

RESOURCES AND POPULATION.

The ancient popular idea was that prosperity consisted essentially in quantity of wealth and amount of population. The modern and scientific belief is that of the increased average quality of those composing society, and their material surroundings. The masses of the people consist for the most part of the laboring classes; the social organization therefore which fails to secure to them a fair amount of natural and moral welfare, cannot be crowned with industrial success, and so with national prosperity.

Now are the resources—all those forces which tend to the development of the physical life of the country, so intimately related to the interests of the people, that upon them depends the well being of the social organization, or is it more dependent upon the people themselves?

If we turn to the far North we find that during the greater part of the year life is almost extinguished by the rigorous cold of a perpetual winter. A colorless and stunted vegetation, a few creeping shrubs, with an entire absence of forests, everywhere leave the landscape barren and unornamented. The endless plains appear covered with but mosses and lichens. The stunting scattered rays of a polar sun but feebly meets the wants of the animal kingdom. Man here contends in a desperate struggle, a struggle for life and death. With difficulty, by force of toil, he succeeds in providing a miserable support which barely saves him from dying of hunger. Progress and culture under such unfavorable conditions are impossible. The man of the polar regions, with its scant resources, therefore, fails utterly in the race for prosperity. He is but a beggar overwhelmed with suffering, who is happy if he gains his daily bread without thought of leisure to improve.

But if the inhabitant of the North can plead the negligence of nature as begetting his tardiness, surely no such excuse remains for the denizen of the tropics. It is in this position of the globe that nature combines all her forces. The rays of the sun fall thickest, and assume most strength. Nature displays her fullest energy, and greatest diversity. The single trunks of hollow trees serve for the construction of houses. The animal kingdom is no less developed in its boundless variety of species. The types are improved intelligence increases. The forms approach the human figure.

It is only natural now that we look to man, the termination of this ascending series, to appear in crowning excellence; but far from it he makes here a wonderful exception. Nature, so rich and prodigal of her gifts, does not drive man to toil. A regular climate and the absence of winter render forethought of little use; nothing invites him to struggle. A slave to his passions, then he leaves his better faculties uncultivated. He displays those powers which approach nearer and nearer the animal, and show the instincts of the brute.

The law of development is the law of the human race. But man cannot develop without the exercise of his faculties, without education. Since man then is made to obtain mastery over his talents by toil, nothing can so well minister to his progress in this one as the resources of the temperate zone. In temperate regions all is activity, heat and cold alternate. Seasons change with fresher air to invite man to constant struggle; to more vigorous employment. Nature, more economical, yields nothing except to the sweat of his brow; and, though she is not prodigal, she grants to his active, intelligent labor more than his necessities require, permitting leisure in which to cultivate his higher nature. The man of this region may be said to be born in the most favoured of all conditions. As a rule, invited to labor by everything around him, he soon finds success in the exercise of all his energies. Yet, even here, each man is not a master, nor every region a Greece. That man can exist here without resources, the barren plains of Gobi mockingly deny.

On the other hand, in our native Indians existed a people with whom a national prosperity was an impossibility. An utter lack of co-operation is apparent. The law plan held by, and the savage wandering habits of the people prevented development. There we see the grand natural resources of America remained untouched.

Hunger, the greatest of all human motives, rarely pressed. It is motive that makes the man, and population is but the repetition of man. It is then in more densely peopled communities that the germs of progress will appear.

Beings social and intelligent must, as they gather from a globe of varied surface and climate, and flow to a common centre, bring together the social development in all its diversity. From constant contact,