

the works of Memphian kings are as insignificant as they were when compared with Milton's satanic architects. These glaciers sliding down to the south and west would scarcely yield to anything but the periodical visits of great Sol himself, the drippings furnishing a supply of pure ice water for the Mississippi. Their grinding action made the soil; and the streams and fogs and rains along its borders furnished moisture for the coarse and hardy vegetation of the times. But what the sun, unaided, could not accomplish in the the lofty rarified air of these primitive peaks, was at last accomplished by the subailence of the great range itself.

Back, slowly back, through successive centuries the glaciers retreated, leaving a great shallow lake between the rear of their baffled columns and the newly elevated coasts whence the shortened Mississippi took its rise. Still further centuries and a further subsidence drained off even the most of this lake, a mere sluggish and tortuous creek serving to mark the deepest part of the old lake—the present Red River of the north. This immense uplifting of the Rockies effectually shut off the supply of moisture from the Pacific, and thence forward came the present climate of our Northwest.