

to the dawn of human history—changes which may be indicated by a tropical climate, flora and fauna in Greenland, or a heaped-up ice sheet enduring for countless years where Montreal and Toronto, Boston and Chicago now stand. The recurrence of another Ice Age, when the vast glaciers will again dredge slowly southward, with low thunder grinding and powdering before them like dust the cities of the present; or another northward extension of warmth benign, when the regions of the pole will again be invaded by the flowers and the singing birds of the spicy south, alike concern no living man; or, for that matter, even the human species, which will undoubtedly have run and finished its splendid, but comparatively brief, career before the repetition of either phenomenon.

At the present time the climate of the continent is characterized by a winter of severe cold, except in the southern portion; and a summer of intense heat except in the northern. By alternately shifting one's position five hundred miles in each direction from a given point in the central region it would be possible at two points a thousand miles apart for one to escape in turn both extremes of temperature. The birds of passage were the first observers of climatology, and the first to avail themselves of its variations. The conveniences of civilization have made the practice possible for those who do not enjoy the same natural facilities for easy and rapid locomotion.

This division of the continent according to climate closely coincides with its political division. During the winter every part of Canada is cold but the Pacific coast. During the summer, generally speaking, every part of the United States is hot to the point of discomfort except the mountains, sea border and Great Lakes. The term discomfort, as used here, ranges in its effects all the way from impaired energy to heat stroke. The first may be said to be universal during the hot months; while the extreme effect is only common at certain times and in certain places, such as the cities. Frequent cases of acute insanity also follow every hot wave.

The manifold advantages, therefore, of the north, as a resort during the summer requires no experiment; and applies as forcibly to the larger continent which contains Europe and Asia as it does to North America. The possible number of distinct meteorological combinations appears, indeed, to be more limited than one would expect, for in the main the climatic features of both the Old and New World are identical, the only difference being in the manner of their distribution. The Steppes of Russia and the ice-fields of Siberia are not wanting in Canada. The charm of Scotland and the bold scenery of Norway may be found accurately reproduced in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Indeed, the resemblance in the case of the last two is so striking that, upon being shown by the late Dr. Harvey a large number of views of