

powerful as king of Prussia, stood in relation to the rulers of the other states as their accepted head.

From that time France has been a republic; and the German Empire, unified at length by the tact and far-sighted policy of Bismarck, has taken a foremost place among the nations of the world.

Chapter XXII.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

(1500-1908 A.D.)

"FAIR is our lot—oh, goodly is our heritage!
 (Humble ye, my people, and be fearful in your mirth.)
 For the Lord our God most High,
 He hath made the deep as dry,
 He hath smote for us a pathway to the ends of all the earth!

"Keep ye the law—be swift in all obedience—
 Clear the land of evil, drive the road and bridge the ford.
 Make ye sure to each his own,
 That he reap where he hath sown;
 By the peace among our people let men know we fear the Lord!"
 RUDYARD KIPLING.

SUCH is the fine and lofty note struck by the Empire poet of our day for one of the most wonderful of the great empires of the world.

If we look at a map of the British Empire of to-day we cannot fail to be struck by the fact that the