive, but miserable and oppressed; Holland, abridged as she has been by the events of 1830, still retains **her Colonies**, far, far away from her European seat of government; but they are all diminutive and **insignificant** when compared to our own. Let us **see**.

We **will** start with **BRITISH INDIA**. With that **Hindostan will** we begin, which out of a population of one hundred and forty millions of human beings, has ninety millions subjects of Great Britain, forty millions of the subjects of allies, protected **however** by the British Government, and greatly dependent upon British support, and with but ten millions of subjects of independent states.

Where the **Jumna** and the Ganges; two rivers destined to give grandeur and fertility to the plains of Hindostan, burst from beneath the eternal snows which no mortal foot hath yet trodden, still in the most elevated recesses of the mountains, Britain has her empire, and the soil is her own. In that India which was one of the earliest seats of **civilisation**, laws, the arts, and of all the improvements of social life, there are we now omnipotent.

In that India which is an epitome of the whole earth, extending from the 8th to the 34th degrees of north latitude, and from the 68th to the 92nd degrees of east longitude, which **from** north to south is no less in length than 1800, and from east to west 1500 miles, there are we ! It has regions that bask beneath the brightest rays of a tropical sun; and others, than which the most awful depths of the polar world are not more dreary. In its vast **plains** which present rich double harvests, luxuriant foliage, and even the burning deserts of the torrid zone; in its lower heights enriched by the fruits and grains of temperate and mellow climates ; on its upper steeps clothed with the vast pine forests of the north; and even on the highest pinnacles of its loftiest **regions**, buried beneath the perpetual snows of the arctic zone ;— even there are we ! On the great plain of India, between **the** Brahmapoutra and the Indus, reaching across from the **great** chain of mountains to **the** high table land of the southern **Peninsula**, 1500 miles long and from 300 to **400** broad, there doer British influence exist, and there also is the British name **respected** and revered. Along that plain where the Ganges **pours** a continually-widening stream, and where the power of **vegetation** is so great as to render it an entire field of waving **grain**,—**there** are we ! Where in the East, on the hilly shores of **Malabar** the aromatic gales perfume the air of the Oriental **Isles**—**there** our name, our power, our good faith, are known, acknowledged and felt. Where the rice, the opium, the indigo, the cotton grow in the greatest profusion ;-there are we ! Where **nature** ever riots in unbounded luxuriance, and covers whole tracts o country with dense, dark, impenetrable masses of foliage **and** vegetation, crowded and twined together; with trees **spreading** on all sides their gigantic arms ; with thorny and prickly shrub of every size and shape, **and** with canes shooting in a few months to the height of sixty feet ;-there are we ! And **when** in the open plain the banana and other single trees, when **full** scope is given to their growth, spread out into the dimensions o a considerable forest ;-there are we ! Amid the wilds of **Indi** where tall and majestic forests of pine, larch, spruce and **silve** fir, cypress, and cedar grow, flourish and decay, still there we are the owners of the soil, and either the governors of the people o their protectors and friends.

Where the fruits of the earth luxuriate in abundance and perfection; where the wild rose, the lily of the valley, and the cowslip burst through the green carpet; where the chamois bounds from rock to rock, and the forests are filled with deer and with musks ; where the peacock displays, his glittering plumage on the lower hills; where the sovereign eagle is descried amid the cliffs; where the bold hawk and the roving kite prey upon their dependents and their victims;-there are we !

In the valleys of the **Sutledge** and the **Jumna**; amidst perpetual snows, **where, beyond** a succession of lofty eminences a central mass of an enormous chain of mountains exists ; by the side of the cataracts which dash down dark ravines unsung by poets, and as yet unpainted by the pencil of man; in those bright and beauteous groves, or in the woods and forests where the **gibbon**, the wanderoo, the ichneumon, the pangola, the rhinoceros, the **nyl-ghau**, and the **gayall** are to be found; and where the finch falcon of Bengal, the hawk owl of Ceylon, the **bulbul**, the **honey-sucker**, the coromandel, and the gigantic storkwalk or fly abroad at liberty. and in happiness ;-there also are we !

