

each of them presents to the surrounding ocean two great slopes, which greatly differ, however, in length and degree of inclination.

"2. In the Old World, the long gentle slope is inclined toward the north, and the short abrupt slope toward the south; while in the New World the gentle slope is toward the east, and the abrupt toward the west.

"3. But while each of the grand continents has thus a law peculiar to itself, it is also influenced by the law of the other. Thus, though in the Old World the long or gentle slope is toward the north, and the short or abrupt one toward the south, it is also true that the slope fronting the east is more gradual than that fronting the west. In like manner, though in the New World the longer slope fronts the east, and the shorter the west, it is also true that the slope which fronts the north is gentler than that which fronts the south.

"4. The laws regulating the primary and secondary slopes, however, may be expressed still more generally thus: In both continents the long and gentle slopes descend toward the Atlantic, or toward the Arctic Ocean which is its continuation; while the short and abrupt slopes incline to the Pacific, or to the Indian Ocean which may be regarded as one of its members.

"5. The elevated ridge formed by the intersection of the great slopes is usually occupied by lofty mountain-chains, and constitutes the grand *watersheds* of the different continents. Hence in the Old World the general direction of the principal mountain-ranges is from east to west, while in the New it is from north to south. In the one they proceed in the direction of the parallels; in the other in that of the meridians; while in both they extend in the direction of the greatest length of the continents. Thus, in the eastern continent one immense mountain-chain extends, with few interruptions, from the western extremity of the Pyrenees to the vicinity of Behring Strait; while in the western, an almost unbroken range extends from the north-east angle of Russian America to the southern extremity of Patagonia.

"6. The law of following the direction of the greatest length holds equally true in regard to all the more important peninsulas and islands. Thus Scandinavia, Italy, Malacca, Corea, Kamtschatka, and Lower California, together with Great Britain, Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Crete, Madagascar, Sumatra, Java, Japan, Cuba, Hayti, Jamaica, and New Zealand, are all traversed by mountain-ranges in the direction of their greatest length.

"7. While in both hemispheres the reliefs go on increasing from the poles to the equator, the highest elevations of the Eastern Hemisphere occur in the vicinity of the Tropic of Cancer, while in the Western they are found near the Tropic of Capricorn: compare the positions of Mount Everest, Kunchingma, and Dhawalagiri, in the Himalaya, with those of Aconcagua and Sahama, in the Andes of Chile and Bolivia.

"8. A remarkable similarity exists between Europe and Asia in respect to their reliefs, and an equally striking dissimilarity between Africa and South America. Thus the Pyrenees and Alps correspond with the Taurus, Caucasus, and Himalayan ranges; the basin of the lower Danube has its counterpart in Tonquin; European Turkey corresponds with Further India; Venetian Lombardy with the basin of the Ganges; while Delhi, Calcutta, and Bombay at once suggest Milan, Venice, and Genoa. But while the interior of Africa is chiefly occupied with dreary deserts and elevated plateaux, and has its loftiest elevations on the east side, the interior of South America is low and fertile, with a huge mountain-range on the west side: yet the Nile and the Zambezé correspond in direction, magnitude, and importance, with the Amazon and La Plata.

"9. While the *Table-lands* in both hemispheres are intimately connected with the mountain-ranges, — the highest mountains invariably rising, not from plains, but from elevated plateaux, — the Old World is most remarkable for its *Mountains and Table-lands*, and the New for its *Plains and Rivers*.

