

outward objects, for diversity of languages is inseparable from diversity of climates and habits, and will exist as long as the world lasts in its present state.

The physical constitution of man is influenced, in a great measure, by the climate he inhabits and the food he takes; and as we see the greatest variety in colour and external appearance amongst the different races, so the organs of speech actually seem to assume different forms in different nations. Hence it is that some pronounce sounds with the greatest ease, which others find it almost impossible to form. Thus it seems to be physically impossible for certain races to utter gutturals which are natural to others, and the vowel sounds used by some nations can never be accurately imitated by others.

Southern climates cause a certain languor in the constitution of their inhabitants; hence we find in the idioms of the south great softness, and comparatively few harsh combinations of consonants, which cannot be pronounced without some effort, whilst the languages of the vigorous races of the north are generally powerful and rich in consonants. Nature wears a different garb in different climates; therefore man requires other words to name the objects that surround him in another abode. Different countries and climates require different laws and institutions; totally different ideas are formed, and another way is found of expressing them—that is, a different language.

Hence, if a nation is transplanted to a new country and climate, its language will, even without any intermixture with another race, and independently of the changes incident upon the progress of the nation in arts and sciences, gradually undergo a great change, and ultimately assume a totally different character. Centuries may elapse before any perceptible alteration is effected, but it will take place. This change the English language is now undergoing in the western hemisphere. It operates very slowly, but surely.

How much a language is influenced by a change in the habits and physical constitution of the nation who speak it is clearly proved by the transformation of many ancient languages into modern ones. Thus, for instance, when the ancient Romans acquired habits of luxury and indolence, and became more and more effeminate, their powerful language underwent a great change, till in the course of centuries it was transformed into the modern Italian, which, though beautiful, cannot be compared in point of energy and force to the language of Cæsar and the Scipios.

If, then, plurality of languages is inseparable from diversity of climates and races, the idea of a universal language will remain an empty theory as long as the world is governed by the same enduring laws of