

# Eugenics

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*But the angel said to him, Fear not, Zechariah, your prayer has been heard;  
Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son to you;  
You must call his name John.  
He will be a joy and gladness to you and many will rejoice at his birth;  
For he will be great in the sight of the Lord.  
He will drink neither wine nor strong drink;  
He will be filled with the Holy Spirit from his very birth.  
He will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God.  
He will go in front of Him with the spirit and power of Elijah, to  
turn the hearts of the fathers to their children;  
To turn the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; and  
To make ready a people prepared for the Lord.  
But the Angel said,  
Fear not, Mary, you have found favor with God;  
You are to conceive and bear a son;  
And you must call his name JESUS.  
He will be great;  
He will be called the Son of the Most High; and  
The Lord God will give Him the throne of David his father; - and  
To his reign there will be no end.*

In these verses from Luke's Gospel we have given to us the culmination of Israel's Messianic hope; and also the fact that God uses the best and purest instrument obtainable to do His will or to reveal Himself to men.

Every maid of Israel from the earliest times of the Messianic hope, as uttered in Isaiah, looked forward to the possibility of being the mother of the promised Messiah.

Most great men had good and great mothers, mothers at least who were holy, religious, and ambitious for their sons. Many mothers have asked the question of Samson's mother, "How shall we order the child?" Elizabeth and Mary were such devout mothers. The work of their sons was to be this, "To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children; to turn the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; and to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

In this plan to make a people ready and fully prepared for the Lord, the covenant with Abraham was not forgotten. The people of Israel were told to beware of marriage with the heathen; they were told to be fruitful and multiply; to have children and to bring

them up in the fear of the Lord. They were also expected to observe all the rules and laws of health and of sanitation, so that the health of the child and the nation might be protected. In other words they were admonished to have their children "well born". Abraham and Jacob knew the laws of eugenics and proper breeding, as did many of the ancients. Jacob, we know, applied the laws of selection in breeding, to his sheep and goats to win a victory over his father-in-law.

Moreover we notice that the mother of Samson was warned by the angel to drink no strong drink, in order that she might give birth to the strongest man of his time. Likewise the spiritual strength of John the Baptist was hinted at when it is said of him that he would use neither wine nor strong drink. Israel did not neglect the physical and spiritual preparation of her children.

We may note then that there is a physical inheritance and a social inheritance. To be well born, which is the right of every child, one needs a good pure parentage as John had, and beside this a social inheritance that will develop the power of the child in order that it may grow and use its inheritance and be able to pass the heritage on to posterity. It should be so trained that it can add to the progress of Society by creative endeavor.

Of Elizabeth and Zechariah we are told that, "They were both just in the sight of God; blameless in their obedience to all the commands and regulations of God." This ideal parenthood whereby a child is given the best physical and social inheritance is necessary for the progress of the race. These rare souls of pure bodies and pure idealistic minds, kept up the hope of Israel in a very dark day. Mary, too, following the same ideal, found favor with God. Her son was so Ideal, so unique, and so lived up to his name of "Saviour" that He was said to have come into the world by the agency of the Spirit of Holiness. That He did manifest the Holy Spirit there is no doubt; of this even His enemies are witnesses.

Only the pure in heart, we are told, shall see God. It is the pure and the righteous in every age that will endure and conquer in the end. Such is the power of an Ideal. We must then implant similar ideals for the body, mind, and soul. Herein the hope of our race, - a good birth from pure parents, and the care of loving parents throughout the long childhood of the young.

Let us ask further, "What is it to be well born?" Can the science of eugenics give us any laws that will help us? Is it God's plan that every child shall be well born and have a chance to develop in all of its nature?

## I

First let us consider, "What is it to be well born?" It is with this subject that the science of eugenics concerns itself.

In the sense of eugenics, being well born is to be brought into the world with a pure strong body free from inheritable defects or diseases so that the mind and soul may develop unhindered, and so that the personality may pass on, as in a great relay race, the ideals of the people or civilization. It is that one may become a useful citizen and contribute to the maintenance and the furtherance of society.

A child may be well born physically, as some white boy; but he may be brought up in a social and educational society as that of the Bushmen and thus not be able to pass on the ideals of his own race. Likewise a child may be born a weakling in body and yet receive the social and educational advantages of a Newton. No life would be well born if it did not have the inheritance of both of these elements, the physical and the social; for factors like literacy are not inherited; they are like other elements a social inheritance, a tradition, not passed on in the physical life.

