

they have other purposes. They moderate the temperature both of summer and of winter, and render pleasant, healthy, and agreeable the climate of the country. Another feature in the physical geography of the country to which I shall allude is the slight degree of elevation of the land above the level of the sea. You, visitors from Mexico and South America; and the southern parts of North America, when at home, tower above us by nearly a thousand feet. We are content to occupy a lower level—an average elevation of something like one to three hundred feet above the sea is sufficient to satisfy us. The city where we meet, is at low water, but eighteen feet above the level of the sea. But the low altitude of which I speak, and with which we are content, is favourable to this climate and to vegetation. Were our plateaus, on the north coast, as elevated as some of yours, vegetation, if at all possible under such condition of height, would be confined to mosses; and animal life would be limited to a few hardy, thick-furred, thinly scattered animals. All our slopes toward the ocean are long and gentle; many of yours are short and rapid. While our low elevation on the north is most favourable to us, we are grateful to you for your Mexican Cordilleras and the bold Rockies, which temper the soft winds, loaded with watery vapour, which reach us from the Pacific, which, without these interposed mountains, would enervate us. Were the configuration of this portion of the continent otherwise than what it is we should be exposed to vicissitudes of temperature from the northern Atlantic on the one side, and from Pacific on the other, too sudden and of too great a range for man, with all his ingenuity, to endure.

That a climate begotten of our latitude and longitude, or of the physical configuration of the surface of our land, is not destructive to vegetable life, you may gather from the magnificent forests and rich herbage which cover the soil. Many millions of cubic feet of our oak, elm, beech, maple, walnut, linden, ash, hickory, pine, spruce and cedar are being steadily conveyed to your country to be there