

wish in any way to dispute the real merits of the English people. That is far from being my intention. As I have said above, when I try to show that the Anglo-Saxons are not superior to the other European races, it is solely with the object of bringing about as quickly as possible the establishment of that justice between nations which alone can ensure the maximum of welfare for the human race.¹

We have learned by the experience of the last three years to detect even the smoothest tones of malice with great certainty; we find not the least sound of it here. We may proceed then in the frame of mind proper for edification, remembering always that if we catch the lecturer tracing his facts to false or non-existent causes, it does not follow that they are any the less facts. To begin then: M. Novicow believes that the Transvaal War will have one result of extreme importance.

It will free Europe from the hypnotic influence of the Anglo-Saxon. This influence is a most fatal one. Until quite recently the superiority of the Anglo-Saxon race over all others was admitted as an indisputable dogma. This amounted to a recognition that different races are of unequal value. It was, in fact, a declaration that there are higher or "noble" races and lower or "common" ones, and that only the former are capable of attaining the loftiest point of intellectual and moral development. The rest are condemned to vegetate in a state of mediocrity, for ever incapable of raising themselves to the highest planes of science, art, religion or philosophy. Naturally, the moment it is recognised that different races are of unequal value from the physical or mental point of view, the more perfect ones must have the right and the duty of commanding, and the less perfect lose all rights but the right to obey. It was but a step further to look upon the employment of brute force as the height of wisdom, to set up injustice as a recognised method of government, and to establish despotism as the natural condition of human society. The step was soon taken, and the immediate result was international anarchy, with all its train of intolerable evils.

So long as England stood single-handed for the principles of justice and freedom, in a world given up to brutality and violence, she remained a star of the first magnitude, a peerless nation towards whom the eyes of the oppressed were turned as towards a lighthouse flashing through the darkness. Then the whole world could admit without dispute the superiority of the Anglo-Saxons. But the moment she followed in Bismarck's track, laid down that might is right,

¹ We translate from an article in *La Revue* (ancienne *Revue des Revues*).