

continent exceeds the eastern or old continent in length, but falls far short of it in breadth, furnishing much less intertropical land; the *American* torrid zone being mostly made up of water. May not this be the cause of the lower degree of heat in our hemisphere, and the consequent absence of elephants, lions, and tigers, in our torrid zone?

But let us examine the native and *naturalized* man of America:

There is a great difference between the northern and southern hemisphere of America: nearly all the science and wealth being engrossed by the former.

Nature appears to have wrought upon her most stupendous scale on the southern continent. There her largest and longest rivers flow, there she has spread her most ample plains, and reared her highest and most majestic mountains:—why, then, are her men and land animals inferior to those of the north? They certainly are, and this would appear a paradox, were it wholly confined to America. But the same comparative inferiority exists in South Africa, and Australia; that is, they are inferior to North Africa and North Asia.

The temperate zones are said to be the best seats for civilization and science; and we have no authentic history of any powerful nation situated wholly within the limits of the burning zone. The young nations of Brazil, Columbia, and Guatemala, have not, as yet, disproved this assertion. They are young as independent nations, but nearly a century older as colonial settlements than the United States. The intense heat of the torrid zone is supposed to enervate man and impair his intellectual activity. The facts and arguments urged to sustain this position are easily found; they are well known and need not be repeated. But a philosopher might reasonably inquire why the equatorial regions which produce and perfect the elephant, the lion, and the tiger, should fail in furnishing eminent men. Is it caused by heat alone? In the present infant state of science we see as through a glass, darkly. The natives of the intertropical countries have been, and now are inferior to those of the north temperate zone, but this inferiority may not always exist. The influence of science and civilization has as yet been but partially tried upon the nations of the torrid zone. It would be a gloomy prospect to the christian philanthropist, if he rested in the belief, that this immense mass of land, that a broad belt of 47 degrees, of the most fertile soil on the globe, was to be forever a prey to ignorance, and barbarism.

But to leave the torrid zone, at present, let us compare the North with the South American temperate zone.

The tropic of Cancer cuts the end of the Californian Peninsula, and crossing the continent, passes through the middle of the Mexican Gulf. Between this line and the Arctic circle, as the continent grows broader, lies a large mass of land, including four-fifths of Mexico, the United States, and nearly all British, Danish, and Russian America. This tract contains an immense area of land, capable of containing and sustaining 500,000,000 of people. Let us examine the South American temperate zone. The tropic of Capricorn cuts from Rio Janeiro on the east, through the northern end of Chili on the west, leaving to the south the greater part of the United Provinces, or Buenos Ayres, all Chili and Patagonia, together with some unimportant islands, which go to make up the southern temperate zone. Some of these countries have been settled by civilized men for more than three centuries. The Rio de la Plata, the second river in size to any on the globe, sweeps through the centre of this tract;—but where is the commercial wealth borne upon its waters?

The only countries that lie wholly within the temperate zone, are Buenos Ayres, Chili, and Patagonia, and of these the two first only are settled by civilized, or half civilized, men. Patagonia is abandoned to desolation and barbarism. Buenos Ayres is watered by the Plata and its tributaries.