

I.—*The Half-Breed.*

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(Presented May 28, 1885.)

The opinion prevails that the fusion of white with Indian blood is of rare occurrence north of the Gulf of Mexico. There is, however, reason to believe that, both in Canada and the United States, it has been much more common than is generally assumed. In Mexico, the West Indies, Central and South America, pure blood is the exception, mixed blood the rule. Nor is it the aborigines alone that in this hemisphere have given rise, through their intercourse with Europeans, to new racial varieties. The negro has contributed largely to the same result, and the Chinese are also beginning to have an appreciable influence on the population of parts of the New World. In different regions of the Old World an analogous process is going on. Asia, Africa and the island domain of the Indian and Pacific Oceans furnish many instances of race amalgamation. Wherever we turn, indeed, we find that, in one shape or another, the inhabitants of the earth are, slowly in some places, with surprising rapidity in others, undergoing transformation by inter-fusion of blood.

The fact is not a novelty in human history. As far back as our knowledge of mankind can reach, with the evidences of race diversity we discover the indications of race intermixture. On the almost universally accepted theory of the unity of the human species, those divergences of feature and complexion which distinguish race from race must have required many ages to bring about. How they were caused we can only conjecture; but we know that four thousand years ago the negro was as much a negro as he is to-day. Of the neighbours of the Egyptians when their earliest monuments were constructed, Dr. Birch writes: "South of Syene lay the numerous black tribes, the so-called *Nahsi* or negroes, inferior in civilization, but turbulent and impatient of subjection. The skirts of the desert were held by wandering tribes called *Sutu*, not yet subjected to the arms and discipline of Egypt. The western frontier was menaced by the *Tahennu* or Libyans. Beyond the north-east desert in which resided the *Herusha*, or inhabitants of the Waste, were the *Menat*, perhaps also a shepherd race, the dwellers of northern Asia; and hazily in the distance were seen the nascent forms of the empires of Babylon and Assyria, and the slowly rising power of the Phœnician States and Kingdoms." Champollion-Figeac, citing the authority of his more illustrious brother, is still more explicit in his account of the nations known to the Egyptians, which he illustrates by six figures copied from the tombs of the Kings at Biban-el-Molouk.² These leave no doubt that the Egyptians

¹ Egypt from the Earliest Times to B.C. 300, by S. Birch, Introd. p. ix.

² Égypte Ancienne, p. 30.