In the olden days the parents or mothers took the place of our educational system and gave to the child a religious training beside an education in national history and customs. No child is well born that does not have the care of both parents. It is still a prime need of our day that fathers turn back to their children. The child needs all that each of the parents can give. A girl for instance brought up under the father alone may show over much of the masculine traits; and a boy reared solely under the mother's care may be effeminate. Moreover a lad educated wholly by men may be rough and uncouth for society; while a girl brought up by women alone would lack certain characteristics that could be got only from the father or from men.

*As unto the bow the cord is,  
So unto the man is woman.  
Useless each without the other.  
(Hiawatha)*

Let us say then, that to be well born, in the larger sense, is to have the gift of health in a body with all its strength and with little or no inherited defects. It seems also the opportunity of a child having a "mothering" and a "fathering" of true parents. It must mean too, the advantage of a full educational system of training in our civilization and the inspiration of our ideals in the realm of religion.

## II

But let us ask further, "How can one be well born?" How can we too be true ancestors for posterity? A man must begin somewhere and as he cannot often choose his grandparents, he may as well begin with himself. Can he do as did Zechariah pass on a pure strong body animated by strong religious ideals for the betterment of man? Can he pass on an ideal so strong that posterity will do as Israel did for Jacob, - "take the bones of Jacob" and march for a promised Land?

We can learn somewhat of the laws of inheritance by the observation of plants, animals, and of our own lives. We know now that certain diseases and weaknesses are inherited. But one thing that helps us to add strength, is that in marrying, usually it is natural to select the best, to choose the fairest, strongest, and most efficient mate. This may, however, often be an act of blind choice because children may take after the grandparents; and inherited factors may thus leap a generation. We must if possible pay attention to a full genealogy as the people of Israel did. In the breeding of men it seems to be hurtful for instance for cousins to marry; but the law seems to be that good as well as bad traits may be passed on to posterity. New blood seems to strengthen a race or an

old stock that has intermarried too much. Savage tribes in Africa will not allow marriages within the tribe; but compel one to seek a mate from an adjoining tribe.

Further it must be noted that mental ability and spiritual powers are inherited as well as the strictly physical qualities. God seems to work in nature by means of the principle or fact of "saltations" or leaps, whereby a new individual with a variation may come into being and a genius may be born or a new trait or power be added to the race. These new traits may often be kept by proper selective breeding as has been done in the plant and the animal world. No farmer believes in breeding from "scrubs"; but from pure blood or certified and pedigreed stock. Why? Because these have been "bred up" to a standard; the best traits have been conserved by proper mating. This is one reason that Abraham was anxious for his people in his own day. He wanted his people to marry in his tribe or clan and not to defile body or soul by intermarriage with the heathen around them. Heathen rites and practices defiled the body and the mind. The 'mores" of most of them could not compare with that being built up by Abraham; much of the heathen civilization and ideals were hardly worth handing on to any posterity.

In our day we are fortunate in having certain societies and agencies that want to help mankind in being well born. These organizations want to foster and teach the knowledge and laws of how to be well born. From them we may learn the laws of the conservation of all that is best in our physical and spiritual inheritance. Just as the Bible shows that Abraham built up an ideal to protect the chosen people that they might give a Saviour to the world, so must society today protect itself with laws and institutions in order to hand on its civilization and produce a people that can appreciate the present social structure and add to it for the future progress of the race.

Some of the means used now to protect civilization may be mentioned. We note homes for the feeble minded and institutions for the insane are all around us. Some twelve states too have laws for sterilization of defectives so that they may not produce offspring. Most states prohibit the intermarrying of the insane and the feebleminded. Even among the better class of physically fit and mentally equipped, there should be a dealying of marriage until adolescence is past. The time will come no doubt, when we shall see the wisdom of having a physical examination for marriage and a certificate granted for the right to bring children into the world. A physical examination for this service to ones country and mankind should be as important as such an examination for service in war. The need of this is shown by the fact that the lowest one-sixth of our country is now giving birth to about one-half of our children!

Beyond the means just mentioned, we need a revaluation of the Home. Fathers and mothers must turn back to their children. The modern complex world of big business and society for men and women is robbing the child of its right to the fellowship and the training of the parents. Can we afford to entrust our children to "nurses", to over secularized schools wherein no moral training is given; and to the usually wholly inefficient Sunday School? Will the present system give the child the needed ideals and inspirations for life? Should we not be as proud to be an ancestor, as the child of one? It is not better to be the founder of a noble line of men and women than to be the worthless scion of a great ancestor?

