

promote a distrust of foreigners, a want of broad-mindedness, and a serene ignorance of outside affairs, which is well expressed by the word "insularity;" but, as a matter of fact, the insularity of Englishmen differs not a whit from the insularity of Americans, of Mahomedan Arabs, or of Australian Bushmen, and therefore it can hardly be cited as a distinguishing characteristic of the English.

This is clearly proved by the fact that the Scots and the Welsh, who inhabit portions of the same island, do not in the least resemble the English in character.

The only way in which the circumstance of England being an island has had a definitely constructive influence on the national type is through the effect that this fact has had on her history, which is, as I believe, the overwhelmingly predominant factor in the formation of national character.

Another contributory influence, to which certainly an undue importance is generally assigned, is that of descent from a particular stock.

In spite of the reams that have been written—and will, I suppose, continue to be written—to show that any and all of England's peculiarities are traceable to her Anglo-Saxon origin, the fact remains that Nature is, under our very eyes, every day showing us the fallacy of this assumption.

Take, for instance, four average immigrants into Canada, an Englishman, an Italian, a Hungarian, and a North German. Here are four absolutely distinct and unmistakable types, with the capacities, prejudices, and racial characteristics of their respective nationalities;—but consider their grandsons. Will you be able to tell them apart by their speech, their habits, their costumes, or their ideals?

The chances are fifty to one that the members of the third generation will be in every case typically and thoroughly Canadian, all ready to sing "The Maple Leaf for Ever" on the slightest provocation, with identical views on the subject of "Britannia Rules the Waves" and the desirability of a Canadian fleet, the same capacity for hockey-playing, and very likely all smoking the same brand of tobacco.