

Effects of Climate Upon Civilization.

Although, the tropical regions were inhabited at a very early date, it is evident that the advance of civilization in this climate has scarcely been perceptible. In early times much more than of late the abode of man had to be in close proximity with that of vegetable life, and as the tropical contained the largest growth of plant life, it was essential that the aboriginal man should be found in these parts; but as we go from a warmer to a colder region, either from the equator toward the temperate region or ascend a high mountain, we find a marked variation in vegetable growth, the same is true of man, although the change is not so distinctly marked as it is with plants, but in noticing the whole extent of latitude great variations can be seen in both the mental, moral, and physical condition of the inhabitants.

The study of moral influence affected by climate shows a peculiar variation with different climates. As civilization has not advanced to any great extent at

the tropical region; and when examined at the very opposite from this, at the frigid zone, the advance has been found to be very limited indeed compared with that of a more mild climate. Man can live, in the hottest known region, where a vertical sun beams down upon him, but in this locality gaining a livelihood is in exertion on his part, as the spontaneous growth of fruit is quite sufficient to supply his every want, and winter is a thing unknown. He can also live in the extreme north where plant life is almost entirely unknown and life is only sustained by the hardest toil and most disagreeable sort of labor. The moral influence of climate has caused a curious regularity in certain virtues and vices, intemperance for instance north of a certain degree of latitude, financial extravagance of rich people in our large cities, and thrift in certain other districts. There is no doubt that the bracing effects of a cold climate forms a stimulant from the intoxicating effect of the alcoholic vice, and that some hardy mountaineers, or northern men can withstand for years

the effect of being daily drugged by alcohol, such as would kill a native African at a single dose. Some of the rich people, in the large cities of the temperate region, would spend as much money on a grand ball, or entertainment, as would keep a whole score of chivarrmen for a score of years. Or a speculator in stocks of some kind may make or lose in a single transaction more money than some of the equatorial cities handle in a lifetime. Thus it is with the northern man it is either great gain or great loss, what he does, he does with all his might and if successful he reaps an abundant profit, and if unsuccessful he probably loses all that he has. The southerner has not this speculative desire and neither is it necessary that he should have, as his food is usually provided for, and expenses are very light compared with that where they have a long cold winter to provide for.

Mental ability in the temperate region has also been very much in advance of that of the tropical. Nearly all the

great men for the past thousand years, or more, have lived in a temperate region. All the great generals, authors, and inventors, and in fact the greatest reformers of all kinds have been reared in a bracing climate. In the tropical regions we often find a stupid, uneducated, half civilized class of people, while in a country similar to this in all other respects, but with a colder climate, we find an energetic, industrious, well educated society, although both classes may have but a short time before emigrated from the same locality. The difference of climate has caused the different conditions of society. In the advance of society this enterprise of the north is easily seen, as in our own country, for instance, in any state, or the whole country taken together, the first territory to be settled was always that farthest toward the north, although the south may have offered just as many accommodations to the settler.

In strength and inexhaustibility the northern nations are undoubtedly superior to those of the south. The

history of the different countries of Europe shows, that although not always successful in the beginning of a war, the north through its perseverance and strategy, usually was successful in the outcome of all the great wars. The rebellion in our own country is a similar instance of the success of a northern nation over a southern while fighting on very nearly an equal footing.

Another characteristic that appears to be an important factor is that of dryness or moisture of the atmosphere, either extreme seems to be a direct impediment to a highly enlightened condition of civilization, but the one that seems to be the most conducive to a high standard of society is a moderately dry atmosphere. The earliest recorded civilization that of northern Africa, Arabia, and Persia either were deserts or bordered on deserts. From these countries came all the conquering races, and not from the moist regions of India or central Africa. Another striking instance of this may be shown in the new world

as the only parts where civilization was advanced in the least was in comparatively dry regions, as Mexico, Central America and Peru all had a very dry atmosphere, while in all other parts the natives were much more degraded. It is true that the darkest shades of negroes are the most degraded. Livingstone says, "Heat alone does not produce blackness of skin, but heat with moisture seems to produce the deepest hue." Now as the lighter complexioned races are the dominant, we find that social development is favored by a climate conducive of a rapid evaporation.

Although many societies have arisen in hot climates and reached a very high standard of civilization, yet it is evident that civilization as it advanced from the tropical climate kept becoming more and more complex until in the middle of the temperate zone it reached its zenith, and from then on toward the frigid zone it keeps declining as the climate grows colder until you reach an entirely uncivilized region.

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