Napoleon once said that “ England was a nation of shopkeepers !” We meet the foul libel by pointing to our Indian colonies ! A nation of shopkeepers, indeed ! What ! was that a nation of **shopkeepers**—a few of whose merchants with a **handful** of troops struggling against European rivalry subdued all the states which had sprung **from** the ruins of the Mogul Empire, and became the arbiters of the destiny of one hundred and forty millions of human beings placed **at** the opposite extremity of the globe ? Was that the effort of men who count coppers on counters, and speculate on short weight and inferior goods for their profits and their fortunes ? No ! No ! the conquest, the retention, the **aggrandisement**, the improvement, the continued rule and yearly advancement of such a dependency as this, is too mighty a monument of British courage, zeal, perseverance, science, and wisdom, ever to be forgotten in the history of the world! Let it then be primarily recorded in this Colonial Magazine that to **INDIA** as our first and most important possession we shall direct our best attention.

Next in importance to the **EAST INDIAN** Possessions of Great Britain are those of the **WEST INDIES**. There is **JAMAICA**, that

“island of springs,” with its four millions of acres—with its blue mountains towering to nearly 8,000 feet above the level of the sea—with its dense woods offering a marked contrast to the lower ranges with its coffee, pimento, cotton, and **capsicums**—with its numerous ravines and savannahs—with its springs, its **harbours**, its ports, its beautiful bays, its rich mines, its **fine** sugar canes, its coffee plants in the mountains, its dye **stuffs** and spices, its arrow root and cassia. There the bread-fruit tree, the plantain, the banana, the shaddock, the tamarind, the guava, and the star-apple all arrive at perfection.

There is **TRINIDAD** too, presenting one of the most **magnificent**, variegated, and richly luxuriant panoramas that nature ever formed. The waves of the mighty Orinoco dispute to the east for the empire of the ocean with contending billows, whilst the lofty mountains of Cumana rise **from** the bosom of the **horizon** in stupendous majesty. The fecundity of the soil, its **gigantic** and magnificent vegetation, its beautiful rivers, **enchanted** slopes, forests of palms, groves of citrons and forbidden **fruit** and hedges of spices and perfumes—its **fine** azure skies, **deep** blue seas, fertile glades and elastic atmosphere, have obtained for Trinidad the title of “the Indian paradise.”

There is **TOBAGO**, once the abode of the Caribs, and **named** after the first tobacco pipe of the island. It offers a strange contrast to “the Indian paradise,” for it is termed the “Isle of Melancholy.” At some former period it formed a bold **promontory** of main land, from which doubtless it was violently **diverred**. Though less picturesque than some islands, the **fig-tree** and the grape yield their fruit twice a year, and the **cinnamon** and pimento grow wild in different parts of this curious isle.

There is **GRENADA**, the most southerly of the Antilles, once favourite possession of the French; with its mountainous **and** picturesque scenery, its successive piles of conical hills, its **various** forest trees and brushwood, its splendid mount St. **Catherine** towering to a height of 3,000 feet, its basaltic rocks, its **wooded** **cliffs**, and its fine cocoa, sugar, and coffee plantation. There is the pretty group of Grenadines or **Grenadilloes**.

**There is** **ST. VINCENT**, the most beautiful of the Caribb isles, with its bold, sharp, and abrupt mountains, its deep intervening romantic glens, and its lofty and rocky coasts. T

delicious valley of Buccament is the admiration of all travellers. The famed botanic garden is the theme of general praise ; and the island stands high in reputation as a healthy station.

There is **BARBADOES**, the land of luxuriant fig-trees, and the territory of once as brave a people as ever breathed, with its **beautiful** bay of Carlisle, and noble square with the statue of Nelson; and there are also the remnants of those primitive forests which formerly covered the whole island.

