

The Doctor's hypothesis, however, was not meant to meet this question at all; but to account for the earth's inclination of axis to orbit;—the projection of so large a body as the moon having

“Turned oblique the centric earth  
Twice ten degrees and more.”

This abrupt departure of the moon must have left the surface of the land that remained in a very unfit state for cultivation. The cavity formerly filled by the moon was replaced by water; the moon once occupied the space, “where now the south sea rolls her waste of tide.”

The only objection to this theory is the extreme difficulty of ascertaining and fixing the date of the event, and the total want of evidence of the fact.

Shall we suppose that the natives of the southern zone owe their hebetude and imbecility to their remoteness from the seats of civilization and science?

Some have asserted, that as the cradle of the human race was situated in southern and south-western Asia, the travelling tribes of the infant world found great difficulty in crossing the torrid zone, and that they arrived at the Austral countries at a very late period. This is rather more rational than the theory of lunar disruption and projection; but will it aid us in accounting for the rapid degeneracy of the civilized European when transplanted to the southern hemisphere? For about three centuries this emigration from Europe has been going on—this zone is approached by water—no burning African desert intervening—and yet these emigrants have failed in civilizing the natives and in preserving themselves from degeneracy.

It has been said that the degeneracy of the Dutch in South Africa is owing *wholly* to the vast expansion of their territory, and to their unwise efforts to settle the whole of it, thereby scattering themselves over an immense surface, and *of course* becoming savages. If this be indeed the true and only cause, it will equally account for the barbarism of the Hispanio-American at Paraguay, and of the Lusitanio-American, in the boundless regions of Brazil. But if dispersion be the true and only cause, why does it not operate with equal energy on every part of the earth's surface? If it be powerful and overwhelming in South Africa, why is it powerless in North-Africa, in Norway, and in Sweden? If it barbarized the people of Brazil and Buenos Ayres, why has it had a decidedly contrary effect upon the northern United States?

The causes enumerated having been shown insufficient, others must be sought for.

I assume an hypothesis, and give the following facts as the two leading, efficient, and constant causes of the inferiority of the southern hemisphere:

1. The shortness of the southern summer, and the greater obliquity of the sun's rays in the southern hemisphere.

2. The immense and disproportionate mass of water in that hemisphere.

It will be observed that both these causes lie far beyond the reach of man; that no human power can reach them; indeed, the first cause, in point of order, being at a vast distance from the earth itself, while the second presses its surface.

The man of the north enjoys about eight days more of the annual sun than his fellow man of the south, which, allowing 6,000 years for the age of the world, makes an aggregate of about 131 years for 180 generations of men. Astronomers tell us that the earth is more rapid in the winter half of her orbit than in the summer, and of course the sun would apparently pass slower