

THE PYGMIES

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The pygmies by A. de Quatrefages & Frederick Starr

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A. DE QUATREFAGES & FREDERICK STARR

THE PYGMIES

EDITOR'S PREFACE.

No apology is necessary for introducing any work of de Quatrefages to American readers. No man has done more than he to further anthropological study in France; no man was more respected than he over the whole of Continental Europe; no European anthropologist's works have been more widely read in America. Since the idea of incorporating *Les Pygmées* into the Anthropological Series was reached its learned and respected author has died. It seems proper, therefore, to present here a brief sketch of his life and work.

Jean Louis Armand de Quatrefages de Bréau was born February 10, 1810, in the Department Gard, France. Studying at the College of Tournon, and later at the University of Strasbourg, he received the degree of Doctor of Mathematical Sciences in 1830. Two years later he became Doctor of Medicine, and received a subordinate appointment to the Faculty of Medicine at Strasbourg. Shortly after, removing to Toulouse, he began the practice of medicine. For four years he remained in that city as a practitioner, and at the same time busied himself with scientific work, taking active part in several learned societies, and founding (with a colleague) the *Journal de Médecin et de Chirurgie de Toulouse*. In 1840 he removed to Paris, studying in zoölogy under Milne-Edwards, and taking the degree of Doctor of Natural Science. Particularly interested in marine life, he prosecuted important

researches and published many papers, some of permanent value. In 1850 he was appointed Professor of Natural History at the College of Henry IV; in 1852, elected member of the Institute; in 1855, called to the head of the Department of Anatomy and Ethnology at the Museum of Natural History. Here he found his life-work, remaining until his death, busying himself with study, writing, and teaching.

A man of strong convictions and very conservative, de Quatrefages was ever ready to hear the other side, and ever candid and kindly in argument. He was one of the first to support the Society of Anthropology. Those who know the story of the early days of that great association understand what that means. When the claim for man's antiquity was generally derided, de Quatrefages championed the cause. A monogenist, a believer in the extreme antiquity of our race, he was never won over by any of the proposed theories of evolution.

The ethnographic works of de Quatrefages are many and valuable. From the list of nearly one hundred and fifty important papers or volumes, we select as most important *Les Polynésiens et leur migrations*, *Crania ethnica* (written in collaboration with E. T. Hamy), *L'Espèce humaine*, *Hommes fossiles et hommes sauvages*, *The Natural History of Man*, *Introduction à l'étude des races humaines*, and *Les Pygmées*. *The Natural History of Man* and a translation of *L'Espèce humaine* have been published in America.

To the very end of a long life our author lived happily and busily active among his books and specimens. Age touched him lightly. Only a few weeks before his death we visited him, and received from him that gracious, kindly assistance which he ever gave freely to all foreigners. At that time, although past fourscore years of age, and though, as he himself remarked, his hand trembled,

and it was not as easy as formerly for him to write, he was engaged upon an important scientific work.

He died January 12, 1892, after a brief illness, and in his death France lost an eminent son and science a brilliant leader.



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INTRODUCTION.

FOR a long time past the small black races have attracted my attention and my interest in a special manner. On several occasions, in my courses and in various publications, I have recurred to their history.*

It has seemed to me that it might be useful to gather and unite these materials in a book which should present a sort of monograph of this human type, very curious for more than one reason.

These little blacks are to-day almost everywhere scattered, separated, and often hunted by races larger and stronger. They are no longer found in certain parts of the globe which they formerly occupied, and they are disappearing from many others. Nevertheless they have had in the past their time of prosperity; they have played a very real ethnologic rôle. Finally, they have become the subject of legends which the poets have collected and which the most serious classical writers have not disdained transmitting to us.

To make known the scientific truth in regard to these

* See Gazette médicale, 1862; Revue d'anthropologie, 1872; Bulletin de la Société d'anthropologie, 1874; Comptes rendus de l'Académie des sciences, 1874; Crania ethnica, 1875-'79; Journal des savants, 1881-'82; Revue d'ethnographie, 1882; Hommes fossiles et Hommes sauvages, 1884; Matériaux pour l'histoire primitive et naturelle de l'homme, 1886; Introduction à la histoire des races humaines, 1887.

fables, to show what the pygmies of antiquity really are, is the principal purpose of this book.

I have carefully indicated in the footnotes the sources whence I have drawn my facts. But I must thank here Bro de Saint-Pol Lias, E. de la Croix, and Marche and Montano, who have kindly furnished me unpublished material, and to whom I owe the greater part of the photographs reproduced in the text. The figures of skulls are drawn from specimens in the collections of the museum.

Although Greek and Roman antiquity did not know either the Bushmen or the Hottentots, I have felt it my duty to devote a chapter to them. One cannot separate these two populations, and by its little stature the first well deserves to take its place by the side of the classical pygmies, from whom it is otherwise very distinct. Yet I have confined myself, so far as their physical and ethnographic characters are concerned, to simply indicating these. They are described in many works.

It is otherwise with regard to their religious characters, the importance of which, from many points of view, is more and more recognised. Those of the races of the Cape have remained little known until these last years. Therefore I have made a *résumé* of what Hahn has taught us on this subject, just as I have made known in some detail the discoveries upon this point made by Man among the Mincopies. The comparison of these two mythologies, spontaneously developed among savages located almost at the lowest steps of the social ladder, I hope may interest those who occupy themselves with these questions.

A. DE QUATREFAGES.

PARIS, May 24, 1887.

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