

independent; but which are easily traced, by the eye of the geologist, as connected branches of these ranges. The Rocky Mountains are by far the longest, loftiest and broadest belt of these chains, showing numerous peaks of a much higher elevation, than has generally been assigned to them, many of them being above the region of perpetual congelation. From one point in this range, and at no great distance from each other, are the head sources of the southwestern branches of the Missouri, Columbia, the great lake and river Bueneventura, the Yellow Stone, Platte, Arkansas, Red River of the Mississippi, Rio del Norte, and Colorado, or Red River of California, recently explored from its head springs to its junction with the Pacific in the gulf of California by James O. Pattie.

*Lakes.* See Michigan Territory and Canada.

*Rivers.* For those that belong to the Mississippi Valley, see Western States. The chief rivers of the Atlantic States, as we pass from north to south, are Kennebec, Connecticut, Hudson, Delaware, Susquehannah, Potomac, Roanoke, Pelee, Santee, Savannah and Chattahoochee. Of these the Susquehannah is the largest.

*Geology and physical aspect.* The northern division of the Atlantic belt of the United States is primitive in formation, and abounds in rock of granitic character. Towards the Alleghany Ridges is a belt on either side of them of transition character. We have seen, that the western valley is of secondary formation. The Atlantic country is a long belt of a gentle and equable slope from the foot of the Alleghany Ridges to the sea. It is subdivided into a long and narrow line of soil of sandy character, apparently won from the sea; or alluvial, and of a more fertile character, the formation of rivers. This belt extends from the sea shore to the upper limits of the tide waters. It is, for the most part, an extended plain. The next division stretches from the sandy belt to the foot of the Alleghany Ridges. It is of a loamy and more fertile soil, pleasantly variegated by hill and dale, and comprises the more wealthy and productive agricultural division of the Atlantic country.

*Climate.* To pursue the details of this article would alone require a volume. The United States embrace every variety of temperature, from the cold sea air of Passamaquoddy to the dry, elastic and severe temperature of the White and Green Mountains; softening through all the degrees of Fahrenheit's scale to the climate congenial to the olive, sugar cane, and sweet orange. The variableness of the climate has generally been overcharged. The range of the mercury in the thermometer is indeed great and sudden; sometimes amounting to 25 and 30 degrees in a day. This rapid mutability of temperature, probably, produces a beneficial corresponding flexibility of constitution. The American people, from some cause, are more excitable, and rapid in muscular movement, than the European