

Malabar, mentioned by Dr. Buchanan. At Cochin, he says, there are two classes of Jews, the white and the black Jews. The latter are supposed to have arrived in India soon after the Babylonian captivity; at least, they have that tradition amongst them, which seems confirmed by the fact that they have copies only of those books of the Old Testament which were written previously to the captivity. The white Jews emigrated from Europe to India in later ages. Now here is a singular fact, that in the lapse of so many ages a white or tawny race has become black. Mr. White endeavours to account for such an aberration from his principle, that colour does not result from climate, by an observation not altogether founded in fact—namely, that the Jews have gained proselytes in every country in which they have resided, and, being at liberty to marry those proselytes, this would produce mixed breeds. But though the Jews, in our Saviour's time, would compass sea and land to gain one proselyte, this has not been their character since the destruction of Jerusalem, and we never hear now of their making proselytes. Indeed, these black Jews of Cochin seem to have been settled there long before any white ones came to that place.

With regard to the degradation of the intellect, and the peculiar acuteness of the senses or memory of certain races; these furnish no proof whatever of specific distinctions, or that they could not be descended from the common ancestor of our species.

Humboldt has an important observation which will explain how this might happen without having recourse to such a supposition. Speaking of the barbarism of certain tribes of Americans and Asiatics, he observes:—"The barbarism that prevails throughout these different regions is, perhaps, less owing to a primitive absence of all kind of civilization, than to the effects of a long degradation. The