

RACIAL PREJUDICE

The following extracts are taken from an article which appeared in the Nouvelle Revue de Lausanne under the signature of Samuel Chevallier, which we publish by kind permission of the author.

To deny the existence of races and the considerable differences existing between them is racial prejudice. It is as good as saying: 'I see clearly that you are not as I am, but I forgive you for that.' Not to be so prejudiced is to admit the difference, as we do with friends or with members of the family, but without feeling a sense of superiority. At the root of racial equality is humility, whereas racial prejudice is born of pride, racial pride, the most dangerous pride of all; it being well understood that this does not prevent us from having personal preferences.

We can, however, see and admire the absence of racial prejudice every day, but unfortunately it is not to be seen among men, but among dogs! They recognize one another as dogs, and when they whisper to one another, I am persuaded that it is not a reproach on the subject of colour or skin. Dogs can teach us many things. Unfortunately, as Balthasar remarked, if it is true that dogs understand perfectly everything that their masters say to them, these same masters understand but dimly what their dogs say. But this is of no importance since they are indeed the masters. And this simple witticism contains the explanation of the greater part of the real disarray existing in the world today, (and in the world of sport - *Editor*) and of which our racial prejudice is the primary cause. But whose fault is it?

Seen from a distance this incredible pride is hardly conceivable, this pride with which our own European ancestors subjugated the world. Asia, Africa, Australia, they had to have it all, and in their triumphal march they had no time even to glance at the races which they had conquered — or exterminated. For there was only one truth, our

truth. There was only one religion, our religion: only one civilization, our civilization. So once military power had been established the good men arrived who would teach these 'savages' how to think, act and pray. The result? We know it only too well. A mass of people who had been taught only the outward forms. Like a well-meaning young woman of good family who, fifty years ago, believed that the negro could be civilized by dressing him in trousers which reached to his shoes! We snatched them away from their tribal customs, from their gods, and we gave them nothing in exchange except perhaps a certain veneer, a few gestures and some good habits, such as alcohol and tobacco.

But beyond mere independence, what these men need to find is themselves, what they were and what they are in the depths of their beings.

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I want to say simply this... to be free of racial prejudice does not only mean loving all humanity equally. We must be realistic. A man always prefers another man who looks like him. To be free from racial prejudice is freely to admit that to be different from us does not mean being inferior: to admit in consequence that all men have equal rights in respect of their persons, their ideas, their faiths and their ethics.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

It we have published these few extracts it is thinking of the work now being undertaken by the Commission d'Aide Internationale Olympique whose president, the Comte de Beaumont (France), is a member of the International Olympic Committee. He is now engaged in intense work at the very centre of this commission for the benefit of the new independent nations. After the first stage is over, the commission hopes to be in a position to give this essential aid.

Among so-called Olympic countries of the world several exist where racial discrimination is practised, and who are fundamentally displeasing to the International Olympic Committee, who, in their turn, are actively occupied with

this problem. Might it not be, for this reason alone, that these extracts published above should be considered as of immediate importance, and that the spirit which emanates from them should be meditated upon in Olympic circles.