

The disparity, for example, between the native Briton and the intruding Saxon, or between the later Anglo-Saxon and the intruding Dane or Northman, was sufficiently slight to admit of ready intermixture, ultimately, in spite of their bitter antagonism. But other elements have also to be kept in view. The pioneers of emigration are not, as a rule, the most cultured members of the intruding race; while the disparity in the relative numbers of the sexes inevitably resulting from the conditions under which any extensive migration takes place forms an effective counterpoise to very wide ethnical differences. In every case of extensive immigration, with the excess of males and chiefly of hardy young adventurers, the same result is inevitable. On the American continent it has already produced a numerous race of half-breeds, descendants of white and Indian parentage, apart from that other and not less interesting "coloured race," now numbering upwards of six millions in the United States alone, the descendants of European and African parentage. In the older provinces of Canada, the remnants of the aboriginal Indian tribes have been gathered on suitable reserves; and on many of these, so far are they from hastening to extinction, that during the last quarter of a century the returns of the Indian Department show a steady numerical increase. In the United States, under less favourable circumstances, similar results are beginning to be recognized. In a report on "Indian Civilisation and Education," dated Washington, November 24th, 1877, it is set forth as more and more tending to assume the aspect of an established fact, "that the Indians, instead of being doomed to extinction within a limited period, are, as a rule, not decreasing in numbers; and are, in all probability, destined to form a permanent factor; an enduring element of our population." Wherever the aborigines have been gathered together upon suitable reserves, and trained to industrious habits, as among the Six-Nation Indians, settled on the Grand River, in the Province of Ontario; or where they have mingled on terms of equality with the white settlers, as within the old Hudson's Bay Territory on the Red River, they have after a time showed indications of endurance. It is not a mere intermingling of white and Indian settlers, but the increase of the community by the growth of a half-breed population, and when this takes place under favourable circumstances, as was notably the case so long as the hunter tribes of the prairies, and the trappers of the Hudson's Bay Company shared the great North-West as a common hunting ground, the results are altogether favourable to the endurance of the mixed race. On a nearly similar footing we may conceive of the admixture of the earliest rude Aryans with the Allophylans of Europe, resulting in its Melanochroi. The growth in the territory of the Hudson's Bay Company of a numerous half-breed population, assuming the status of a tribe of farming hunters, distinct alike from the Indians and the Whites, is accordingly a fact of singular interest to the ethnologist. It has been the result of alliances, chiefly with Indian Cree women, by the fur trappers of the region. But these included two distinct elements: the one a Scottish immigration, chiefly from the Orkney Islands; 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 have been described to me by more than one trustworthy observer as "superior in every respect, both mentally and physically," and this is confirmed by my own experience. The same opinion has been expressed 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 this intermingling of races says: "Among the nations