

II. But when once the dispersion of mankind over the earth has created distinguishing marks, or separate tribes, or races, we find proof of more rapid divergence through the influence of the intermixture of races and the absorption of tribes.

Wallace, in his great work on Russia, describes the effect of mixing of bloods and the gradual absorption of a people as seen in the contact between certain aboriginal Finnish tribes and the Russians. It is not more than ten centuries since the whole of northern Russia was peopled by these Finns. They differ in a very wide degree from the Russians in language, dress, religion, and social habits, and in a lower degree, but nevertheless very perceptibly, in peculiarities of their structure. There are yet villages scattered over the north of that great country whose inhabitants neither speak nor understand the Russian language. But, with the exception of these villages, over all this wide territory the peasants speak pure Russian, profess the same faith as the people of the State Church, and in their physiognomy they present no peculiarities which suggest that they are not of the purest Russian blood. They furnish an example of two races completely intermixed, the weaker tribe taking on the peculiarities, to a great extent, of the stronger, and losing by absorption their own striking peculiarities.

But there yet remain some villages in which there is an opportunity of studying the progress of this intermixture. They retain the Finnish character in different degrees. In some, as we have already stated, the Finn seems to have wholly survived the contact with Russian life. There remains the reddish olive skin, the high cheek bones, the obliquely-set eyes, and the costume and language of the original Finlander. The Russian language is scarcely known at all. But in another village there are some Russians; the other inhabitants have lost in some degree their natural peculiarities, and in dress, manners and language they have yielded to the pressure of Russian ideas. In yet a third village intermarriage with Russians is common, and the amalgamation almost complete. The effect of such a process of intermixture, when carried out to its last result, will be a type of Russian people in the north differing more widely from those of the same nation and religion in the south of the land than