

Natural Selection Amongst Mankind.

From the London Saturday Review.
Mr. Darwin's doctrine is well founded, the human race as at present constituted is the result of a long and exceedingly slow elaboration. It resembles one of the machines advertised as possessing all the newest and best improvements. We, in our collective capacity, are heirs of all the ages from the first dawn of life until now, and, until we are to turn superseded by something better, may flatter ourselves that we combine in the highest degree practicable all conceivable good qualities. What may be the ultimate value of these speculations is at present, and perhaps is likely long to remain, an open question; but one application of the theory, amongst many others, is of extreme practical interest. We may or may not have descended from the monkeys, and if we have, it must be granted that, in spite of much which might be urged to the contrary, we have on the whole made a distinct advance in morality and intelligence. In spite of wars and panoply and commercial scandals, we are very superior to the dog-headed baboons. But the question remains, whether the same process is still at work amongst mankind. Is it true that the races which are furthest removed from the animals tend to supplant those of a distinctly lower type? Is it probable that at some distant period the world will be peopled by civilized beings of European descent, and that from them will arise a still nobler race, with larger brains, greater physical capacities, and more highly developed social affections? Without looking to a future so remote that our feeble vision can never expect to penetrate its depths, we may ask whether a progress in that direction is distinctly visible to the naked eye. It might be vain to inquire whether in a few million years there will be a race of beings on the planet capable of looking down upon us as we look down upon the naked savages, or even "showing a Newton as we show an ape;" but it is important to know whether on the whole the superior races of mankind are supplanting those just below them in the scale, or whether some of the highest qualities at present developed are likely to be absorbed in a competition with inferior races of men. Certain familiar facts may be quoted in favor of the more cheerful prospect. New Zealanders and Red Indians are on the road to extinction, and the capacity of the negro to survive competition with the white man is still a very doubtful problem. The best hope held out for him is that he may survive, free from the disadvantages of slavery, but still at the best a serviceable and distinctly inferior drudge. If we might confidently apply these results to races divided by less palpable distinctions, we should infer, not only that Europeans are supplanting savages, but that the best races of Europe are likely to supplant those a degree or two below them. In other words, of course, we should look forward to the day when the population of the globe would be exclusively English descent, which would be inexplicably cheering.

Two or three difficulties, however, have been raised, which point to causes likely to retard this desirable consummation. Thus it has been said, although statisticians do not seem as yet to have decided the point, that the native American is being absorbed by the foreign immigration, and that expressly because he represents on the whole a superior type of civilization. The educated and intelligent native naturally feels the influence of prudential restraints. He does not marry, unless he has a fair prospect of supporting a family. He tends more and more to approximate to the social condition illustrated in France, where population increases so slowly as to be all but stationary. Meanwhile the immigrant, with a far lower standard of comfort, multiplies at an unprecedented rate, and bids fair in a few generations completely to swamp the higher type of man, and that for the very reason that he is at a lower intellectual stage. In other words, the fact that one part of a population is less capable of foresight and self-restraint gives it a direct advantage in the struggle for existence. It is unnecessary for this purpose to ask whether the facts are correctly stated, or whether there may not be some other explanation at hand. It may be said, for example, that the native American is physically degenerate, and is as far an inferior animal than from certain climatic influences, or from the social habits of the people, his constitution is not so robust as that of his ancestors. It may be that the race is undergoing a slow process of acclimatization, and that a true interpretation of the facts observed would be somewhat different; the advantage would only be in the first race of emigrants, and ultimately those who had adapted themselves to the new soil through a long process of modification would gain the superiority. This, however, is a speculation for which the proper data have not as yet been accumulated. The difficulty suggested is the simple one that, in certain cases, the absence of that sensibility to prudential restraints which is the product of long-continued civilization gives an advantage to the least civilized part of the community. An argument in some respects similar is urged by alarmists of a different class. In California and Australia, it is said, the man of European origin is being ousted by the Asiatic. The Chinaman is an inferior being, both physically and intellectually, to his competitor. He can do less work, and is less capable of the higher kinds of thought. As, however, he can live upon the bare leavings of an American or English laborer, he succeeds in insinuating himself into the lower branches of labor, and, having abundance of ingenuity, industry, and capacity for imitation, he gradually ousts his more cultivated but more expensive rival. He is already the object of bitter jealousy; and considering his perseverance, his powers of increase, and the enormous population of which he is the representative, he is likely to become even more formidable in future. If the Irishman swamps the American, Irishmen and Americans alike are in danger of being eaten out in course of time by the semi-barbarian races of the East, and the world, instead of being extinguished, will undergo a process for which no similar word should, if possible, be coined from the substantive Chinese. The danger is, of course, remote; but if a population of 300,000,000 once takes to expanding beyond its borders in a rapid geometrical increase, it is hard to assign any limits to its possible future.

