

to His eye alone, who penciled its bold mountains, and hollowed channels for its rivers; and thought gathers another element of sublimity, when we infer that the moment when all this wealth of beauty was to be opened to the world, was selected by that Providence who guided three fragile vessels over the then unknown ocean to its shores in safety.

We have said that America would never present the same venerable aspect as the Old World; true, but will she lack scenes of deep interest to the lovers of nature and art? Here is a varied surface. Nowhere does sterility prevail for a great distance. The golden sunsets of her tropical regions vie with the beauteous blending of cloud tints in Italy, while the fertility of the soil furnishes delicious fruits and innumerable flowers. Farther north, mountain ranges stretch through the country, and rolling away from these toward the sea coast, the land presents gentler inequalities of surface, varied by noble rivers and lakes. One of the most interesting features of America is her prairie land. Spread out for miles in extent, the prairie country is perfectly level, covered with tall grass, which, when agitated by the wind, resembles the waves of the sea. There is the same boundlessness of extent that is noticed at sea, and this, together with a sense of loneliness, makes an uncultivated western prairie imposing and awful. The number and length of the rivers of America far exceed those of the eastern continent. Many of them flow hundreds of miles, gathering tributaries, increasing in size and rapidity, until they mingle with the ocean. Cataracts dash and foam, or rush in immense volume into fathomless abysses, while caverns and mines reveal the mineral wealth of the country. The climate of North America is bracing, giving to the inhabitants a more abiding energy than is natural to those of the Old World, and they exhibit this energy in becoming masters of the grand natural resources of the country, and turning them all to assist the march of improvement.

One of the most fascinating features of American history is the interesting delineation of aboriginal character and prowess.—The dim spectres of the Iroquois, Algonquins, and Hurons, the deeds of the majestic Delawares, or the savage Mohawks, are presented to the youthful student of American history;*

* We speak of American history as a whole, embracing that of Canada and the United States.