

soil not so rich as to breed habits of indolence, placed its people where they could achieve prodigies ; and its advanced civilization, arts, laws, architecture, statuary and literature, both poetic, historical and philosophical, were the outcome of these favorable conditions. In Italy, with a climate still nearer perfection, the results were on a vaster scale than in Greece, and culture was broader, especially in law and general knowledge. But when in the Roman Senate there was no longer the cry that " Carthage must be destroyed," when accumulated wealth and luxury had done their dead'y work, as they did in Greece, the climate, too warm and humid to invite the Roman character to hard mental labour, allowed the sceptre to depart from Italy, and to be upheld by a sturdier race in a colder clime. In France, where the climate is somewhat colder than Italy, and from its various genial and sunny climatic influences sprung a sparkling and vivacious literature peculiar to its race. But luxury has done its work there, and it is the colder and more northern climate where no extremes occur, and where food is raised eminently fitted to produce a robust physique, and not to pamper the appetite, where intellectual grandeur culminates. England, Ireland and Scotland are proofs of this, and Germany goes hand in hand. The productions of these countries are not so spontaneous as to beget indolence, and reaction of the system against the cold sets the powers of the mind into vigorous action. These northern nations present mental results that live ; facts are reached by induction, imagination is rich and varied, but not wild and sensual, and patient research marks all their literature. On this continent the influences of climate are plain to all. The greyer skies and severer climate of the North control man's character and activities, whilst the Southerner gives himself up more to the indolence engendered by the influences of a hotter atmosphere.

American literature lies in the north, and Canada and the Northern States have produced and are producing the literature and mental energy of the continent. When men are settling a country there is but little chance for mental products. Their minds are absorbed in organizing, building, shaping. Thought is like carbon ; to crystallize into the diamond needs time, and the most favourable of surrounding influences. Yet the very fusion of so many diverse characteristics of blood, locality