There is **St. LUCIA**, with its sugar-loaf rocks, its **fantastic**-shaped mountains, its lovely little coves and bays fringed with luxuriant cane fields; its flotilla of fishing and drogher boats, and its stately trees clothing its noble mountains.

There is **DOMINICA**, with its lofty rugged acclivities, its fertile valleys, watered by thirty fine rivers-its umbrageous canopy of lofty and magnificent forests, and its romantic and picturesque cascades. The mountains are sulphurous and volcanic ; its lofty table rock, Morne Bruce, is one of the **finest** in the West Indies ; its rich parterres of green coffee perfume the whole atmosphere, and its grand Savannah is the delight of all who enjoy the murmuring cascades of bubbling brooks which break through the luxuriant vegetation, or roll along the hilly avenues surrounded by piles of rocks, black, bare, or green with countless tracteries of lovely creepers, gigantic ferns, and lofty palms.

There is the fertile island of **ANTIGUA**, with its bays and **har-**bour wholly unrivalled in the West Indies, with its bold and precipitous hills, its innumerable fruits, its aromatic spices, its productive gardens, and its groves of trees of beautiful and refreshing verdure.

There is the delightful little island of **NEVIS**, the mother of the English Caribbee Isles. It is a four-mile mountain, yet as green as heart can conceive, perfectly cultivated, and with a forest of evergreens like a **ruff** round the neck of the high land.

There is **MONTSERRAT**, the Montpellier of the west, with its elastic and healthy atmosphere-its majestic, picturesque, and lofty mountains, and its truly charming and bewitching scenery.

There is **St. CHRISTOPHER** (or St. Kitt's), with its layers of volcanic ashes, its bracing air, its healthy inhabitants, its awful crag of Mount Misery, and its exquisitely beautiful vale of Basseterre.

There is **TORTOLA**, whose harbour has afforded shelter in time of war to 400 vessels waiting for convoy.

There is the eel-like **ANGUILLA**, with its little wall of **cliffs** rising from the beach and protecting a flat and uninteresting surface, but yet **producing** annually three million bushels of **salt** from its salt lake ; and sugar, cotton, maize, and cattle in comparative abundance. .

There are the **BAHAMAS**, a group of several hundred islets evidently the work of the coral insect, which, with all its apparent insignificance, has created many beautiful and habitable spots for the dwelling and culture of man. In these numerous isles there are 400,000 acres granted to cultivators, and nearly two millions and a half vacant or unoccupied..

And there are **THE BERMUDAS** or Somers Isles, exceeding 300 in number, lying like a shepherd's crook, in the Atlantic ocean, with their coral reefs and shoals, their small cedar groves, their green-clad hills; and that north rock, placed by Nature, **or** rather by the God of Nature, as a beacon which seems to say "Hitherto mayst thou come," thou mistaken, billow-tost, deceived, and luckless vessel, "**but** no further." The Bermuda are the Gibraltar of our West **Indian** Colonies, and it was there fore that our American enemy, Washington, desired to annex them to the republic, and to make them a nest of hornets **to** annoy the English commerce.

Yes, there are we ; amidst **this** variegated scenery, these **mixed** populations, these multiplied products of the West India Islands There are we, who found the population uncultivated, indolent ignorant, miserable slaves ; and who have rendered them in **structed**, happy, enlightened, and free citizens. We have doubled the amount of productions by our superior cultivation we have made their minds, by instruction, as productive as **thei** soil ; we have increased their staple products to such an extent that their exports are now most important; and we have, in **nin** cases out of ten, so changed the indigenous characteristics of **th** people as to have transformed them **from** dulness, stolidity, an **soporific** indolence, to comparative activity, brightness, and **com**petition. To the charge that we rendered the Africans, slaves, w reply at least with triumph and with truth, that we have **pu** chased their freedom. Yes, noble land of the brave and the **goo**

we can look to our West Indian Colonies with gratitude, dignity, Christian joy, and honest pride ; and as the once-captive race point to their broken chains now scattered around, we can say, "Thank God, we bought their freedom."

