

mental explorations, the interval left between his most southerly point from Honduras and his most westerly point from the Orinoco, was in a great measure filled up by the voyage of Bastides. Moreover, to return to the northward, by the year 1529 the Spanish navigators had completed the examination of the Gulf of Mexico.

54. Nor had other nations been idle. In 1497, the Cabots, on behalf of England, discovered Newfoundland and portions of the adjacent continent. In 1500, the Cortereals, under the Portuguese flag, sailed along the coast of Labrador nearly up to Hudson's Bay, having, it is supposed, entered the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In 1520, Verazzano, under the auspices of France, sailed along what are now the Atlantic shores of the United States, and thus connected the discoveries of the Cabots with those of Ponce de Leon; and again about ten years later, Jacques Cartier, in the service of the same country, explored the gulf and river St. Lawrence, penetrating as far to the westward as the island of Montreal. In the extreme north the English may be said to have been without a rival. It is unnecessary, however, to enlarge upon this subject, the story of which is recorded on every map in the names of Davis, Baffin, Lancaster, and Hudson.

55. To pass now to the western coast. The conquerors of Mexico effected in a few years more, perhaps, than they left behind them for future ages to effect, ranging along the coast from the Isthmus to the Gulf of California. Beyond Lower California, the only direction in which there was much to do, the English Drake, whose voyage took place in 1578, divided with the Spaniards the credit of having discovered Upper California. For nearly two centuries, excepting the half-fabulous voyages of Fonte and Fuca, the Spaniards and English alike slumbered over their task; and it was not till toward the close of the last century that Cook and Vancouver co-operated with Spanish and American navigators in dispelling the mystery that had so long overshadowed the north-west regions. Later in point of time the Russians made many important discoveries, and have since effected settlements in the extreme north-west of the continent.

56. Inland discoveries, except so far as they refer to Mexico and Florida, date from a much later period. It was not until 1682 that the French first discovered the Mississippi; nor until 1802 that the continent was crossed by Lewis and Clarke. Intervening between these dates, namely, in 1771, Hearne traversed the wilderness from Hudson's Bay to the mouth of the Coppermine; and in 1789 and 1793, Alexander Mackenzie reached the mouth of the river that bears his name, and passed through what is now British Columbia to the shores of the Pacific Ocean.

57. The interior beyond the Mississippi and north of the great lakes, however, was at the beginning of the present century almost an unknown territory; nor was it generally known until within the last twenty years. During this period numerous expeditions have been sent out, chiefly by the British and American governments—by the former in the north and by the latter in the west—which have resulted in the portrayal of a very fair outline, as well horizontal as vertical, of the countries embraced. In the mean time the Americans and the principal European nations have fully explored and mapped the coasts on both sides.

58. Among the European powers that colonized North America the most prominent were Spain, France, and England.

59. Spain conquered and possessed the semi-civilized countries of Mexico and Central America. In 1594 the Spaniards entered New Mexico, but it was not until a century later that the province was finally subdued; while it was only in 1767 that the Franciscans, on behalf of Spain, took possession of Upper California. Florida was never properly colonized by the Spaniards, but simply held as a military appendage. All this vast territory, however, has fallen into other hands. Mexico and Central America, after a subjection of three hun-

dred years, achieved their independence; and in 1821 Florida was purchased by the United States, to which nation, in 1848, Upper California and New Mexico were annexed by conquest from Mexico.

60. France, as the claimant of the basin of the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi, may be said rather to have pitched camps than to have planted colonies in these vast regions. She regarded America chiefly as a supplementary battle-field for England and herself. Every French settlement was but an inert part of a political machine—powerful, indeed, but unwieldy, expensive, and unproductive. The government was everything—the individual nothing. Hence, neither Louisiana nor Canada at all realized the idea of an English colony. In 1763 France gave up Canada to England, and as an indirect concession also to the same power, transferred Louisiana to Spain—events which, singularly enough, did much to facilitate France's grand scheme, the separation from England of her old colonies.

61. England, the most energetic and successful of all in the work of colonization, was the last in the field among the powers already mentioned. Among her continental colonies, Virginia, the oldest, was established in 1607, and Georgia, the youngest, as late as 1733. In 1620 Massachusetts was occupied by the Puritan fathers; in 1623 and 1631 respectively, New Hampshire and Connecticut were settled; in 1634 Maryland was granted to Lord Baltimore, a Roman Catholic nobleman; in 1636 Rhode Island became a refuge from the sectarian intolerance of Massachusetts; in 1653 North Carolina became an offshoot from Virginia; in 1664 New York, New Jersey, and Delaware were taken from the Dutch; in 1670 South Carolina was established; and in 1682 Pennsylvania was granted to William Penn, the Quaker. In nearly all these cases the civil and religious liberties for which chiefly the colonists expatriated themselves were secured by liberal and for their times republican charters. Subject only to the appointment of a governor by the crown and the general laws of England, the people prospered and the germs of political independence soon took firm root. In 1776 they threw off their allegiance to the mother country and became a nation, and have since by the accumulation of territory and the increase of population become, whether viewed as a productive or military power, one of the first nations of the earth.

