

or Bushmen. These canoes were often highly ornamented with pieces of porcupine quill dyed in brilliant colours and worked in neat patterns along the gunwales and especially about the raised prows, they were so strong that they could carry a whole family down rushing rapids, and so light that they could be borne by a single man over the rough ground between two sheets of water. Only the Indians were ignorant of the use of iron and copper, knowledge possessed by both the Hottentots and Bantu of South Africa.

Setting one kind of knowledge against another, the various classes of people may be ranged in the following order:

1. The Bushmen, lowest of all, nomadic hunters, without knowledge of agriculture or metals, with no domestic animal except the dog, and cruel and vindictive to the last degree.

2. The Eskimo, a little higher, because less savage in disposition and somewhat more advanced in mechanical skill, but otherwise similar.

3. The Algonquins, another step in advance, hunters and fishers, fierce and cruel, with more mechanical skill than either of the preceding classes, but unacquainted with metals, and neither practising agriculture nor possessing domestic cattle.

4. The Hottentots, a little higher still, nomad herdsmen, mild in disposition, acquainted with copper and iron, ignorant of agriculture, and without mechanical skill.

5. The Hurons, somewhat more advanced, settled agriculturists, fishermen, and hunters, vindictive and cruel, without domestic cattle or knowledge of metals, but possessing considerable mechanical skill.

6. The Bantu, much the highest of all, cruel to some extent but not immoderately vindictive, agriculturists, with domestic animals, and using metals, but not having quite as much mechanical skill as the Hurons.

Of all these people, but one class—the Eskimo—has not come permanently in contact with European civilisation. Of the others, the Bantu alone have not diminished in number before the face of the white man. There never were many Indians, or Hottentots, or Bushmen, because an immense extent of land was needed for the support of a few people living as they did; but small as their number was three centuries ago, it is very much smaller now. Some writers are of opinion that intoxicants and gunpowder have caused the decrease; but

that theory is certainly incorrect. A good many Bushmen indeed were shot down in South Africa, and a good many Indians in Canada, but very few Hottentots perished in that way, and under ordinary circumstances the loss from this cause in all the classes would quickly have been made good by natural increase. The effect of the immoderate use of intoxicating liquor by the savages was also trifling compared with other agencies of destruction. The true causes of the dying out of the savage races were:

1. Diseases transmitted by white men, chief among which were small-pox and consumption. The ancestors of the savages had never known these diseases, consequently when they first appeared they caused awful havoc.

2. Low fertility induced by sudden changes in manner of living. The diet of the savages was necessarily altered when Europeans appeared among them, and partial sterility was the result. The game upon which the Bushmen and the Indians mainly depended was shot down, and they were obliged to find other food, the Hottentots from being milk drinkers became vegetable eaters, and families dwindled away and died out. This was the chief cause, I believe, of the great diminution in number of the aborigines of Canada and of the two lower races in South Africa.

The Bantu, on the contrary, have thriven in the presence of Europeans, and increased more rapidly than any other people on the face of the earth. Why is this? Because they used both vegetable and animal food and even intoxicating liquor before they came in contact with us, because they were a settled people, because we changed neither their diet nor their manner of living, because they were sufficiently robust to stand against our diseases, and because, instead of adding to, we removed the causes—internecine war and slaughter on charges of sorcery—which previously kept their number down.

The European population of Canada is at present four million eight hundred thousand. There are a hundred thousand Indians and a very few negroes, but their number is so small that their presence does not affect the welfare of the country to any appreciable extent, and there is not the slightest danger politically or socially to be apprehended from them. The French and the English, it is true, have not bled their blood, but they stand side by side in a way that people never can who differ in colour, and between whom there is the great gulf that separates civilisation from barbarism. Against nearly five millions of progressive