"10. Notwithstanding the imposing height of the various mountain chains, the mean elevation of the continents depends far less on it than on the general configuration and extent of the plains and table-lands. This is evident from the fact that the highest elevation of the loftiest mountain-range on the globe does not exceed 5½ miles above the level of the sea, being little more than the 1/1400 part of the earth's diameter. Consequently the mountain-chains on the globe produce no greater deviation from its spherical shape than the small protuberances on the rind of an orange do on its general form. For example, if the entire mass of the Alps were

pulverised and distributed over the whole extent of Europe, its surface would not thereby be raised more than 22 feet above its present level; while, on the contrary, were the great plateau of Spain, which has an elevation of only 2000 feet, levelled down and spread in a similar manner over the continent, the general surface would be raised 76 feet. The Himalaya and Kuen-lun Mountains, with the table-land of Tibet by which they are connected, would produce an elevating effect on the whole of Asia amounting to 358 feet; and it is estimated that if all the inequalities on the earth's surface were reduced to an uniform natural level, the entire land would have an elevation above the sea of about 1000 feet. Or taking each of the continents separately, the average elevation of Europe would be 671 feet, of North America 748 feet, of South America 1132 feet, and of Asia 1151 feet.

"11. It was long a prevalent opinion, founded on theoretical views, that the depths of the ocean must be nearly equal to the elevations of the continents; but the greatest depths hitherto ascertained by the improved methods of sounding are in the North Atlantic Ocean, and do not exceed 25 000 feet; while Mount Everest, in the Himalaya, standing midway between Kunchingma and Dhawalagiri, raises its snowy summit to an elevation of 29,000 feet. Thus, from the greatest depth yet reached by the plummet to the highest known mountain-summit, is upwards of ten miles in a vertical line, or 1/400 of the earth's radius.

"POPULATION OF THE GLOBE.—The population of the entire globe cannot, as yet, be stated with any great degree of accuracy; but probably *one thousand millions* is not far from the truth. Of these the Caucasian race numbers about 400,000,000; the Mongolian, about 470,000,000; the Negro, including the Papuan and Australian sub-varieties, about 80,000,000; the Malay, about 40,000,000; and the American, about 10,000,000.

"The population of the different continents, according to the most recent statistics, is as follows:—Europe, 265,417,785; Asia, 652,500,000; Africa, 60,000,000; North America, including Central, 39,681,230; South America, 18,417,312; Oceania, 21,000,000—making a total of 1,057,046,327."

We also find among other statistics that "the surface of the globe covers a superficial area of 197,000,000 square miles, and that one fourth part only of the solid matter of the earth is in contact with the atmosphere, the rest being covered with water. The ocean occupies about 145,500,000 miles and the land 51,500,000.

We have said that there are many errors in that part of the work descriptive of America; they are not however so gross as those which occur in a model lesson in Geography published by a London educational periodical, and to which attention was called by the *Journal of Education* and the *Quebec Canadian*. Besides reiterating the charges against the French Canadians generally of ignorance and want of energy, the author has neglected to avail himself of later educational statistics than the returns of 1855 for Upper and 1851 for Lower Canada. With very little trouble he might have obtained the figures for 1858 and perhaps even those for 1859.

WOODS: The Prince of Wales in Canada and the United States, by N. A. Woods.—Bradbury and Evans, 438 p.—with map. London, 1861.

Mr. Woods, the *Times*' correspondent has published his letters from Canada in a handsome volume. The descriptions of this writer are, as all the world knows, brilliant and clever, though somewhat verbose. He often treats men and things quite cavalierly, and his appreciations are sometimes very unjust; besides his narrative is not always correct. Several errors have been also committed in tracing on the map the route followed by the Prince of Wales.

SADLER: The Spanish Cavaliers, a Tale of the Moorish wars in Spain, translated from the French, by Mrs. J. Sadler, 202 ps. in-12o.—Sadler.

Our late fellow-townswoman still pursues her vocation with the same energy and success, and we look upon her elegant translations as valuable acquisitions to the language. Mrs. Sadler seems to attach herself to this style of literature, although her native talent has already won for her many laurels.

RELATIONS inédites de la Nouvelle-France, (1672-1779) pour faire suite aux anciennes relations, (1615-1672). Two vols. 12vo. xxvii (1), 356 and 384 pages, with two maps. Paris, 1861.

(1) The Roman numerals indicate the number of pages so marked in each volume, and are to be added to those given in Arabic notation.