

of geographical distribution. At the same time it is apparent that such assigned differences do not, thus far, affect the question of the unity of the race.

To the claim of a common manhood for those strongly marked and greatly diversified sub-divisions of the human family, including its most immobile and degraded types, Shakespear has furnished no inapt reply:—

“Aye, in the catalogue ye go for men;
As hounds, and greyhounds, mongrels, spaniels, curs,
Shoughs, water-rugs, and demi-wolves, are cleped
All by the name of dogs: the valued file
Distinguishes the swift, the slow, the subtle,
The housekeeper, the hunter, every one
According to the gift which bounteous Nature
Hath in him clos'd: whereby he doth receive
Particular addition, from the bill
That writes them all alike: and so of men.”*

Looking then to the recorded descendants of the Noahic forefathers of the human family, we can, partially at least, trace their primitive subdivisions and occupation of the ancient earth. The sons of Japhet, the final inheritors of preeminence are first recorded as dividing among them “the isles of the Gentiles,” a term which, looking to the geographical limits known to the ancient world, may be assumed, with little hesitation, as referring to the islands of the Eastern Mediterranean, and probably the Grecian Archipelago, with the adjacent coast lands of Asia Minor, and of Europe.

There have been ingenious attempts made to assign to each of the Noahic generations their national descendants: the Cymri from Gomer, the Getæ from Magog, the Medes from Madai, the Ionian Greeks from Javan, &c.; but the majority of such results commend themselves to our acceptance at best as only clever guesses at truth. A considerable number of the names which occur in the Noahic genealogy undoubtedly remain very partially disguised by subsequent changes, as the appellations of historic or surviving races and kingdoms; of some of them, indeed, it appears from their dual or plural number, or their peculiar Hebrew termination, that they are used in the Mosaic record, not in reference to individuals, but to families or tribes, out of which nations sprung. Some of those have disappeared, or been transformed beyond the possibility of tracing the relations between their ancient and modern names; but of the most remarkable of the Hamitic descent we can be at no loss as to their geographical areas. The Canaanites occupied the important area of Syria and

* Macbeth, Act III, Scene i.