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average income, which naturally does not exclude some disparity amongst the individuals possessing that income. This divergence amongst the average incomes of the various groups, as of the individuals in each group, can easily exist, even assuming that their individual capacities were identical, since it can arise simply from the possession of more fertile land, or more generally from property situated in more favourable physical conditions. Now, amongst these individuals thus furnished with diverse incomes, there breaks forth a furious economic struggle, which is carried on with methods of violence, fraud, and monopoly, and has as its result the ascent of the conquerors to a sphere of superior income, and the descent of the conquered into a sphere of inferior income. So, as the intensity of the struggle is in direct relation to the amount of income, it will be greater in the spheres of superior incomes, hence in these spheres there will be the greater number of income-holders who will be cast down.

Therefore, supposing that at the beginning of the period of observation the various groups contained an equal number of income-holders, or that the entire number of the income-holders of various grades presented the figure of a square, the struggle amongst the income-holders would gradually bring about a progressive thinning of the spheres of the superior income-holders, and hence transform the original square into a pyramid. Now, those who come to find themselves at the summit of this pyramid do not find themselves there through the possession of superior capacity, but solely by the blind influence of the struggle amongst the income-holders. It may certainly be said it is possible that some of them are equipped with superior mental capacity, but it may also be possible that the large majority of them are composed of degenerates, and that no section of them excludes this class.

The history of great fortunes goes to show that most often great patrimonies are created, not so much by supreme genius, as by shameful and iniquitous practices.

The historical family of De Lazareff in Russia has for head of the race an Indian slave, a guardian in the temple of Siva, who one night steals one of the colossal diamonds forming the eyes of the god, and with this flies into Russia, where he sells the precious gem to Catherine for a million and a half roubles. And Myers, in his recent work upon great fortunes, has endeavoured to show how the property of American millionaires has frequently been obtained by means of frauds and the most odious defalcations. Besides, if the founders of great fortunes should by chance be gifted with superior capacity, it is certain that their descendants should be wanting in these, because with regard to them that law of "return to the mean," which Galton has successfully established, would apply. Thus, at any given moment, economic superiority is by no means an index of superior psycho-physical aptitudes, whether because many of those who now possess that position do not acquire it by virtue of the possession of elevated mental