A danger of a different kind is suggested by another observer. The agricultural population of the country is, it has been said, physically deteriorating. So far as the decay results from insufficient food and clothing, we may hope that it is a temporary local result, caused, not by the progress of civilization, but by the fact that civilization has failed to penetrate into certain districts. But it is further argued that the improvements which have come within reach of the poorer classes have failed to benefit them permanently. A great many feeble infants have been preserved, who, under a rougher system, would have died; and, consequently, the average strength of constitution is diminished. The hardships of former times acted usefully by thinning out the population, and the healthier were selected by a spontaneous process to grow up and become the parents of the next generation. How far this can be true as a rule

must be a very complicated question. The hardships which kill off the weak must tell more or less prejudicially upon the strong who survive. If we succeed in bringing up many who would have disappeared under a more severe test, it is fair to suppose that we also destroy certain evils which would have brought down the general standard of health. The implied doctrine seems to be that certain trials which injure the sickly tend positively to invigorate the healthy. But the hardening theory is only applicable within very narrow limits, and the more ordinary case would seem to be that anything which is bad for one class is proportionately upon the other. Certainly the savage tribes upon whom the experiment is tried on the largest scale seem to be distinctly weaker fibre than the more pampered Europeans; and the soldier who has been luxuriously brought up is said to stand hardships better than his rougher companion, who, in the common phrase, has been ironed to hardships from his youth. Still we may suppose that, within certain limits, which it is impossible to define, the effect of rearing the sickly part of the population is to produce a race of inferior stamina. If we had not certain awkward moral feelings, we ought to choose out the most promising babies, as we take the best-looking puppies in a litter, and remorselessly drown all who are not strong enough to live.

The general result would therefore be that civilization produces upon the human race an effect analogous to that which racing is alleged to produce upon the breed of horses. We certainly develop some qualities in a very high degree; we get a highly nervous, sensitive, and intellectual race; but they are wanting in the robust physical qualification which is a necessary substratum for their other merits. The first necessity of a population, as for an individual, is that it should live. It may display the finest intelligence, but if it has not vitality enough to carry on an interminable struggle for existence, it will not be able to get a hearing at all in this world. The rough pachymatrons of the population will expand at the cost of the more refined; the inferior races, which on the whole manage to produce a greater surplus with a given amount of labor, will push on side the more costly, though more powerful, machine, just as steamers supplant paddle-wheels, not because they are faster or more convenient, but because they burn less coal to produce a given speed. And finally, if we become so tender-hearted as to rear all the weakly constitutions, we shall pay for our humanity by degenerating in average strength, and shall be literally too good for this world; or, if a statement in such terms sounds too improbable, we may say that our good nature may perhaps be developed out of proportion to our foresight or our severer virtues. So far as there is any truth in this view, it would not be in any way opposed to the doctrine of natural selection; for that doctrine merely asserts that the races will survive which, on the whole, are best adapted to the world in which we live. It would be a partial condemnation of our modern civilization, and would show that, although it has produced a race distinctly better fitted for self-preservation than the red Indian or the negro, it has yet developed mankind in a very imperfect and one-sided manner. We are trying, according to the proverb, to chop blocks with razors, and have encouraged delicacy at the price of strength. Men, like horses, are becoming "weedy," and require an infusion of some stronger and less highly strung organizations. The excitable American needs to be invigorated by the dexter European immigrant, and in some climates, at least, the white man will have to be content with supplying commanding officers to use their brains in directing the ruder rank and file of Asiatic races. In short, we should have to regard the development of mankind, not as a continuous process in which the finest race in existence at a given period always tends to multiply at the expense of its neighbors, but rather as a tentative and vacillating advance, where certain races gain for a time exceptional merits at the expense of vitality, and then have to sink back upon the more vigorous breeds of the second rank.

