

THE COLONIES AND THE CENTURY

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The Colonies and the Century by Sir J. Robinson

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SIR J. ROBINSON

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AND THE CENTURY**

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BY THE
HON. SIR J. ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.
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NOTE

A CONSIDERABLE portion of this little volume was read by the Author before the Royal Colonial Institute, on May 9th last, but want of time compelled the omission of much that is now incorporated,

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THE EMPIRE IN 1800.

JUST thirty years have passed since it fell to my lot to read before the Royal Colonial Institute, then in the first year of its existence, a paper on "The Social Aspects of Colonisation." It was associated with another, more statistical in its character, upon "The Progress of the Colonies," which I had been asked to read during the same week before the Society of Arts. Strange as it may now seem that such an attempt should even then have been thought necessary, the object of both papers was to vindicate the work of British colonisation, and to prove by facts and figures that the colonies had contributed in the past, and would continue to contribute in the future, to the prosperity and advantage of the parent land. Nothing can more vividly demonstrate the change that has come over public opinion in this regard than the fact that in 1869 it was possible in sober seriousness to use these words: "Over and over again it is asserted that the colonies