

this will lead to the mongrels increasing more rapidly than the pure parent-breeds.

When distinct breeds are allowed to cross freely, the result will be a heterogeneous body; for instance, the dogs in Paraguay are far from uniform, and can no longer be affiliated to their parent-races.⁴ The character which a crossed body of animals will ultimately assume must depend on several contingencies,—namely, on the relative members of the individuals belonging to the two or more races which are allowed to mingle; on the prepotency of one race over the other in the transmission of character; and on the conditions of life to which they are exposed. When two commingled breeds exist at first in nearly equal numbers, the whole will sooner or later become intimately blended, but not so soon, both breeds being equally favoured in all respects, as might have been expected. The following calculation⁵ shows that this is the case: if a colony with an equal number of black and white men were founded, and we assume that they marry indiscriminately, are equally prolific, and that one in thirty annually dies and is born; then “in 65 years the number of blacks, whites, and mulattoes would be equal. In 91 years the whites would be 1-10th, the blacks 1-10th, and the mulattoes, or people of intermediate degrees of colour, 8-10ths of the whole number. In three centuries not 1-100th part of the whites would exist.”

When one of two mingled races exceed the other greatly in number, the latter will soon be wholly, or almost wholly, absorbed and lost.⁶ Thus European pigs and dogs have been largely introduced in the islands of the Pacific Ocean, and the native races have been absorbed and lost in the course of about fifty or sixty years;⁷ but the imported races no doubt were favoured. Rats may be considered as semi-domesticated animals. Some snake-rats (*Mus alexandrinus*) escaped in the Zoological Gardens of London, “and for a long time after-

⁴ Rengger, ‘Säugethiere,’ &c., s. 154.

⁵ White, ‘Regular Gradation in Man,’ p. 146.

⁶ Dr. W. F. Edwards, in his ‘Caractères Physiolog. des Races Hu-

maines,’ p. 24, first called attention to this subject, and ably discussed it.

⁷ Rev. D. Tyerman and Bennett, ‘Journal of Voyages,’ 1821–1829, vol. i. p. 300.