

about with their flocks and herds in search of pasture, down; to the ranche life of the west to-day, the owners of these cattle were, and are, the pioneers of civilization. The vast pastures of Australia were nibbled by only a few kangaroos, till men saw their suitability for sheep. Australian wool is now the finest produced in the world, and the unusual fecundity of the sheep in that country was most marked. Analogy in this respect to other animals was not thought of, and the rabbit, introduced for sport, has now become such a pest as to threaten the very destruction of the sheep pastures. The above examples fully serve to show how natural commodities exert the chief influence in the growth or origin of centres of population and trade, whilst hundreds of other facts could be cited if needed.

In the development of man, the general aspects of nature and climate exert an appreciable influence. A hot climate and bounteous soil tend to enervate the body and mind, but a temperate clime, where the hand and the head must be constantly at work, is favorable to physical and intellectual development or brain power. The latter is that activity of the mind which shows itself in the great productions—literature, art, architecture, conquest and civilization—and it is interesting to trace the gradual changes from ancient times down, and see that it has been from the gross to the finer idea, and from warmer to colder climates. Egypt, with its civilization running beyond the records of history, gave expression to its brain power in gigantic pyramids, huge sculptures, and the elements only of the arts and sciences. Although the climate was too warm for great mental activity, the extremely dry atmosphere gave the Egyptians of old advantages superior to many of the neighbouring nations. When they ceased to possess princes able to lead them to conquest, or to continue gigantic buildings, the ease with which they could procure a living from their valley soil caused them to fall into habits of indolence, and their enervation was their downfall.

India, with a similar temperature but moister air, produced later on the fantastic civilization, and light, airy and imaginative architecture peculiar to the Hindoo race, its impossible systems of cosmogeny, deities and worship, lived its life of sensual intellectuality and then passed away. Greece, with its more moderate climate, its narrow valleys, rapid streams and snow-capped mountains, with its clear sky, and