

of the Mississippi river; and have often thought we could afford to give away one of our smooth, fertile counties for one of the White hills, to be planted down in the middle of Minnesota.

At Rock island, and east of Rock island, for hundreds of miles, and probably west also, there is a ridge in the shell of the earth (making the rapids of the Mississippi and Rock rivers there), which divides the region north and south of it, by an isothermal line, that varies very sensibly the climate and temperature, as you proceed north or south of it, making a change much greater than is indicated by the parallels of latitude—the slope south of the ridge, presenting a plain of vast extent, which is very slightly convex, north and south, and upon all which the rays of the sun fall about equally vertical, while north of the ridge is another slope extending as far north as Sauk rapids, with a more northern inclination, but upon the whole expanse of which the rays of the sun fall nearly equally vertical. At Sauk rapids, crops out another ridge or backbone of granite, extending east and west, north of which extends another wide plain, very slightly convex north and south; but *how* far north, we have not been there to observe, probably to the high lands dividing the sources of the Mississippi and the Red river of the North. Hence we universally observe that they have winter and sleighing weeks earlier, at and above Sauk rapids, than between Sauk rapids and Rock island; and weeks earlier between Rock island and Sauk rapids, than in the great slope below Rock island. These ridges upon the globe, east and west, may be compared to the ridges sometimes observed upon an egg, and, in our opinion, make an important feature, in explaining the phenomena of climate, which has not been heretofore observed or commented upon by geologists, as it deserves to be. As a proof of the correctness of this view, drawn from our own observation, we invite the attention of travellers upon the Mississippi to this fact—that a marked change in the development of forest foliage in the spring, is observable in passing both the ridges referred to: that at Rock island and that at Sauk rapids. The seasons, therefore, are about the same, through