

**THE GROWTH OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.**

Mr J. HOLT SCHOOLING is responsible for an article of remarkable interest, in which the enormously rapid growth of the Queen's realm is strikingly exemplified by means of picturesque diagrams. Mr. Schooling states that: Of every 100 square miles of land in Europe our share is 3 square miles, in Asia 10, Africa 19, America 24, Australasia 60, and the world 21. These facts are certainly remarkable. There are many great nations on the earth besides ours. There are five great Powers in Europe, to say nothing about those nations who, from being great in the past, have become small in the present—such as Spain and Holland, whose interest is now, for the most part, historical or romantic,

rather than of practical effect in the conduct of the world's affairs. There are in Asia, huge China, Persia, small Japan, the England of the East, the United States in North America, and hosts of minor nations on this earth. We have named ten only (including the United Kingdom, and excluding Spain and Holland), and yet the British Empire takes as its share of land more than one-fourth part of all the land there is to take. An extraordinary thing to be the result, primarily, of activities that have come out of two small islands of insignificant size which many years ago formed a tiny part of the great Plain of Europe, but which have since those early days found themselves placed between the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea. Raise the bed of the North Sea only a paltry 100

yards above its present level, and Great Britain would again form part of the continent of Europe. But those 100 yards of salt water have meant to us the existence of our vast Empire. Then there is a diagram showing the comparative sizes of the colonies belonging to the various great empires—1. From the United Kingdom is hung in colonies, etc., 92.6 times its own area. 2. From France is hung in colonies, etc., 12.3 times its own area. 3. From Germany is hung in colonies, etc., 4.9 times its own area. 4. From Russia is hung in colonies, etc., 3.6 times its own area. 5. From Italy is hung in colonies, etc., 2.5 times its own area. 6. From Austria-Hungary is hung in colonies, etc., 0.7 times its own area. The United Kingdom has added to the British Empire, during these 60 years only, an area of square miles of the land of the earth equal to 31 times its own area! This means that, on the average, in every two years of the Queen's reign the British Empire has increased to the extent of the area of another United Kingdom. Half-a-United-Kingdom added per annum is not bad work. Again, in every hour of the day or night of the Queen's long reign more than seven square miles of land have been added to the British Empire, i.e., one square mile has been added every eight minutes or so. If we take the weight in tons of the land added to British territory during the Queen's reign we find that its weight is about exactly equal to one and a-half times the weight of the moon!



'THE IDLERS,' FROM THE PICTURE BY F. W. PAYTON.

Mr Stead speaks highly of the energy with which the Queen threw herself into political work after the death of her husband. Here, says he, is another supreme instance of the immense superiority of the new ideas of woman's work and woman's sphere that have nowhere found such conspicuous, such triumphant exemplification as in the life of the widowed Queen. If she had been a mere housewife, a mere wife, a mere mother, the blow that snapped the Prince Consort's life might well have broken her heart. But, while housewife, wife, and mother par excellence, she was more than merely the ancillary of a man, the bearer of his children, the keeper of his house. She was a politician, a public-spirited stateswoman with endless interests in the world other than those that centre round the domestic hearth.

It is said that certain French dames have carried their passion for sweet smells to the extreme of injecting a few drops of perfume into the blood, regardless of the folly and danger of such a proceeding.



H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES IN HER ACADEMICAL ROBES.



'LINGERING LIGHT,' FROM THE PICTURE BY THOS. BALL.