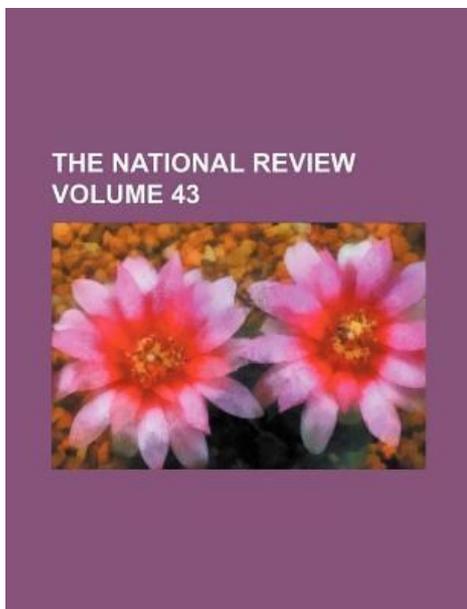


The National Review Volume 43

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1904 Excerpt: ... which in the course of four centuries the three greatest continents of the earth have been practically placed under the supremacy of the race identified with the smallest of its continents is, no doubt, due in part to the moral superiority of our European civilisation, even though in some cases, as, for instance, when we read the story of the conquest of Mexico and of Peru, it appears difficult to prove the ethical title of the conquerors. But, apart from any moral superiority, there can be no question that our civilisation owes its conquests to the scientific superiority to which it has attained, and of all applied sciences the science of navigation has played in this respect the most decisive part. From the fifteenth century to the present day the world outside Europe has belonged to those who have known how to convert the sea into a highway. The Spaniards and the Portuguese, the Dutch, the French, and ourselves have

A lecture delivered on May 5 at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and published by kind permission of the Governor, MajorGeneral R. H. Jelf, C.M.G. opening up closer and more satisfactory relations, our influence grew with our maritime supremacy. In 1840, the great quarrel over the opium trade in Canton led to the first China war, of which the immediate result was to give us possession of Hongkong and open up five Chinese ports to our trade, and consequentially to the trade of all the great Occidental nations. It is not perhaps surprising, when one looks judicially at the circumstances of the case, that it failed to reconcile China to contact with the West. It had wounded her pride without abating her self-confidence. A second China war, in which we had the co-operation of France, brought an Anglo-French army to Peking in 1860 and enforced...

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