

of the volume and weight of animal life upon our planet exists in the water, which is supposed to cover three-fourths of its surface. The southern zone, then, abounding in water, must far exceed that of the north in the *amount* of animal life. It has been mentioned, that she has much the largest amphibious and aerial animals. Her birds and fish exceed, in general, those of the north in size—and surpass them by all calculation in numbers. Few, if any, northern birds can compare in size with the condor and albatross. Much, however, remains to be known upon this interesting subject. If my theory be sustained, if men *continue* to degenerate, as I think it is proved that they have degenerated then I say, the southern zone will be slow in producing a Linnæus, a Buffon, a Wilson, or Audubon. Having no authors of her own, her history must be written by foreigners.

Without going further into dry detail, we will take for granted the superiority of terrestrial animal life in the north over that of the south.

#### THE CAUSES OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED SUPERIORITY.

What can be the cause of this amazing difference between the two hemispheres? Is it owing to moral or physical causes? or to a combination and mixture of both? Man is said to be the only animal that possesses a frame at once so hardy and so flexible as to enable him to live and increase and multiply his race from the arctic to the antarctic circle. No doubt that man is less effected by mere physical causes than brute animals—and his change, or degeneracy is generally attributed to moral causes, the influence of example, &c. &c. But has not the influence of these causes been overrated? If the descendants of intelligent Europeans degenerate when transplanted to the south of Capricorn, and if this degeneracy has been constant and uniform from generation to generation, for three centuries, and through every degree of longitude, can it be *wholly* owing to surrounding circumstances, and what are called moral causes?

Empires have arisen and fallen in Europe, Asia and North Africa. Whole nations have degenerated, have been prostrated, and have perished from the earth.

\* "Empires die!  
Where now the Roman? Greek?  
They stalk an empty name."  
• • • • •

"Though half our learning is their epitaph."

Their existence and greatness are proved by their stupendous ruins, as well as by the scanty and mutilated remains of their written records. But the nations of the southern hemisphere have never degenerated! and why? They have had nothing to degenerate from. No writ of ejectment could reach or effect a houseless pauper. Having had no grandeur they have had no decadence. The causes of their imbecility are now to be sought for; these causes cannot be accidental, but must be fixed and permanent.

To what cause or combination of causes shall we attribute the inferiority of the south? Shall we adopt the ingenious but fanciful theory of Dr. Darwin, who supposed that the Moon was projected from the southern hemisphere by a tremendous volcano at the commencement of creation?