

IS THE ANGLO-SAXON RACE DEGENERATING?*

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The subject of this paper propounds a question, which to the ordinary observer may seem wholly at variance with common sense, and to the student of ethnology absurdly paradoxical. I freely admit that the spirit of the age and the general tone of public opinion as well as the pride of race are all averse to the presumption that even a suspicion of degeneracy surrounds the question of Anglo-Saxon dominance throughout the world. It is a subject, however, that will bear investigation if for nothing else than to discover what our racial assets are, and whether or not there may be an extravagant waste of brain energy which is leading us on to mental bankruptcy.

For the purpose of this inquiry I shall include all people who speak the Anglo-Saxon language, and whose racial characteristics and national aspirations conform to like methods of civilization. The racial line of cleavage at once includes Great Britain and her colonies and the North American Republic, for though a vast admixture of foreign races is included in this classification, yet with the exception of the Mongolian and African races, all the other branches of the great Aryan family are like ourselves. The process of assimilation conforms to Anglo-Saxon ideals, and in time they become incorporated into full citizenship and gradually become inspired with the national aspirations of the country which gives them the protection of a home.

The inquiry affords a wide field for historical and ethnological research, because it is only by tracing back the origin of our race and watching its rise and progress that we can have a proper conception of the causes which have contributed to its growth and development. It is also important to know what racial characteristics have been prominent in enabling the race to forge ahead of other races in the onward march of civilization, and why it occupies such a dominant place in the world's history. It is also pertinent to inquire whether this race-dominance is the outcome of natural causes which are permanent and enduring, or whether it may be subject to disintegrating forces, which, if not controlled, may undermine and destroy the whole national and social fabric of the race.

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