

themselves adrift from the past with which they are connected by nature." No biographer would think of dealing with a life until he had portrayed in detail the character and attainments of parents, of grandparents, and even of more remote ancestors, so that when one comes to the life of their distinguished offspring, one finds no greater qualities in him, scarcely higher motives than those of his parents. There is scarcely a greater difference between them, than perhaps, a superior education, or more critical circumstances, which would stimulate, and develop his natural ability. It is Holmes who in his quaint way has said "A man is an omnibus in which all his ancestors are seated."

Extending the principle beyond the narrower influences of immediate ancestry, the same principle is found operating in the wider sphere of races. The differentiation between two different races is due to two principal causes, environment and heredity. It is the function of the historian to show how the history of a people is repeated, and in comparing two great events like the French and English Revolutions, to show how the causes of each are due in no small measure to the hereditary influences on the one

hand of the impulsive Celt and on the other to the earnest character of the Anglo-Saxon. Thus we find while England was a comparatively moral nation the royalty and aristocracy of France recognizing this law were on account of their immoral conduct prophesying of their race "after us the deluge."

I wish to touch briefly upon what science has done to place heredity on a surer foundation. In plant and animal life we recognize the same forms, functions and tendencies transmitted from life to life. We have the bare fact, but how the transmission takes place, how each parental trait and characteristic is preserved and handed down to its offspring has been the mystery of all time, and the subject is still of uncertainty among scientists.

The original single cell to which all life is traceable, may be said to develop by a process of simple division and cell multiplication. It differentiates and finally builds up the mature body in all its parts. It is certain that the secret of heredity is held in the single cell. All that distinguishes province from province, class from class, order from order, genus from genus, all the distinctions of race and individual