

active colony in so cold a country as Canada. The United States, with its mixture of nationalities, is another such region. The acclimatization, however, is not brought about without considerable change in the mental life and characteristics of the people. The Yankee is strikingly different from the Englishman. The real sign of the longevity of a colony is the relative birth-rate and mortality as compared with that in the mother-country. The general result is, that, the farther south we go into the tropical countries, the lower does the reproductive power of the colony become, until in a few generations sterility is more and more prevalent. Of this the Creoles are a good example. The special cause of this degeneration has been regarded by physicians as a lack of the formation of blood, a general anaemia. This explanation, however, is not final; and a further cause, such as the presence of micro-organisms in the water, is to be looked for. The great prevalence of liver-disease in such cases offers a valuable clew.

It is considerations such as these which make us feel the want of thorough scientific research of the conditions which control the foundation of colonies. When these are known, it will no longer be necessary to make sacrifices of thousands of men in an idle attempt to make inhabitable some desolate unfavorable region. The order of national adaptability to new environment we have made out to be, first, the Jews; then the Spaniards, Portuguese, etc.; then the southern French and the northern French; and lastly the Germans. The remarkable immunity of the Jews is a question of great interest. What share in this peculiarity is due to their peculiar hygiene, choice of food, devotion to the home sentiment or to their occupation, is an open question.

#### *THE TRADE IN SPURIOUS MEXICAN ANTIQUITIES.*

THE present is a museum-making era, and future generations are perhaps to be congratulated that such is the case; but this wide-spread fancy for hunting and hoarding relics has given rise to minor features greatly to be deplored. The increased demand has given a considerable money value to antiquities; and this has led to many attempts, on the part of dishonest persons, to supply the market by fraudulent means. To such a degree of perfection has the imitation of some varieties of relics been carried, that detection is next to impossible. Doubtless in time most of the spurious pieces will be detected and thrown out; but in the mean time they will have made an impression upon literature, and upon the receptive mind of

the public, that is most difficult to eradicate. In view of these facts, it would seem to be the duty of interested persons to publish, at the earliest opportunity, all reliable information tending to expose frauds and correct erroneous impressions.

It is perhaps in stone, and especially in steatite, that frauds are most frequently attempted; but the potter's art has not escaped, and most of our collections contain specimens illustrating the skill of the modern artisan and the carelessness of collectors. Although we need not go beyond our own borders for illustrations of this statement, I wish here to call attention to some examples from Mexico. In pre-Columbian times the native potter of that country had reached a high degree of skill in the handling of clay; and Spanish influence has not been sufficiently strong to greatly change the methods, or restrict the manufacture. It is very easy, therefore, for the native artisan to imitate any of the older forms of ware; and there is no doubt that in many cases he has done so for the purpose of deceiving. A renewed impetus has been given to this fraudulent practice by the influx of tourists consequent upon the completion of numerous railways.

The variety most frequently imitated is a soft, dark ware, sometimes ferruginous, but generally almost black. The forms are varied, including vases, statuettes, pipes, whistles, and spindle-whorls, all of which are profusely ornamented. One notable form is a vase modelled in dark clay, and bristling with a superabundance of figures in relief, which give a castellated effect. A large piece recently acquired by the national museum was designated a 'miniature stone fort' by the collector, and a second piece could as readily be called a Chinese pagoda in clay.

The body of these vases is usually a short, upright cylinder, mounted upon three feet, and is profusely decorated with incised patterns and with a variety of ornaments, including human and animal figures in the round. A row of figures surrounds the rim, giving a battlemented effect; and a high conical lid, surmounted by a human figure, is usually added. The body of the vessel is modelled by hand; and the flatter portions of the surface are rudely polished, and covered with incised patterns. The attached figures are formed separately in moulds, and afterwards set into their places. Certain parts are further elaborated by means of figured stamps. After finishing, the vases are prepared for market by burial for a short time in the moist earth, or, more frequently perhaps, by simply washing them with a thin solution of clay. The deposit of clay is afterwards partially wiped off, leaving the lines and depressions filled with the light-

colored deposit. So clever are these fellows, that the vessels are sometimes slightly mutilated before they are submitted to this finishing process.

This ware may be purchased at any of the relic-shops in the city of Mexico; but San Juan Teotihuacan seems to be the headquarters of the traffic. In passing back and forth by the railway, I found that each train was met by one or more of the venders, who were careful to expose but a limited number of pieces, and that this method of sale was systematically practised. Wishing to secure a piece, I waited until the train was about to move off, when I held out a silver dollar, and the vase shown in the accompanying figure was quickly in my possession. The price asked was five dollars, and in the city of Mexico would have been three times that amount. At the rate of purchase indicated by my experience at San Juan, at least one piece per day was carried away by tourists, making hundreds each year. It is not wonderful, therefore, that museums in all parts of the world are becoming well stocked with this class of Mexican antiquities. Oddly enough, no such ware is found among the antiquities of the locality; and none, so far as I know, occur on the site of any ancient Aztec or Toltec settlement. Notwithstanding this fact, the venders do not hesitate to assign definite localities to the relics, and to give full accounts of their discovery. One of the national museum's pieces is said to have been discovered by workmen in digging a well fifty feet beneath the surface; and another, an excellent lithograph of which appears in the *Zeitschrift für ethnologie* for 1882, is reported to have been found in a cavern at San Juan Teotihuacan.

