

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY

IN the foregoing pages the three main motives or forces which made or marred the Old Empire have been taken to be trade, colonising or making new homes, and religion. Trade carried to an extreme and allied to attempted uniformity has been set down as the fundamental evil which wrecked the Old Empire. Trade in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries has developed to an amazing degree both in bulk and in variety, and no bounds can be set to the possibilities of scientific invention, which was beginning to make itself felt before the Old Empire ended. But whereas in the Old Empire trade, in the form of the trading interests of the Mother Country, came to be the enemy of overseas liberties, in the middle of the nineteenth century, in the hands of Sir Robert Peel, preceded by Huskisson and followed by Gladstone, it came, as free trade, to be the promoter of those liberties almost to the extent of what the overseas peoples themselves considered to be indifference to the tie of Empire.

As has been seen,<sup>1</sup> Gladstone valued colonies in the sense that he valued reproductions of England and

<sup>1</sup> See above, pp. 36-7.