Turn we now to **SOUTH AMERICA**, and to our colonies in that quarter ; and the first which presents itself is **BRITISH GUIANA**. There, on the vast rivers of Essequibo, Demerara, and Berbice, we have possessions which cover an area of one **hundred** thousand square miles. There its fine **savannahs** are occasionally interrupted by hill and dale scenery ; but the general appearance of the country is similar to the territory of Belgium. Sugar and cotton grow in abundance ; and in some districts, though never manured, a single acre has produced 6000 lbs. of sugar in one year. In other districts, coffee is not only abundant, but of excellent quality. Although the climate has hitherto been considered one great objection to any vast amount of colonization in that portion of our **possessions**, yet exercise and temperance are, as elsewhere, the great safeguards to health.

The British settlement of **HONDURAS**, in Central America, extends along the coast for an extent of **270** miles. That coast is studded with green isles, and the town of Belize is by no means insignificant. The mahogany tree, and **logwood**, **cochineal**, indigo, and sarsaparilla, are the great staple produce of Honduras; oranges, shaddocks, melons, pine-apples, and **cocoa** nuts, are also abundant. Deeply is it to be regretted that the country is not divided into parishes, and that emigration to that 'portion of our settlements is not encouraged. Its pine-wood alone would richly compensate all engaged in its cultivation.

The **FALKLAND ISLES** are no less than ninety in number, and the two largest are each nearly one hundred miles in length and fifty in breadth. Though the weather is seldom settled, yet the climate is temperate, and vegetation rapid and productive. There is heard the gentle note of the grebe, and the falcon and the heron are by no means rare. There, too, herds of wild cattle would maintain vast numbers of settlers, and the upland geese would delight, by their flavour, even a London or a Parisian gastronome.

Our possessions in **NORTH AMERICA** merit a longer and more

attentive consideration. First in order of importance come what was formerly **LOWER CANADA**. The late settlement of the Maine Frontier question has deprived us unquestionably of one of the finest sections of our North American territory, but it is still **sufficiently** extensive to support in comfort and happiness tens of thousands of our depressed and emaciated **agricultural** population. Two hundred thousand square miles of **territory** with three chief districts—Quebec, Montreal, and Three **Rivers**—and two of an inferior extent—Gaspé and St. Francis—ought to be far better cultivated and much more thickly populated than they are at present. And are not the natural features of Lower Canada extremely picturesque? Are there not ranges of **mountains**, noble rivers, **magnificent** cascades, lakes, prairies, **farm** and forests, alternating in every direction with sudden and **beautiful** variety? Who that has seen the eastern **parts** of the **River** St. Lawrence, with the high and mountainous districts about it can forget the noble forests which **everywhere** meet the eye and which are lost only in the clouds? And who can forget the Alleghanies, rising abruptly to the lofty elevation of 4,000 feet above **the** level of the sea? Of cities and towns there are **sufficient** to assure the minds and remove the fears of settlers; **for** are there not Quebec and Montreal? And though the winter is somewhat longer than our own, its fine season begins in **May** and continues until November. When last the census was taken, in seventeen counties there were upwards of 4,100 townships, and a population of nearly 500,000 souls. What forests timber there invite the industry and the activity of our broad-shouldered and strong-limbed foresters! How many a man whose family now scarcely exists upon the wholly inadequate wages of the mother-country, would there be abundantly **compensated** for his **labour** and his toil!

If from Lower, we turn to the position of **UPPER CANADA** what a vast territory do we behold embraced in that extensive province! Who can even think of the Ottawa River—of the Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Huron, without strongly feeling what sources of riches are **there**, in primitive forests as yet **untrodden** by the foot of **civilisation**? The lakes alone fill us with **surprise**. Lake Superior is 541 miles long, by **140** wide; and Huron, Erie and Ontario, are from 180 to **250** miles in length. The **inf**

capital, Toronto ; Kingston, hitherto the seat of government, with its **fine** position, but little inferior to Quebec and Halifax ; the Rideau Canal, the **Welland** Canal, the Granville Canal,-all are works of interest to those who exclaim with delight as we do, when their eyes pass over in succession the various nations of the earth, “ Yes, there also are we.” And when we think, too, that the people of Canada are among the most favoured of the earth, having peace, liberty, security, and abundance-a fertile soil, a beautiful climate, and an almost total exemption **from burthens** of any kind, how can we do otherwise than desire that swarms of our manufacturing, mining, and wandering poor were there, enjoying at least the comforts, if not the luxuries of life?