The ease with which such pieces can be obtained should convince collectors that something is wrong; but a close examination of the specimen generally yields much additional evidence. It is well known that any article buried for a long time in the earth will be thoroughly discolored, and that every crack and cavity having the least connection with the surface will be completely filled with sediment; but in many cases it will be found that in spurious pieces the doctoring with washes of clay has been too hasty, and that small patches, especially in unexposed places, are not in the least discolored. An attractive whistling vase of complicated structure, recently purchased by an American resident of Mexico, was found, upon close examination of obscure parts, to have come but recently from the furnace.

It should be observed that earthenware similar in type to these modern examples, but not bearing the same evidence of recent manufacture, is given a prominent place in the Mexican national museum; but I am unable to secure any information

in regard to its pedigree. It is evident that this dark, ornate pottery does not all belong to the immediate present; but no one seems to be able to say just when or where its manufacture began.

An American officer engaged in the Mexican war brought back a number of fine pieces now on exhibition in the U. S. national museum. They are said to have been dug up near the village of Texcoco. Well-authenticated Texcocan pieces resemble this dark pottery in color and texture more closely than any other; and it is possible that here it was originally made.

It is perhaps doubtful if any of the elaborate



EXAMPLE OF MODERN-ANTIQUE MEXICAN VASE (HEIGHT, 11 IN.).

pieces (now so numerous in collections) in which stamps have been freely used, and which have been in whole or in part cast in moulds, date back to pre-Columbian times. The whole genius of aboriginal methods of procedure goes to discredit them. All the wonderful specimens of earthenware known to have been recovered from ancient sites, however complex in structure, or ornate in embellishment, are modelled by the hand alone, without the aid of such devices. If this statement shall prove to be too broad, the error will be in the right direction if it leads to the

critical inspection of all reputed antiquities bearing the marks of these un-American methods of manufacture.

If the methods are questionable, the spirit is more so. True native art is consistent: each part bears an intelligible relation to all other parts. It will be seen by reference to my illustration that these vases are not even imitations of genuine work, but compositions made up of unrelated parts (derived, may be, from ancient art), and thrown together without rhyme or reason. Fraud is stamped upon every contour, and written in every line.

W. H. HOLMES.

### *EAST GREENLAND ESKIMO.*

ANTHROPOLOGISTS have been waiting with great interest the information which Lieutenant Holm has to convey regarding the wild Eskimo of East Greenland, only recently known, and among whom he was the first civilized man to penetrate. He remained among them last winter; and an exhibition has just been made at Copenhagen of the ethnological objects which were procured from them. These people live about the bay of Augmagsalik. In the various settlements there were, in the winter of 1884-85, 548 souls, of whom 413 are situated near the above bay, and the rest on the coast between Fingmiamiut and Pernstorff fiord. There are 247 males and 301 females, who possess 142 kayaks and 33 umiaks, or large skin boats. The language is the same as that of the west coast; but the voices of the east coast people are more soft and agreeable. Their habit is erect, the face characteristic, the nose more prominent than with the other Eskimo. Their religion and legends agree exactly with those of the western coast.

They wear dressed skin in summer, fur clothing in winter. Their boots are double; and in winter both inside socks and boots are made of fur on the inner side. Bear-skins are the most prized. Caps are made of white or blue fox-skin with the tail left hanging behind. Pretty embroidery and inlaid party-colored fur are in use, as is a sort of wooden shade against sun and rain. Combs of musk-ox horn are cut out with shark's teeth, and used to confine the hair, which is often knotted on top of the head. Clothing is only worn out of doors; within the huts the women wear a breech clout, while the others are entirely naked up to their fourteenth year, when the boys are given a pair of breeches as a sign of maturity. The greatest desire of the women is to have a son, and a marriage is not regarded as complete until the wife has become a mother. In order that the child may be a boy, the women are made to dance in a way to make a figure of eight on the floor: this,

if rigorously followed, should determine the sex of the expected infant. As in north-west America, boys are often married to old women; but the tie does not hold unless children are the result. Some men have two wives, so as to have two rowers in their boat. Only one unmarried woman was met with. The men frequently exchange wives; and the possession of male children is considered excellent luck, whether a woman be married or not. Salutation is by rubbing noses. Men of sixty years of age are very rare. When an individual is seriously ill, he consents, if his relatives request it, to end his sufferings by throwing himself into the sea. It is rare that a sick person is put to death, except in cases of disordered intellect. The dead whose ancestors have perished in the sea are thrown into the sea. Others are interred, or laid on land and their bodies covered with stones. With them are put their most precious treasures. The friends and relatives express grief in different ways,—howling, weeping, and so on, that the soul of the dead man be not grieved by neglect. If the deceased bore the name of a thing or animal, the name is no longer used, which causes some confusion in the language.

They know very little of fishing. Even the salmon are taken with a spear. Their weapons are arrows, lances, and harpoons, pointed with bone or iron. The latter is obtained by traffic with the southern natives, or from wreckage. They make knives and needles of it, as well as arrow-points. Needles and beads are much in request. Collars are made for dress occasions by fastening fish vertebrae on strips of dressed intestine, as on a ribbon. They are very ingenious in wood-carving, and their wooden articles are ornamented with inlaid bits of white bone or stone. They carve representations of parts of the coast in wood; and among the articles brought home by Lieutenant Holm was a collection representing, in wood, the parts of the adjacent coast. These carvings are so good, that the members of the expedition recognized from one of them an island which they had not previously seen. Toys are also carved with great accuracy and neatness. The children have and dress dolls, play with toy bears, sledges, etc.,—all well executed.

Fire is obtained by means of the fire-drill, and is caught on the dry moss which serves for wicks in their great stone lamps, which both heat and cook for the household.

There is a good deal of driftwood thrown on this coast. The autumn and early winter are mild, in the present case above 37° F. It was only in the month of February that the sea became ice-bound: it remained so until the end of June. In general the coast is free for navigation during