

them at all. With increasing civilization the physiognomy of individuals becomes so differentiated, that, even among individuals all of the same race, we very rarely mistake one face for another.

The second great fundamental law, obvious in the history of nations, is the great law of progress or perfecting. Taken as a whole, the history of man is the history of his *progressive development*. It is true that everywhere and at all times we may notice individual retrogressions, or observe that crooked roads towards progress have been taken, which lead only towards one-sided and external perfecting, and thus deviate more and more from the higher goal of internal and enduring perfecting. However, on the whole, the movement of development of all mankind is and remains a progressive one, inasmuch as man continually removes himself further from his ape-like ancestors, and continually approaches nearer to his own ideal.

The mighty retrogression which is found existing during the darkness of the Middle Ages, as compared with the brilliant light of classic antiquity, is sometimes brought forward to oppose the importance of the law of progress. But, apart from the fatal internal and external causes which necessarily led to the unfortunate destruction of the light of classic antiquity, the retrogression during the Middle Ages was for the most part occasioned by the contempt of nature which Christianity preached, and the tyrannical rule which its all-powerful hierarchy exercised over every form of independent mental activity. And yet, even during this dark period of history, many germs of a new life were active in secret, and, after the Reformation, appeared as new forms of culture. Besides this, however, the short