

been land, but only where upheavals of the crust took place through what had been water.

But why do I linger with this brief account? Are not the full statements of the sufferings of the people, the mixing up of their possessions, and all manner of interesting details, given in the pamphlets of those veracious and eloquent historians, Marcus Twain, William Nye, and others?

I must hasten to the end of what is intended mainly as a *resumé* of physical results, and at once attend to the climatic change which has occurred. The subsidence of the Mississippi valley, which absorbed the waters from the Gulf and lessened the volume of the Gulf Stream, had undoubtedly much to do with the earthquake change. As this great ocean river no longer met the polar current with sufficient volume, the latter, doubtless, cooled and caused contraction in the ocean bed and supplied the last straw which caused the break. When this occurred, and the rising of its lips took place, the flow into the new sea became more decided, and as the sinking had progressed so far as to open the way to the Hudson Bay, the stream swept up in this direction. The scour to the sea bottom is yet proceeding, and millions of tons of material are being taken out each year, to fill up more northern oceans. The country which was Canada and the Eastern States has a charming equable climate, resembling that of France and Italy as it used to be, for the winds from the unchanged Rocky Mountains are mollified as they cross the new American Mediterranean. The warm waters, pouring out of Hudson straits, have melted half the glaciers of Southern Greenland, and the rest are vanishing apace. That country has become another Ireland for verdure, is rapidly becoming afforested, and has been taken possession of by sons of Erin, who, in a climate very similar to their own, have at length found a country to themselves, which they appear to

be ruling with contentment. We of course could not have claimed or possessed the land if we had wished, and the generous Danes, at the request of the Princess of Wales, assured it to the Irish from all parts of the world, and helped to transport many to its shores. For fuel, the only want at first apparent, they soon began to use the excellent coal found there in several places, which must have been formed at a time, æons ago, when the climate of the peninsula resembled what it has again become.

Newfoundland, being a long way east of the meridian of maximum disturbance, suffered little, nor has its outline materially changed, but as there is no more a polar current to bring icebergs to its shores, it is now one of the most delightful spots in the world with a climate like that of France.

It had been feared that the diversion of the Gulf Stream would destroy a great deal of life in Europe, but this has not occurred, for its diverted waters are still warm when they reach the North Atlantic, and though the glaciers of the Norwegian mountains and of the Alps are advancing so that in the course of time habitable valleys will be filled up and cultivable areas restricted, the process will be gradual, and ample time be given for the accommodation of the people to their new circumstances.

The social and political changes which have occurred here are as startling and as little anticipated as the physical. Martial law, the just but unbending rule of the few over the many, was found so suited to the needs of the terrible times, that we have not reverted to the old systems, and now wonder how our ancestors can have valued so highly what they called liberty but what was really license.

We look back with feelings of compassion, on the political levities of the past. It has been remarked, that in the supreme emergencies of the Years of Migration and, we may add, in those