

**THE BLOOD OF THE NATION:
A STUDY OF THE DECAY OF
RACES THROUGH THE
SURVIVAL OF THE UNFIT**

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The Blood of the Nation: A Study of the Decay of Races Through the Survival of the Unfit by
David Starr Jordan

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DAVID STARR JORDAN

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THE BLOOD OF THE NATION

A STUDY OF THE DECAY OF RACES,
THROUGH THE SURVIVAL OF THE UNFIT

BY
DAVID STARR JORDAN
President of Leland Stanford Jr. University



BOSTON
AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION
1910

This little volume, which has gone through several editions, is now reprinted in its present less expensive form to insure the widest possible distribution. Its subject matter as here presented has been expanded, however, by its author in order to amplify and reinforce his facts and arguments, and is issued also in enlarged form by the American Unitarian Association under the title of "THE HUMAN HARVEST," at \$1.00 net, or \$1.07 by mail.

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I
IN PEACE

"War is not paid for in war-time;
the bill comes later."

Benjamin Franklin.

THE BLOOD OF THE NATION.

I

IN PEACE.

“Over trench and clod
Where we left the bravest of us,
There’s a deeper green of the sod.”

H. H. Brownell.

In this paper I shall set forth two propositions: the one self-evident; the other not apparent at first sight, but equally demonstrable. *The blood of a nation determines its history.* This is the first proposition. The second is, *The history of a nation determines its blood.* As for the first, no one doubts that the character of men controls their deeds. In the long run and with masses of mankind this must be true, however great the emphasis

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we may lay on individual initiative or on individual variation.

Equally true is it that the present character of a nation is made by its past history. Those who are alive to-day are the resultants of the stream of heredity as modified by the vicissitudes through which the nation has passed. The blood of the nation flows in the veins of those who survive. Those who die without descendants can not color the stream of heredity. It must take its traits from the actual parentage.

The word "blood" in this sense is figurative only, an expression formed to cover the qualities of heredity. Such traits, as the phrase goes, "run in the blood." In the earlier philosophy it was held that blood was the actual physical vehicle of heredity, that the traits bequeathed from sire to son as the characteristics of families or races ran literally in the literal blood. We know