

theory which makes their scheme seem so attractive to the mind warns them to expect degeneracy as well as progress in human culture. Evolution involves change, but the movement is by no means always upward. Alongside of every advance which has been made in the history of animal life there has been almost an equal amount of retrogression and movement towards extinction. The survival of the fittest necessarily means the displacement and ultimate disappearance of the unfit after a downward series of experiences. The movement is forward and upward on the whole ; but not necessarily in all the parts. To use an illustration often employed for the purpose by evolutionists : The tree as a whole is ever growing upward, but as its main branches rise others are forced downward in order to find space and light nowhere else available. If degeneration is a constant factor in the evolution of species, it should not be surprising to find something of the same kind in the evolution of human civilization. If so, we have no right to assume that man started on his earthly career at the lowest stage now found among barbarous savages. He may well have started at a point much higher up from which there has been subsequently movement both upward and downward, both forward and backward, according to circumstances. Even if the evolutionary theory as to man's origin requires the supposition that he came into being without any hereditary capacity for shaping and using tools, and that therefore at the beginning he laid hold upon the materials lying nearest at hand, there is no necessity for supposing that he continued for any length of time in that most primitive condition. Everything indicates that he had at least as much native intelligence as we have ; and we are all familiar with the fact that new devices may be hit upon at almost any time, and that once discovered they may very rapidly come into general use. It is just as easy to suppose that copper may have been found and used in the first generation as in the fiftieth, and even the more difficult iron may have followed at no long time after.