

vacuum is close in front. It has been a respectable wind in the Northwest; a terrible gale in Montana; in southern Dakota and Nebraska it becomes a death-dealing blizzard. Poor Nebraska and Dakota must always expect them; grateful Assiniboin and Alberta need never fear them. As for the Red River Valley region, its situation makes it subject occasionally to a very respectable imitation of a regular blizzard; but this is a far rarer and less severe visitation than in Minnesota, south of it.

How do the people who live in the North-west like this climate? They universally praise it and laud especially its healthfulness. They speak of it as extremely stimulating and conducive to good spirits and courage.

The secret of this is its dryness. The atmosphere is bright, and when in winter it is very cold there is seldom any wind. Let a man take ordinary care of himself, and he will live longer and grow stronger on these prairies than anywhere else in the world.

A peculiar exhilaration of body and soul belongs to the climate, especially in and about the Rockies, which is the choicest of regions for camping excursions and sporting trips. "No man should desire a soft life," wrote King Alfred the Great, but "roughing it," within reasonable grounds, is the marrow of a visit to the Rockies. What a pungent and wholesome savor to the taste there is in the very phrase. The zest with which one goes about an expedition of any kind in the Rocky Mountains is phenomenal in itself; I despair of making it credited by inexperienced lowlanders. We are told that the joys of Paradise will not only be greater than earthly pleasures, but that they will be still further magnified by our increased spiritual sensitiveness to the "good times" of Heaven. Well, in the same way, the senses are so quickened by the clear, vivifying climate of the western uplands in summer, that an outdoor life is tenfold more pleasurable there than it could be in the east. And then, one's *sleep* in the crisp air, after the fatigues of the day, is sound and serene. You awake at daylight, perhaps, readjust your camp-blankets, and want,