

**THE ROMANES LECTURE 1902;
THE RELATIONS OF
THE ADVANCED AND THE
BACKWARD RACES OF MANKIND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649297498

The Romanes Lecture 1902; The Relations of the Advanced and the Backward Races of Mankind by James Bryce

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JAMES BRYCE

**THE ROMANES LECTURE 1902;
THE RELATIONS OF
THE ADVANCED AND THE
BACKWARD RACES OF MANKIND**

HENRY FROWDE, M.A.
FUBLISHER TO THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
LONDON, EDINBURGH
NEW YORK

THE ROMANES LECTURE

1902

*The Relations of the
Advanced and the Backward
Races of Mankind*

BY

JAMES BRYCE, D.C.L.

HONORARY FELLOW OF ORIEL AND TRINITY COLLEGES

DELIVERED

IN THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE, OXFORD

JUNE 7, 1902

UNIV. OF
SECOND EDITION
OXFORD

OXFORD

AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

1903

JV308
.B8

OXFORD

PRINTED AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

BY HORACE HART, M.A.

PRINTER TO THE UNIVERSITY

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

THE RELATIONS OF THE
ADVANCED AND THE BACKWARD
RACES OF MANKIND

IN the paeans that were chanted when at the opening of a new century the achievements of the century preceding were reviewed, it was chiefly the progress of the physical sciences, the enlargement of knowledge, and the control obtained over the forces of nature that filled our thoughts. But the exploration of the area, with the ascertainment of the character and resources; both actual and potential, of the globe we inhabit, was a scarcely less notable result of the nineteenth century. In one aspect it was even more remarkable, because it represented the all but final closing of one great chapter of history, the completion of one great task which Man had to do. Scientific knowledge will, we may hope, go on increasing steadily and rapidly. But the exploration of this earth is now all but finished. Civilized man knows his home in a sense in which he never knew it before. He knows how high are the mountains and how deep the seas, what are the currents that keep the ocean in salutary unrest, and what the winds which bring rain or heat

with them, and those movements of the tide w
 which the ancient poet longed to comprehend

Qua vi maria alta tumescant .
 Obicibus ruptis rursusque in se ipsa resident.

He knows what soils are fertile, what climates gen
 and (to a large extent) where mineral wealth is to
 found. Moreover he knows the inhabitants of t
 earth, and not only the Races as they are, but the co
 ditions which have determined the progress of each
 them in the past and may affect them in the futu
 their natural aptitudes, their habits of industry or
 dolence, the features of the land wherein each dwell
 and the influence of those features upon the increa
 or decay of population, upon the forms which industri
 effort takes. Much, no doubt, still remains to be asce
 tained, for further discoveries in the sphere of biolog
 may render regions healthy which have been heret
 fore haunted by disease, as further investigation of th
 forces of nature may plant industries in spots hithert
 neglected. Still, broadly speaking, a point has bee
 reached at which the conditions likely to affect th
 relative development of the various branches of man
 kind have become so far known, that students may
 begin to deal with them in a positive and practical
 way. They have passed from the chaos of conjecture
 into the cosmos of science.

With this incomparably fuller and more exact know-
 ledge of the families of Man there has come a far closer
 and more widespread contact of those various families
 with one another, and in particular of the more ad-
 vanced and civilized races with the more backward,

a contact so much closer and more widespread than ever in the past that it may be deemed to mark a crisis in the history of the world, which will profoundly affect the destiny of all mankind. It is of the phenomena of that contact and the problems which it raises that I propose to speak to you to-day. Upon some points it is too soon to advance any positive conclusions, for the data are still insufficient. But data are daily accumulating, and though the time has not yet arrived for answering certain momentous questions, the time has arrived for formulating them. As the mists rise, the outlines of the landscape begin to appear, and we may venture to ask in what direction the movement of humanity will tend, and by what paths the obstacles that seem to bar or encumber its advance will be surmounted.

To describe the phenomena of race-contact in our own time as marking a crisis may seem a strong expression, for such contact has been never interrupted since our palaeolithic ancestors roamed hither and thither in search of wild fruits or wild creatures. There have been epochs, such as that of Alexander the Great, or that of Attila, or that which followed the discoveries made by Christopher Columbus, in which there was a great impingement of some peoples upon other peoples which created new relations between them by way of conquest or settlement. But our own time stands eminent and peculiar in this, that it marks the completion of a process by which all the races of the world have been affected, and all the backward ones placed in a more or less complete dependence upon the more

8 *The Relations of the Advanced and*

advanced. India, Northern Asia, almost the whole of Africa, Madagascar, the Indian and Polynesian archipelagoes, and the Philippine Islands now own civil masters of European stock, as do all the aboriginal races of America. Turkey, Persia, Afghanistan, Siam, and in a sense even China, are now overshadowed by the European Powers, and prevented from passing under the control of some one or more of these only by jealous vigilance of the others. The same forces and motives have worked to bring this result about which induced the conquests of earlier days. But two new factors have been more active and pervasive than ever before—the desire of civilized producers of goods to secure savage or semi-civilized consumers by annexing the regions they inhabit, and the rivalry of the great civilized States, each of which has been spurred on by the fear that the others would appropriate markets which it might win for itself. The process has been much swifter than was desirable in the interest of either conqueror or conquered. But we can now see that it became inevitable, so soon as the progress of science had prodigiously increased the cheapness both of production and of transportation.

[The completion of this World-process is a specially great and fateful event, because it closes a page forever. The conditions that are now vanishing can never recur. The uncivilized and semi-civilized races cannot relapse into their former isolation. In passing under the influences of civilized Powers they have indeed given to the world a new kind of unity. They have become in a new sense economic factors in its