Thank God that some districts are **colonised** by Highland and Lowland Scotchmen, whose prudent, thrifty, hard-working characteristics have fitted them for emigration. There are upwards of eighteen acres of **rateable** land to each human being, and not more than two acres cultivated. And when it is known that even there, where the advantages are so great, that the proportion of hands cultivating 5’7,000 acres is as twenty acres to each person, is it not just and right that we should desire that multitudes of our own starving population should there be transplanted to **labour** with diligence, but to be well rewarded for their toil ?

**NOVA SCOTIA** is situate between the parallels of 43 and 46 north latitude, and the meridian of 61 **and** 6’7 west longitude. It is 280 miles long, embraces upwards of 15,000 square miles, and nearly ten millions of acres. The **harbour** of Halifax is the admiration **of** the world, and **from** its situation being directly open to the Atlantic, and its navigation scarcely ever interrupted by ice, is our chief naval station in North America, and affords safe anchorage for 1,000 ships. Yes, there also the majesty of Britannia rides triumphant on the waves.!

**CAPE BRETON** and **THE SABLE ISLANDS**, though forming a **part** of the government of **Nova** Scotia, are yet, as it were, a separate colony. They comprise an area of two millions of acres, exclusive of the surface covered by lakes and rivers. How beautiful is the situation of Sydney the capital, and how enterprising and energetic are the miners ! what depths **of** coal fields, and what sources of riches are there still hidden ! the **veins ap-**

pear to be wholly inexhaustible ; and yet, besides all this, timber exists in great abundance, and the fisheries are sources of wealth.

**NEW BRUNSWICK** next invites our notice. It contains no less than nearly 28,000 square miles, and about eighteen millions of acres. Behold its bold undulations, its vale and lowlands, its noble forests, its pleasing settlements, its abundant water communications, its fine extended prairies ; and yet, fourteen out of eighteen millions of acres still await the British husbandman to turn the soil of this province with British spades, and to rescue millions of the half-starving population at home from misery and death. The province is healthy, old age is frequent, and sober, industrious settlers cannot **fail** of being happy and contented.

**PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND** is no large possession, containing an area of **1,360,000** acres, or 2134 square miles ; but it is delightfully situated for commerce, agriculture, and the fisheries. It is a pastoral country: picturesque, admirably adapted for cultivation, and so healthy that many persons live even to one hundred years of age, without ever knowing a day's illness ! There, however, the fisheries have been neglected, and **hundreds** of the famishing fishermen on our eastern and northern **coasts** would **find** in the herring fishery of Prince Edward's Island means for a profitable and satisfactory existence.

**NEWFOUNDLAND AND THE LABRADOR COAST** are **likewise** under British dominion, and owe a loyal obedience to our Queer Victoria. Newfoundland is not less than 420 miles long, and **at** its greatest breadth 300 miles. Little is known of the **interior** of this vast island ; but it would doubtless well repay the toil of those who should decide on exploring it. The longevity of **the** inhabitants is the best proof of the salubrity of the country. Old fishermen of 90 years of age will be frequently seen, **actively** occupied in the arduous duties of their calling. How astonishing is British industry and British enterprize ! Look at Newfoundland for an example of this ! There, in a land certainly "unknown to song," there are nearly a million **cwts.** of dried cod prepared and exported annually, and from **400,000** to 500,000 seal-skins likewise sent to foreign shores in **th** same period of time.

**THE HUDSON'S BAY TERRITORIES** occupy no less an exten