

spoke the language of the Atures. Tribes of the aborigines of Australia have wholly disappeared during the present generation ; and I remember seeing it stated in a newspaper paragraph, which appeared a few years ago, that the last male survivor of the natives of Tasmania was at that time in the latter stages of consumption.

But if man, in at least the more degraded varieties of the race, be so palpably *not* what the Creator originally made him, by whom, then, was he made the poor lost creature which in these races we find him to be ? He was made what he is, I reply, by man himself ; and this, in many instances, by a process which we may see every day taking place among ourselves in individuals and families, though, happily, not in races. Man's nature, again,—to employ the condensed statement of the poet,—has been bound fast in fate, but his will has been left free. He is free either to resign himself to the indolence and self-indulgence so natural to the species ; or, “spurning delights, to live laborious days ;”—free either to sink into ignorant sloth, dependent uselessness, and self-induced imbecility, bodily and mental, or to assert by honest labour a noble independence,—to seek after knowledge as for hidden treasures, and, in the search, to sharpen his faculties and invigorate his mind. And while we see around us some men addressing themselves with stout brave hearts to what Carlyle terms, with homely vigour, their “heavy job of work,” and, by denying themselves many an insidious indulgence, doing it effectually and well, and rearing up well-taught families in usefulness and comfort to be the stay of the future, we see other men yielding to the ignoble solicitations of appetite or of indolence, and becoming worse than useless themselves, and the parents of ignorant, immoral, and worse than useless families. The wandering vagrants of Great Britain at the present time have been estimated at from fifteen to twenty thousand souls ; the hereditary paupers of England,