

government? What is St. Petersburg? What is its commercial outlet? What sea has its ports closed part of the time by ice? What sea has its ports always open? What is the leading grain port of Russia? Where is it? Where is Moscow?

British Isles.

MAP STUDY.

Questions. Find the prime meridian upon the map. What place does it cross? Why does the prime meridian cross Greenwich? (See p. 16, § 3.) Of what city is Greenwich a suburb? What three countries occupy the Island of Great Britain? In what longitude is the central part of England? Scotland? Ireland? Where are the Shetland Islands? What two other groups lie near Scotland? Which of the two great islands lies nearer to the United States? Does the coast appear to furnish many harbors? Judging from the map, are the islands mountainous or level? In approaching from the sea, would you expect to find rocky shores or low and sandy beaches? Which is the most mountainous country? Locate the Grampian Mountains. The Cumbrian Mountains. The Cheviot Hills. The Wicklow Mountains. What parts appear to have no mountainous features? Would you assume, from the prevalence of hills and mountains, that minerals are plentiful? Would you assume, from the nature of the coast and the situation of the islands, that the people are a maritime nation? Give the dimensions in miles of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. For each, name one of our States of approximate size. What waters lie between the British Isles and Europe? Between them and America? How far is England from France? What channel between Great Britain and Ireland? Have the rivers the same general course, or do they reach the sea in all directions from the interior? Where are the Severn, Thames, Mersey, and Trent rivers? The Clyde and the Tweed? The Shannon? Have they estuaries? Where is the Caledonian Canal? What name is used for an estuary in Scotland? What name is used in the British Isles to denote a cape?

§ 1. The **British Empire** has for its home country the **British Isles**. These are the islands of Great Britain and Ireland, with some outlying ones.

England, Scotland, and Ireland were once separate kingdoms, but became united under the title of **The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland**.

The strength of the empire is largely in its colonies. The countries over which the government exercises sovereignty cover a larger area and include a greater population than those of any other nation. The principal colonial possessions are Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, Cape Colony, British Guiana, Jamaica, Ceylon, and many islands in the East and West Indies and in Oceania.

Questions. Of what does the home country of the British Empire consist? Name the principal islands. What three separate kingdoms formerly existed upon these islands? What became of these kingdoms? In what is the strength of the British Empire? How do the area and population of this empire compare with those of other nations? Name some of the principal colonies. Find them on the maps.

§ 2. The British Isles, though lying in the northern half of the Eastern Hemisphere, are yet so favored by the influence of the Gulf Stream that their climate is excellent. No high mountains intercept the moist winds to cause arid districts upon their leeward sides.

Questions. What influence favors the climate of the British Isles? Are any parts deficient in rainfall? Why?

§ 3. The soil is good, about one-third of the area being under cultivation. About one-twentieth of the population is engaged in agriculture.

The hills and mountains abound with minerals.

Questions. What is the quality of the soil? How much land is under cultivation? Are minerals plentiful?

§ 4. Numerous streams, with rapid descent, furnish abundant water-power, and extensive deposits of coal supply means for steam-power; hence, manufacturing is the leading industry of the people. Natural advantages have been utilized to the utmost. All that the country can produce in the way of raw material is used for manufacture, and other parts of the world are drawn upon largely for additional material.

Questions. Is water-power abundant? What other source of power is abundant? What is the leading industry? Why? Does the industry of manufacturing call for more raw material than is obtained from the fields and mines of the kingdom? How is the deficiency supplied?

§ 5. No country in the world is better supplied with harbors, or is more conveniently situated for commerce upon all the oceans. British foreign commerce, which consists chiefly in importing raw material and exporting finished goods, is more extensive than that of any other nation. Much of it is with British colonies in various parts of the world. The British manufacturing, mining, and fishing industries are equaled by those of but one nation, the United States. The commerce of this country with the United Kingdom is chiefly in the exchange of cotton, cereals, live-stock, meats, and petroleum for manufactured goods, such as cloths and articles made from various metals. As manufacturing has developed in our country we have become less dependent on Great Britain for goods, so that at present the balance of trade is largely in our favor. (See p. 32, § 11.) We sell to the United Kingdom about \$1,000,000 a day in value more than we purchase from it.

Questions. What are the facilities for commerce? Name some of the estuaries and navigable rivers. Mention some important seaports upon them. How great is the foreign commerce compared with that of other nations? What is the nature of British foreign commerce? What one other nation equals the United Kingdom in the extent of its manufacturing, mining, and fishing industries? What is our commerce with Great Britain? What is "the balance of trade"? In whose favor is it, as between Great Britain and the United States? About how much more do we sell to that nation than we purchase from it daily?

§ 6. For many centuries these islands, with their great natural advantages, have been peopled by the most vigorous, energetic, and enterprising portion of the Caucasian race. The population of the United Kingdom is a little less than 40,000,000, or less than two-thirds that of the United States. Nearly all speak the English language, though a few speak only the Gaelic, Welsh, or Irish tongues of their forefathers.

The English language, a strong and flexible tongue derived from several sources, contains the best literature of modern times. The spread of English-speaking people has extended its influence to every quarter of the globe, until it has become the most widely known of all languages.