

hypothesis, by taking refuge on the summit of some lofty mountain to which Divine Wisdom might have directed them?

There is no occasion whatever for such an hypothesis to account for the dispersion of mankind and their breaking into nations. Two chapters in the book of Genesis* set the whole matter in a clear light, both as to the first cause of their separation, and the various tribes into which they separated, in which we can trace the names of many nations still in existence. From Babel each in due time took the course, in that direction, however led by circumstances, that Providence had decreed. Europe became at last the head quarters of the descendants of Japhet, Asia of those of Shem, and Africa of those of Ham; the Shemites in the lapse of ages passing over to America, were the progenitors of the red or copper race of that continent. Nor were there any insurmountable obstacles in the way to prevent the peopling of the globe from one common stock. Supposing Babel or Babylon to have been, so to speak, the centre of irradiation—how easy was the transit for Ham's descendants into Africa by the Isthmus of Suez; into Europe, the path was still more open for those of Japhet; and as the stream of population spread to the East, the passage to America was not difficult to those who had arrived at Behrings Straits. But in all these countries mixtures with the Aborigines have probably taken place, either from the irruption and colonizations of great conquerors, the spread of commerce and similar causes, which naturally tend to produce variations in races from the primitive type. Hence writers on this subject now reckon six races distinguished by their colour, viz. a white race; a tawny race; a red race; a deep brown race; a brown-black race; and a black race.

* Chap. x. xi.