While we cannot now “choose our grandparents” if we have no worthy name, we can like Erasmus, make one for ourselves. Let us wipe away the past and begin like Abraham to BE the ancestors of a righteous line of strong, pure, noble, boys and girls.

### III

Moreover we should now ask, “Why should we try to have children well born”. What are some of the motives that should prompt us to give of our best to posterity?

One reason should be that the propagation of the unfit or of the weak is an economic burden and a waste. We support homes and institutions for the feeble minded and the insane. The vicious and the moron types become criminals or parasites on society. The care of the weak and the insane may hinder the usefulness and development of a real creative personality and thus keep one from making a real contribution to society. Imagine an Edison as a “nurse” for the feeble minded, or Burbank managing a “home” for inebriates.

A deeper reason is that if we are interested in the Kingdom of God or our own system of high ideals and Christian civilization, we shall see the need of bringing into the world worthy types of children mentally and physically, to whom we may pass on our “mores”. These people should be able to use, hand on, and build up the structure of Kingdom that shall be eternal.

It is an added waste, too, to try to educate the low mental type or those, who with all possible opportunities, cannot rise to the appreciation of our civilization or add to it in any way. Some really cannot even pass it on to those like themselves. Quality not quantity should be our object. In the old scheme of Abraham quantity was needed, he thought, for use in possible wars; but the new mores now being built up on the ideals of Jesus is not one of force and war. It is rather the conquest of the world by love and cooperation. In this new civilization those who will survive will be the MORALLY and SPIRITUALLY fit. The meek shall inherit the earth.

Physical and social life seem to have evolved from a much lower ideal than this just mentioned. When the dinosaur lived, we had the age of brute force; then strength and weight counted most. But later on a proportionally larger brain, with cunning and fleetness of foot gained the day. After this we note man coming upon the scene and conquering by the employment of tools which added to his power and made him greater than a beast. A sense of herd, and a community feeling grew up among both animals and men; a communal and cooperative spirit was developed. The era of world wide goodwill and brotherhood however, is yet to come. But such an era is in the line of social evolution and we can hasten it by eugenics. This era is our ideal; for it we are striving; and it will come to replace all that went before.

We may help this coming era by building up the highest ideals of the family and of home life. It is a holy thing to bring a child into the world; it is a joy to care for it. A child is its own recompense. Then too, we must conserve the ideal that we are a “chosen nation”. We may give birth to one who may lead us into the new age. Force, cunning, and strategy

have had their day; now we must overcome evil with good. We must attempt to give birth to and train men who will specialize in the newer ideals. As life had advanced from the amoeba to man, by the specialization of cells, so must men in the future specialize for the progress of society; some must be prophets, some teachers, some preachers, and some model parents. May some one arise like Abraham of old, who will so lead us into the new era of the "well born". To all peoples the promise has been -

*I will send a prophet to you,  
A Deliverer of the nations,  
Who shall guide you and shall teach you.  
If you listen to his counsels,  
You will multiply and prosper;  
If his warning pass unheeded,  
You will fade away and perish.  
(Hiawatha)*

We Christian people believe in Jesus' Kingdom of Love and peace. To the founding of the Kingdom we look forward. In that day shall we look back with pride in genealogies as did Mary and Elizabeth? Can we not have a pride of family again; not for coats of arms and the idle trappings of tyranny, but of the giving of our best for posterity? This pride ought to include pride in untainted blood, a strong pure physical heritage. We desire dogs and cattle with pedigrees and certificates of health. Why not desire such for people, for ourselves? Why not demand such for betrothed couples? Is not marriage enough of a sacrament and a holy act, a real spiritual event to make us desire such an improvement?

We work for Eternity, friends; for posterity and glorious Kingdom. We are "in the midst of the years"; and in a great relay race wherein sin and evil are contesting with love and righteousness. We carry the torch of high morals and the ideals of Jesus; freely have we received of our ancestors, shall we not pass their ideals on and lay them at the feet of those who are fit? Shall we hand these ideals on to morons and to the unfit? Shall we cast the precious pearls of Jesus's truth and life before swine? Can our science of mathematics be given to mental types that cannot understand high school algebra? Shall modern science be given to those whose ruling law in life is superstition? Can we lay the ideals of the Christ at the feet of atheists, infidels, and materialists? No, friends; here we have a duty. We have been commissioned by God. Let us go forth with the Gospel and enshrine it in chalices of pure beautiful bodies, holy minds, and souls that do know Lord.

