

Hudson Bay men and the fur-trappers of the region. But the latter included two distinct elements: the one a Scottish immigration, chiefly from the Orkney Islands, effected by Lord Selkirk in 1811; the other, that of the French Canadians, who long preceded the English as hunters and trappers in the North-West. The contrasting Scottish and French paternity reveals itself in the hybrid offspring; but in both cases the half-breeds are a large and robust race, with greater powers of endurance than the pure-blood Indian. They are described by more than one acute observer as "superior in every respect, both mentally and physically;" and the same opinion is confirmed by nearly all who have paid special attention to the hybrid races of the New World. D'Orbigny, when referring to the general result of the intermingling of races, says, "Among the nations in America the product is always superior to the two types that are mixed." Henry, a traveller of last century, who spent six years among the North American Indians, notes the confirmatory assurance given to him by a Cristineaux chief, that "the children borne by their women to Europeans were bolder warriors and better hunters than themselves." Finally, of the hardy race of the Arctic Circle Dr. Kane says, "the half-breeds of the coast rival the Esquimaux in their powers of endurance;" and Dr. Rae informs me that there is a fine race in Greenland, half-Danes; and numerous half-breed Esquimaux are to be met with on the Labrador coast. They are taller and more hardy than the pure-blood Esquimaux. Dr. Rae always gave the preference to them as his guides.

In so far, however, as any progressive increase, alike among the Indians settled on reserves and in the half-breeds of the North-West, is a recognised fact, it is important to keep in view how far it is, strictly speaking, an augmentation of their own numbers. On the Indian reserves there is no room for question that the pure-blood Indians are disappearing, and on the older reserves they scarcely survive. A mixed race is growing up, gradually assimilating to the surrounding population, and so disappearing, not by extinction, but like the immigrant foreign population of Europe, by intermingling with the predominant stock.

The same causes tend to impede healthful development among one numerous class of Indian half-breeds, as in other cases of illicit intercourse between civilised and savage races. Scrofulous and syphilitic tendencies lead to the same results, and beget in certain cases infertility, as well as an increased death rate. But where the native and the intruding races meet more nearly on an equality, as among the traders of the fur country, or the farmers and graziers beyond the Rocky Moun-