

then, in big rushes, let us hope, of a hundred thousand now and again, the necessary amount will be made up.

Is it likely that the white man can ever thrive in the tropics except as a sort of exotic, as he is at present in the West and East Indies? As the nations of the north and south increase and multiply, doubling every century, will he find an outlet by settlement in the tropics, or will he simply use them as Rome did Egypt, as a granary? It cannot be said that so far the European has been a success as a settler in the tropics, since no white colony has ever prospered below 30 degrees of northern latitude, but has he ever had a chance? In contact with brown and black races, which have become inured to heat, tolerant of parasites, and more or less immune to the worst of the tropical diseases, he has so far never had an opportunity to show of what he might be capable when placed in really sanitary surroundings. The 8,000 whites now at the Isthmus work eight hours a day in the burning sun, and they with their wives and children thrive and enjoy a health quite as good as dwellers in any town in the United States. Heretofore man has never met nature on equal terms; now science has taught him how to be master, but the knowledge is so new and so recently made effective that we have not the data from which to make a clear judgement. How far the introduction of tropical diseases has accounted for the decadence of Greece has been discussed by W. H. S. Jones and Ronald Ross, who seem to have made out a good case, but given a white race living in the tropics for two generations, and free from malaria and parasitic anaemia, would it show the hardy vigour at present the characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon? Time alone will tell. Personally I doubt it. Man is a lazy animal, and the best thing that ever happened in his history was when Adam's wife ate the apple and they both were turned out of a tropical Eden to earn their bread by the sweat of their brows. As Sir Charles Dilke has remarked, the banana is the curse of the tropics,