

those in tropical climates, the disabilities under which the Esquimaux labours; and this is borne out by incontestable facts. In Europe, for instance, both in ancient and modern times, the home of sculpture, poetry, painting, architecture, in a word, of all the fine arts, has ever been in the South. Egypt and Greece gave them birth and watched over their infancy. Italy, France and Spain have fostered, developed and christianized them, and proofs to show that climate has much to do with this may be readily adduced. First, for reasons already given, the Southerners have more time to devote to their mental and artistic development. Here also nature, displaying as she does her most winning charms in profusion, fires the imagination and stirs up the finer feelings of the soul. Thus the climate seems to communicate something of its own warmth to the nature of the people enjoying it. For, let a Northerner go south whilst yet young, and remain there some time and he will find his phlegmatic nature changed in some degree to the vivacious temperament characteristic of the Southerner. It must be admitted, however, that the tendency to indolence prevalent amongst people of Southern countries to some extent counteracts the impulse given by nature. As to the moral development, it depends less, yet perhaps to some slight extent, on the physical features of a country. On this phase of the subject I shall not enter, as it would require too much space.

But other physical differences exist of even more importance from a commercial, and therefore from a Northern point of view. These can be best pointed out by an example, and our own continent will be an excellent one, as we are best acquainted with it. Notwithstanding all modern innovations, those countries have ever flourished most in commerce which are most accessible to the sea. Now the whole east coast of North America, from Labrador to Central America, is intersected by large navigable rivers flowing from far inland, as well as indented by bays and inlets that afford excellent harbours for merchant ships. The coast of South America is almost unbroken, and its rivers form comparatively few national highways.

Nor can these be supplimented by railways as easily as in North America, owing to the difficulty of constructing them in a country covered by thick forests and lying in the torrid zone. And I might here mention that the Canadians have good reason to be proud of the energy they have displayed in the construction of a railroad across the continent in the face of natural obstacles that might well have daunted the most enterprising people. It may be questioned, however, whether, if we had as many obstacles to contend with as are to be found in South America, our railroads would be so numerous. The difficulties under which commerce labours in these Southern countries was forcibly illustrated some time since by a traveller journeying from San Francisco to Panama. He reports that on one occasion the ship stopped off the coast of Central America to take on some cargo, but as there was no harbour small boats were sent to the shore. Into these the goods were lowered from the top of a cliff some fifty feet high, it being impossible to find a more advantageous spot for placing them on board. I do not mean to assert that all South America labours under disadvantages as great as this, but merely wish to show that as its coast is but little indented with bays, the country in general is not fitted for commerce. Far less would I have it inferred that because I have maintained the intellectual superiority of Southern countries I consider them preferable to Northern climes. I am a Canadian and am proud of it. I believe, with Emerson, that "Where the snow falls there is freedom," and health, and energy, and manliness, and would not have it said that our climate is unfavorable to the highest development of fair play to all. I have merely attempted to account for some of the differences of character existing between Northern and Southern people by considering them the result of natural influences. At all events, I think I have shown that the statements of interested Protestant evangelists, who attribute the alleged inferiority of Southerners to the influence of the Catholic religion, may be taken *cum grano (magno) salis*.

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