#### IV

This program is based on the Bible and the laws of nature which are the laws of Nature's God. It is a Christian program. It is our duty to "be holy" as Paul said. Should not this program then have the support of, and approval of Christian people, and of the church?

History shows that no great movement in the world had advanced without the aid of religion; which unifies and inspires for any moral advance. Our president has spoken upon this theme:

*There is no form of education which will not fail, there is no form of government which will not fail, there is no form of reward which will not fail. Redemption must come through religion, and sacrifice is the essence of religion. Without that faith all that we have of an enlightened civilization cannot endure.*

*(Calvin Coolidge)*

Great men and geniuses come according to God's plan; but we can help by consecrating a Samuel or a John or Jesus to the Ideal. We can create new beings as did the English miner create in the animal realm, a new type of dog, the airedale. He bred the best traits of the otter and terrier together and produced a noble species. Good qualities are inherited.

J.S. Bach the great organist and his eight sons inherited musical ability, we are told, but the environment of music and training later were necessary to success. One does not inherit ability to play the organ; but one does inherit ABILITY. So even though only two of Bach's sons were famous as musicians, the rest may have shown ABILITY in another line of endeavor. Blood tells. So John and Jesus were the spiritual flowers of many generations of loyalty to the Abrahamic covenant. Israel tried to keep true to the ideals and to breed only among the best, which was her own. John the Herald and Jesus blossomed forth because many worked and planned in their very bodies and minds for the day of the Messiah. They kept the body and soul pure as fit channels for God; - and He used them.

In our day we are trying to give to every child a good education and our social heritage too. We believe in giving the child our spiritual heritage upon which, as a scaffold, it may build an adequate mental and spiritual structure. Some, like Napoleon, want to found a name or a House, which may be laudable; but let us work for the larger good of Humanity and the Kingdom. We must be intensely concerned for posterity, or see our ideals vanish from the earth.

*An old man, going a lone highway,  
Came at the evening cold and gray.  
To a chasm vast and deep and wide;  
'Twas needful to reach the other side.*

*The old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
The sullen stream held no fear for him;  
But he turned when safe on the other side,  
And built a bridge to span the tide.*

*"Old Man" said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting your strength with building here,  
Your journey will end with ending day;  
You will never pass again this way;  
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide,*

*Why do you build this bridge at evening tide?"*

*The builder lifted his old gray head; -  
"Good friend, in the path I've come," he said.  
"here followeth after me today;  
A youth whose feet must pass this way;  
This chasm that has been as naught to me,  
To that fair-haired youth may a pit-fall be;  
He too must cross in the twilight dim  
Good friend, I'm building the bridge for him!" (Selected; author unknown)*

We at least can consecrate ourselves to live righteously as did Elizabeth and her husband and Mary. Thus we can pass on to posterity pure blood, strong bodies, alert minds, and souls that are in tune with God. We can too help build up our Ideals in Society by supporting the proper educational institutions. We can cooperate with agencies that spread the knowledge and laws of how one may be well born. It is a disgrace now in some localities to have cattle with "T.B." and to own "scrub stock." May the day come when we shall have as much pride in our children, in their pedigrees of spiritual and physical health, as we now have in that of cows and pigs.

Let the Church and our Christian people lead, as they have in the past toward this reformation and get back to the ideals of Jesus and John, that like the prophets of old, every child may have the opportunity to be well born and reared. This is eugenics in the larger sense. It is a law of the Kingdom.

Let preachers and all others who marry unite only the fit; let them refuse to unite the imbecile and the moron or others unfit. Thus can we cut off sin and economic waste. Thus can we be prepared for the Lord our God who wants man in His own image." "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father in Heaven is perfect."

Let us all resolve to protect the Home by higher ideals of marriage. Let us do away with war, which takes periodically all our most fit and fair young men.

Let us look forward not backward to a Golden Age. Let us enter the work with all the prophets from Elijah to John and Jesus. Let us all have a part in the work to "turn the hearts of the fathers again to their children; to turn the sinful to righteousness; and help make ready a people fully prepared for the Lord; and His Kingdom; - 'FOR OF HIS KINGDOM THERE WILL BE NO END.'"