

by British garrisons, they were in no sense British possessions.

At the peace of 1802 the position was grievously changed for the worse, owing to the reckless way in which we gave back to Bonaparte all the points of vantage from which we had, with such difficulty, evicted his republican predecessors. Of all our conquests, only Trinidad and Ceylon were retained. Spain recovered Minorca, France all her West Indian possessions, Holland the Cape of Good Hope, Surinam and Demerara, Turkey her Egyptian Pashalik.

When, therefore, the short and troubled period of peace in 1802-3 had come to an end, we had to repeat the wearisome process of eviction that had been carried out once before between 1793 and 1801. In the first three years of the struggle with Bonaparte, the dread of an invasion of England was too pressing to allow us to send large expeditions far from our own shores. But after 1805, the sure and steady reconquest of the outlying dependencies of France and Holland began. The Cape was recovered in 1806; Curaçoa and the rest of the Dutch West Indies in 1807. Martinique, Senegal with the other French ports of West Africa, and also French Guiana (Cayenne), fell in 1809; Guadaloupe, in the West Indies, and the Isles of France and Bourbon in the East, were taken in 1810; and with the capture of the great and wealthy island of Java in 1811, Napoleon ceased to possess a single transmarine colony. He had himself sold Louisiana to the United States, in order to prevent it falling into our hands, while in Hayti (St. Domingo), once the most wealthy of all the French dependencies, the garrison had been exterminated by the insurgent negroes, who had formed an anarchic republic in servile imitation of their former republican masters.

While the tricolour was being lowered from one island after another in the Eastern seas, we were in India deeply engaged