

8 RELIGION, COLONISING AND TRADE

the attractive power of gold, to the peopling which is the immediate outcome of gold discoveries, to the far-reaching economic, social and political results which have followed in the train of gold.

A wholly different motive, religion, was an immense force in favour of making a British Empire ; but it was a force which, in the case of the English in the sixteenth century, and to a large extent later also, operated more by repulsion than by attraction. In the first chapter of his ' Discourse concerning Western Planting,' Hakluyt, as is noted in Sir Walter Raleigh's essay, tells of being challenged by papists as to ' how many infidels have been by us converted,' and ' albeit I alleged the example of the ministers which were sent from Geneva with Villegagnon into Brazil, and those that went with John Ribault into Florida, as also those of our nation that went with Frobisher, Sir Francis Drake and Fenton ; yet in very deed I was not able to name any one infidel by them converted.' This passage is followed by the shrewd remark that the clergy, if set to the work of conversion, would become less contentious.¹ Conversion of the heathen was in the forefront of Portuguese and Spanish expansion. It gave to their wars and conquests the character of crusades. To the English the crusading impulse was given by antipathy to the particular kind of Christian creed which Portuguese and Spaniards held. Yet conversion was one of the standard motives in the mouths of English advocates of empire in the sixteenth century. That Hakluyt, as a minister of the Church of England, should give a first place among motives

¹ Hakluyt, vol. xii, pp. 32-3.