

persisted in Egypt. how
do you know that it is
the only race capable of
perpetuating itself?

If there had been a large
invasion of different people in
Egypt, and if they had exterminated
the old race, do you not suppose
this would have established a new
perpetuated itself, and that its
particular adaptations to the cli-
mate would have been different from
the present race.

If you cut off all future
immigration into N. America
would the Indians resume pos-
session of the country? Or ^{else} ~~will~~
our descendants become a
copper-colored race?

Enough for the present.
When you have cracked these
nuts, send me if you please
another sheet

What a childish article
is that of Bowen in N. Am. Rev.
He rehearsed it at Mass. Academy
I have cut it up three times
and am preparing to do the
same to his reply.

Ever yours cordially
Asa Gray

[1862?]

Cambridge 22. Mil.

Dear Bruce -

You are very welcome
to such casual criticism
as I can offer on your
2 pages of mine.

The general fact of
~~the~~ a segregated people
(or individuals of an animal
species) becoming best adapted to
the particular climate, & -
• through natural selection
is clear enough, - the best adap-
ted alone surviving in the long
run, - & the peculiarities trans-
mitted by the close breeding.

But what your state =
ments tend to make out is -
not the tendency of ~~the human~~ a
human race to return to its
original type, - but only the
tendency of the causes which
produced a certain effect once
to produce it again, the

circumstances continuing
- to produce it in the Fellahs
as it produced it in the
~~ancient~~ monuments of the
Pharaohs.

That is all I can say,

But your case does
not prove that unless you
make out that the Egyptians
a race was nearly destroyed
by ~~severe~~ crossings.

I do not know, but I doubt
if you can show that, -
that the crossings were ever
enough to modify the Egyptian
people, at least the com-
mon people, who make up the
bulk.

Slight infusions
you see would be worked out.
The foreign though conquering
race + would be less prolific
and less enduring than the
native, &c. &c. - It is not
likely that in the Fellahs

you have the represen-
tatives of the old Egyptians
continued, not reproduced
as your remarks would partly
lead one to suppose your
meaning.

Besides, once having got
a race you must not make
too much of climate, to the
overlooking of the wonderful
persistence of any variety
when close bred. - See
the Jews. - the nose ^{remains} hooked
- under all climates, &c.

Again - in your last
sentence. When you
unscientific people take
up a scientific principle
you are apt to make too
much of it - to push it to
conclusions beyond what is warranted
by the facts. But, because
a particular race has



Gray, Asa. 1862. "Gray, Asa Apr. 22, [1862] [to Charles L. Brace]." *Asa Gray correspondence : letters from Asa Gray to various individuals*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/225451>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/262352>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

Arcadia 19th Century Collections Digitization/Harvard Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The Library considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection

License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.