

these people. Such men may be admitted under special permit for a specified time at the discretion of the Minister of Immigration, but their wives and children are barred. As a Chinese missionary is thus forced to live here without his family, he will quite naturally wish to return to China. This would be one less Chinese in Canada, but what about the thousands left behind without a Christian leader! And would not a Christian home of a Christian pastor with wife and children be a good object lesson for those dwelling in Chinese communities in Canada?

Am I too severe, if I say such treatment of the Orientals is liable to condemn them to spiritual, moral intellectual and material stagnation.

Biological Assimilation

When we talk of assimilation we deal with it under three headings, Economical, Cultural, and Biological. Let us treat of them in the reverse order. The last mentioned means racial assimilation and is at the present moment not in favour with either Orientals or Occidentals.

So far there has been very little race intermixture and the Orientals have been in British Columbia since about 1849. Sufficient data to prove that assimilation along biological lines is good or bad are not yet obtainable, for these races have not lived long enough side by side for such evidence to be procured.

Heredity and environment will both count in the process. The former is of great weight and the latter of equal account if not weightier. Professor Conklin says, "So great is the power of environment on the development of personality that it may outweigh inheritance;" and Mr. J. H. Oldham, after thoroughly discussing this subject, sums up with the words, "It would seem that the view which would attribute everything to heredity is becoming a little old-fashioned and out of date."

The same writer, when referring to Japan's remarkable feat in appropriating Western knowledge and turning it to such remarkable account, adds: "Experience alone can show of what an individual or a people is capable. What Japan's achievement, which is as real and significant a fact as any of the biological facts that we have been considering, does establish is that in the natural endowment of a people there are many latent and unsuspected qualities which may be stimulated into activity by the appropriate environment."

Mr. Robert E. Park, professor of sociology in the University of Chicago, and research director of the Survey of Race Relations on the Pacific Coast,

says: "The barriers to communication between races are not differences of language and of culture merely, but more particularly of self-consciousness, race consciousness, and consciousness of kind; not physical distances merely, but social distances. Whenever representatives of different races meet and discover in one another—beneath the differences of race—sentiments, tastes, interests, and human qualities generally that they can understand and respect, racial barriers are undermined and eventually broken down. Personal relations and personal friendships are the great moral solvents. Under their influence all distinctions of class, of caste, and even of race, are dissolved into the general flux which we sometimes call democracy."

So assimilation along biological lines, if it takes place at all will be a question which our great-grandchildren will be called upon to solve and we should prepare for it by giving the young Canadian-born Oriental every chance to make good as a citizen of Canada. But unfortunate in the highest degree would be such alliances if religious, social and educational standards were not the same.

Cultural Assimilation

All who have made a study of the so-called Oriental Problem know that intellectually the Orientals are not an inferior race and that culturally they are capable of being assimilated. A visit to the schools and colleges in Canada and America will prove this. Teachers and professors speak in the highest terms of Oriental students with whom they come in contact. It is a well known fact that a Japanese youth distinguished himself by taking the highest marks in the British Columbia High School entrance examinations last year. In a recent letter received from the Dean of the Protestant Episcopal Divinity School in Philadelphia there is the following testimony to the worth and ability of Chinese students:—"We have had a succession of very rare men; men for the most part, of the highest mental calibre, extraordinary charm, and profound Christian character."

Economic Assimilation

Economic assimilation depends entirely upon the kind of legislation our government leaders bring into force. Legislation of an unjust nature will only aggravate conditions and widen the distance between ourselves and the Orientals within our gates.

Dr. Boggs, professor of economics in the British Columbia University, both in speeches and written articles, has stated that economic assimilation is not impossible.

Touching the question of the Japanese in America, where the same problem exists, Baron Shidehara, at that time Japan's Foreign Minister, said that a reliable test could be made by stopping all immigration of Japanese in America until those already there could be given a chance to demonstrate their quality in respect of assimilation into the general American social body. But that while the test was proceeding every encouragement be given the Japanese in America to adopt the American standpoint and way of life.

Sympathetic Christian Attitude

This surely is the logical way of solving our difficulties in connection with this problem. Let our attitude be one of sympathy, of welcome, of invitation to assimilation and it will yield a result diametrically different from that of coldness or persecution or ostracism.

Professor Boggs, writing in the "International Forum Review," in speaking of the Oriental peoples in Canada, says: "Will these fellow-citizens of ours fit into our scheme of life and co-operate as we would wish them to do if we continue to give them cause to nurse a rankling sense of injustice? If the presence in our midst of several thousand Canadian citizens of Oriental origin be deemed a grave mistake, can we hope to undo that mistake by continuing to deny them full citizenship privileges? On the contrary, is this action not likely to make the mistake more grave?"

Now that our gates are to a very great extent closed against immigration from the Orient, the rights of those already admitted and legally resident here ought to be recognized. Let us not forget that the responsibility for their presence with us rests upon our own shoulders and we have, therefore, obligations towards them we cannot honourably repudiate.

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