

MODERN INDIA



SIR J. D. REES

THE BRITISH EMPIRE

**"The experiment must go forward. . . .
We cannot leave it unfinished if we would."
—Sir JOHN SEELEY.**

UNIFORM WITH THIS VOLUME

YESTERDAY AND TO-DAY
IN CANADA

BY

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ARGYLL

CAPE COLONY

BY

RT. HON. JOHN XAVIER MERRIMAN
OF CAPE COLONY

MODERN INDIA



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BY

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"TOURS IN INDIA," ETC. ETC.

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NOTE

"THE experiment must go forward. . . . We cannot leave it unfinished if we would." It is nearly thirty years since Professor Seeley spoke these words of Empire in his great series of lectures on the "Expansion of England." What was only felt then in an emotional way by a comparatively small band of enthusiasts has to-day come home to at least some millions of our people. In Seeley's day the Imperialist was the dreamer; now he is the practical and clear-seeing man of affairs. The reproach that our politicians, our historians, still think of England, not of Greater Britain, as their country has lost much of its sting since those lectures were read at Cambridge by Seeley. No man of information or imagination really supposes to-day that England could whistle off the Colonies and "become again, with perfect comfort to herself, the old, solitary island of Queen Elizabeth's time—'in a great pool a swan's nest.'" That was the strange delusion which arose, as the historian pointed out, not through imagination, but through the want of it.

More every year it becomes the wish, as it is the duty, of every thinking British citizen to be

well informed, not only as to his own particular land, but as to the British Empire as a whole. What can they know of England who only England know? is truer to-day than ever it has been. The Empire, with its tremendous problems of government, defence, trade, and the handling of the coloured races, is a theme of as great and live value as any of the subjects studied at school and college—the classics, English history and geography, science, modern languages, mathematics. We must learn “to think imperially,” or perish completely as an empire. The subject cannot any longer be left out of the scheme of study at our schools and universities; and it may well be a subject of home training too.

The educated man of the future is sure to be educated in the glorious subjects of India, Canada, South Africa, Australasia; he will be alive to the true meaning and great import of our position and interests in the Far East, the Mediterranean, the Pacific.

The aim of this series of books, therefore, is to give people, young and old, at home and throughout Greater Britain, a trustworthy, absolutely authentic description of British interests, resources, and life all over the Empire. Each volume will be written by an acknowledged authority on the subject. No regard will be paid to party politics. The questions of Liberalism and Conservatism do not come within the scope of these books; it is only a question of Imperialism.

NOTE

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The idea is to describe the Colony, British possession, or sphere of influence in its natural, commercial, and social features; and the authors will give an account of its rise and growth. "Yesterday and To-Day in Canada," by the Duke of Argyll; "Modern India," by Sir J. D. Rees, M.P.; and "South Africa," by the Right Hon. John Xavier Merriman, of Cape Colony, will be the opening books in the series.

THE EDITORS.

P R E F A C E

THIS book has been written at the request of the Publishers for their Empire series, and runs upon lines suggested by them. It is, of course, impossible, within the limits of one small volume, to deal in other than a general and comprehensive fashion with any of the great problems which arise in connection with the administration of India. I have endeavoured to touch upon most of the important issues, and if I have done something towards counteracting the exceedingly mischievous, and deplorably unpatriotic, agitation which is directed against our fellow-countrymen in India, I shall be more than satisfied. I served in our Eastern Empire for a quarter of a century, and since retiring as a British Resident, and an Additional Member of the Governor-General's Council, in 1900, have continued in and out of Parliament to serve India to the best of my ability.

J. D. REES.

MONTGOMERY, *May* 1910.

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