

Here, climates mark their passage from the eternal winters of the Arctic regions to the perpetual summers of the lands bordering on the Equator. Productions blossom or wither in their train. Nature is the grandest, the most fruitful, all self-sufficient.

Fifty-five millions of souls flourish on the bosom of North America.

They appertain to the Caucasian, Mongolian, Ethiopian, and American Indian races. The latter claim to be Aborigines, whilst the rest are by descent European, Asiatic, and African.

A traveller may hear, in passing among groups of this mixed population, the idiom of the Esquimaux and the Indian dialects, the English, the French, Spanish and Italian, the German, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian, the Russian and the Chinese.

Paganism prevails among the native tribes; Buddhism accompanies the Chinese; Mormonism is hatching at Utah; Rationalism attends the Freethinkers; the masses profess the Christian religion.

The independent governments of the Continent are administered by nine presidents, one emperor, one king, besides a number of aboriginal chiefs. The colonies pay obedience to two emperors, three kings, and two queens. This statement shows the existence of eighteen distinct sovereignties.

6. Does any country on the face of this earthy crust present equal advantages of configuration, broadening to three thousand miles and tapering, through well-managed gradations, to forty miles? Can any region occupy a more central position, floating like a buoy fastened by the hand of a god in the midst of the oceans? Could