

of letters or perception of the harmony of sounds. Before final dissolution life with us will be brought under the hard, dry hand of the Puritan, untempered by the inner and disinterested spirit of puritanism. The thing arrives by different roads. The end is always the same.

Women in democracy will be ugly women; men will be even more ugly than they are now; worse still, the degradation will not be apparent. Beauty is not a thing of chance: it is the last work of creation. It comes through a long process of selection in which elements that are not too much alike and yet not too different are mated. The choice must be exercised within narrow limits, within the class, caste, or family. This law applies to all animals and explains the beauty of thoroughbreds as contrasted with the ugliness of mongrels. The union of two forms, each beautiful in itself, is not enough. They must have that close affinity which comes from blood relationship.

Beauty can exist only in families which are closed, whether they be of animal, gipsy, or royal blood. To keep the blood pure is a heavy obligation upon the members. They must resist the propensity for falling into indiscriminate love, and this restraint is fortified by many conventions and much carefulness by those who have beauty at heart. This passion for seemliness is the peculiar jest of the romantic novelist who makes his appeal to the multitude of mongrel birth. Amongst the animals the males endeavour to make themselves as beautiful as they can in poise and carriage by efforts which appear to us grotesque; and the female of our own species makes the best of the beauty which she has by devices that are only too easy for a fool to lampoon into the absurd.

The largest aspiration of the race is the desire to achieve the beauty of whiteness; and among the higher races it is held to be an ignoble thing for white to mate with black. The north-western corner of Europe is the subtle shrine in which this alchemy is performed, and thither all races have marched with blind and dogged steps, careless that extinction