

The nations of La Plata did not require such veteran soldiers as Cortez and his followers to subdue them in the sixteenth century. They fell an easy prey to the first invader. No cities upon their immense river could be compared with Mexico—none like that ill-fated town could have withstood the fierce assaults of the savage Cortez for 75 days. Even the neighboring state of Peru, advanced as she was in the arts, was far behind Mexico in prowess and energy of character. Pizarro found the natives timid and cowardly when compared with the Mexicans. They had not even sagacity sufficient to profit by the battles which the Spaniards fought with each other. Now it has been proved beyond all doubt, elsewhere,* that the Mexicans, Peruvians, and Buenos Ayreans, were the same people; and hence, I say, that the only difference between them was caused by climate.

Thus much for the natives of America. The inferiority of the South to the North African is still greater,—and no one would think of naming the New-Hollander with the Chinese or Tartars. It is admitted that the Dutch have degenerated in South Africa, and that the Spaniards and Portuguese have degenerated in South America. If the same causes produce the same effects, the same degeneracy awaits the Anglo-Australian, unless some great effort is made—unless some disturbing and counteracting force is applied to arrest his downward course to barbarism.

English writers tell us that the British character has deteriorated already at New South Wales. If this be apparent in so short a period, and among the free settlers, how much more apparent and appalling will it be after a long lapse of time, when these regions shall be fully peopled?

Nature herself seems to have destined the southern section of the earth for the home of aerial and aquatic animals. Here they attain their largest size, and here they swarm in the greatest numbers. I am fully sensible that this fact has been mentioned before, and that I am defective in arrangement and guilty of repetitions. But I am not fishing for fine words, but for useful facts. The view of the subject is, besides, entirely new, and although I have light enough, I have neither path nor precedent to guide me. If I must make a path for myself, be it so, even at the risk of repeating the same facts.

The second cause remains to be examined—it is the immense disparity between the water and land in the southern hemisphere. Here difficulties beset us on all sides. We have no access to tables which would show the amount of the annual heat, or the barometrical pressure of the air in the southern hemisphere. Its terraqueous surface, however, is tolerably well known.

“Does yon fair sun trace half the circle round,
To light the waves and monsters of the seas?”

Yes, the parent sun lights a wide waste of waters, and produces enormous masses of organic life beneath the waves—for, during his march over the whole circle, he sees little on the land but naked and houseless savages, and civilized men in different stages of degeneracy.

Is this region to be forever a prey to darkness and error? We hope and believe not—but affirm that it will require greater and more rational efforts than have ever yet been made to produce a powerful and thriving nation there. It will require more exertion there than at the north—as man is there more exposed to deleterious external causes.

* See Mr. Delafield's Essay.