The observations necessary to determine this point would undoubtedly be of the highest interest. We should hardly be philosophical enough to be reconciled to a partial deterioration of the race by the fact that it is in accordance with the law of natural selection. It would be melancholy to believe that the progress upon which we pride ourselves is in part illusory, and that we must start again from a lower platform. We would infinitely rather discover that the alleged indications of decline are merely exceptional. The case of a new country is obviously not quite in point. There is there a special demand for the rough kinds of labor, and the race which increases most rapidly has an advantage which it does not possess in other countries. What is required is as many millions as possible of rough, hard-working pioneers; and the enormous increase of the immigrant population in America has in fact produced immediately by such a demand. In a country in the normal state, where the limits of population are closer, the more intellectual qualities will give a greater advantage; and it is at least probable that the evils which result from preserving the weakly children will be counterbalanced by removing the causes of general depression. This, however, is an intricate problem, which we must be content for the present simply to note, without attempting to discover a satisfactory solution.

CUBA.
Our Relations Towards the Ever-Faithful Isle.

The condition of affairs in Cuba continues to attract some attention. Our Government has agreed to hold a conference with the Cuban authorities to enable it to protect the rights of American citizens on the island. Troops have been assembled at Key West, where transports will soon be in readiness to convey them to Havana, if necessary, and several men-of-war, including two iron-clads, have been ordered to the same vicinity. It is not apprehended that any occasion for their use will arise, as it is thought that the presence of the United States in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico will have a deterrent effect, equivalent to actual interference. It is not improbable that our officers have in not a few instances connived at the despatching of slaves from New Orleans, Mobile, Pensacola, and the Florida coast, but the authorities here have exerted themselves to the utmost to preserve a proper neutrality. In fact, it is well known that the rebels in the force in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico will do everything in their power to prevent the slaves from being sent to the United States.

MAURICE'S SAFETY HOISTING MACHINE Patented June, 1868.

DAVID JOYE'S PATENT VALVELESS STEAM HAMMER. D. M. WESTON'S PATENT SELF-CENTERING, SELF-BALANCING CENTRIFUGAL SUGAR-DRAINING MACHINE AND HYDRA EXTRACTOR.

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Secretary and Treasurer, JOSEPH B. TOWNSEND.

The Managers have placed a resolution before the Board of Directors, to issue tickets at the entrance to admission to the Cemetery. Tickets may be had at the Office of the Company, No. 5 ARCH Street, or at any of the Managers.

COTTON SAIL DUCK AND CANVAS, OF all numbers and brands, Tent Awning, and Wigwam Duck.

PAPER MANUFACTURER Drier Felt, from thirty to one hundred and six inches wide, Paniki, Bell Twine, etc. JOHN W. EVERHART.

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Office 8, E. corner of THIRD and WALNUT Streets, Philadelphia.

MARINE INSURANCES On Vessels, Cargo, and Freight to all parts of

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FIRE INSURANCES On Merchandise generally; on Stores, Dwellings, Houses, etc.

ASSETS OF THE COMPANY, November 1, 1868.

United States Five Per Cent. Loan, 10 Years.

120,000 United States Six Per Cent. Loan, 1851.

50,000 United States Six Per Cent. Loan (for Pacific) 1850.

200,000 State of Pennsylvania Six Per Cent. Loan, 1850.

125,000 City of Phila. Six Per Cent. Loan (from Empire) 1850.

50,000 State of New Jersey Six Per Cent. Loan, 1850.

20,000 Penn. First Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds, 1850.

25,000 Penn. Second Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds, 1850.

25,000 Wisconsin Six Per Cent. Bonds, 1850.

50,000 State of N. Y. Five Per Cent. Bonds, 1850.

50,000 State of Tennessee Six Per Cent. Loan, 1850.

15,000 Germantown Gas Co., principal and interest guaranteed by City of Philad'l'a., State stocks, 1850.

10,000 Penn's Railroad Company, 200 shares Stock, 1850.

5,000 North Penn's Railroad Co., 100 shares Stock, 1850.

20,000 Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Co., 500 shares Stock, 1850.

207,900 Loans on Bond and Mortgage, first liens on City Properties.

51,100 Par. Market value, \$1,130,225.25

Real Estate Cost, \$1,093,004.25.

Received for Insurance Premiums \$22,488.94

Balances due on premiums and insurance policies, accrued interest, and other debts due the company.

40,178.83

Stock and scrip of sundry corporations.

1,813.00

Cash in bank \$116,700.00

Cash in drawer 413.65

116,563.73

\$1,047,367.80

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INSURANCE.

1829.—CHARTER PERPETUAL.

Franklin Fire Insurance Company

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Office, Nos. 435 and 437 CHESTNUT Street.

Assets on Jan. 1, 1869, \$2,677,372.13

CAPITAL, \$1,000,000. ACCRUED SURPLUS, \$1,023,524.70 PREMIUMS, \$1,193,823.23

UNSETTLED CLAIMS, \$43,789.12. INCOME FOR 1869, \$360,000.