62. North America is at present occupied by the Russian, British, and French colonies; the United States of America; the United States of Mexico; and the States of Central America. The position, area, and population of these are given in the following table:

Governments.	Latitude.	Position.	Longitude.	Area, sq. m.	Population, 1859-61.	Capitals.
Russian America.....	54° 40' to 71° 30'.	130° 22' to 165° 30'.	516,000....	54,000....	New Archangel.	
Hudson's Bay Ter.	49° 00' to 71° 10'.	68° 10' to 140° 00'.	2,500,000....	71,000....	York Factory.	
Labrador.....	50° 04' to 6° 15'.	53° 20' to 73° 40'.	170,000....	1,250....	Nain.	
British Columbia.....	49° 04' to 53° 00'.	112° 00' to 130° 25'.	837,350....	64,000....	New Westminster.	
Vancouver Island.....	49° 17' to 50° 55'.	123° 10' to 128° 30'.	12,750....	25,000....	Victoria.	
Canada.....	41° 47' to 52° 40'.	61° 54' to 90° 20'.	837,522....	2,567,637....	Quebec.	
New Brunswick.....	45° 03' to 45° 14'.	68° 47' to 67° 28'.	27,704....	252,017....	Frederickton.	
Nova Scotia.....	43° 20' to 47° 00'.	59° 38' to 66° 20'.	18,746....	230,569....	Halifax.	
Prince Edward Isl.	45° 54' to 47° 10'.	61° 58' to 64° 32'.	2,134....	80,648....	Charlotte Town.	
Newfoundland.....	48° 40' to 51° 38'.	52° 44' to 59° 31'.	85,013....	112,458....	St. John.	
St. Pierre & Miquelon.....	46° 28' to 47° 10'.	56° 12' to 56° 38'.	81....	2,190....	St. Pierre.	
United States of America.....	24° 20' to 49° 00'.	66° 48' to 124° 32'.	8,001,002....	81,448,332....	Washington.	
United States of Mexico.....	19° 20' to 32° 30'.	86° 45' to 117° 30'.	758,179....	8,400,336....	Mexico.	
British Honduras.....	15° 50' to 18° 20'.	83° 10' to 89° 20'.	13,000....	13,600....	Belize.	
Honduras.....	15° 28' to 16° 28'.	83° 20' to 89° 20'.	47,000....	350,000....	Comayagua.	
Guatemala.....	13° 45' to 18° 10'.	83° 12' to 93° 20'.	40,700....	350,000....	New Guatemala.	
Salvador.....	13° 10' to 14° 10'.	86° 45' to 90° 15'.	9,600....	294,000....	San Salvador.	
Nicaragua.....	10° 20' to 15° 10'.	83° 20' to 87° 20'.	25,000....	300,000....	Leon.	
Costa Rica.....	8° 00' to 10° 20'.	82° 10' to 85° 20'.	19,500....	125,000....	San Juan.	
Bermuda Islands.....	32° 14' to 32° 25'.	64° 38' to 64° 52'.	19....	11,612....	Georgetown.	

Spain, France, and England. 59. Spain conquered and possessed the semi-civilized countries of Mexico and Central America. In 1594 the Spaniards entered New Mexico, but it was not until a century later that the province was finally subdued; while it was only in 1767 that the Franciscans, on behalf of Spain, took possession of Upper California. Florida was never properly colonized by the Spaniards, but simply held as a military appendage. All this vast territory, however, has fallen into other hands. Mexico and Central America, after a subjection of three hun-

ains with their covering of perpetual snow; its prodigious forests which prevent the solar rays from reaching the earth, and to the great breadth of that portion of it which lies within the Arctic circle.

31. West of the Rocky Mountains the temperature is much milder than in eastern North America, and even as high as the 50th parallel the temperature is equal to that of the 40th on the Atlantic slope. In the southern portions of the continent, some of which are within the tropics, the heat is occasionally excessive; but even there the chilling influence of the northern regions are manifest, keen frosts being often experienced between 15° and 20° north latitude.

32. In Mexico and Central America the climate is determined chiefly by elevation, and is there divided into hot (on the coast), temperate (on the slopes and terraces), and cold (on the table-land). The valley of Mexico is so situated as to enjoy a perpetual spring.

33. The vegetable kingdom of North America presents a greater diversity than that of any region in the Old World of corresponding climate; and this remark becomes more true as we make a nearer approach to the tropics.

34. The low countries which border the Arctic Sea and Hudson's Bay produce plants nearly identical with those of northern Europe. A few stunted willows, birches, poplars, and pines are the only trees which can resist the cold; a considerable number, however, of herbaceous plants are remarkable for the large size of their flowers, considering the shortness of their duration; and the rigor of the climate is no obstacle to the development of cryptogamous plants. Mosses and lichens cover the ground of this arctic country, and seem almost to exclude every other vegetable.

35. Canada and the basin of the St. Lawrence exhibit the transition from the frozen to the temperate zone. In Newfoundland are already found the plants of the United States, though the northern flora still predominates. Farther south, species multiply and are remarkable for their beauty, which is much greater than that of any plants produced elsewhere in climates of the same temperature. And even among the plants common also to Europe, there is a greater diversity and elegance in the green-wood trees which decorate the forests. A crowd of plants, produced only by cultivation in Europe, grow naturally in the United States, where the mixture of northern and tropical forms is to be seen.

36. Oaks of various kinds are to be found in all the temperate regions; but the greatest variety is to be found in the coniferous family, including pines, firs, junipers, etc. Among the herbaceous plants many are interesting from their elegance or the singularity of their organization. We may cite the several species of lobelias, and the famous Venus' fly-trap, which grows in the marshes. The plants of the north-west have a close relation to those of Siberia.

37. In the southern parts of North America we find a tropical vegetation, modified by elevation. Thus, while the coasts of Mexico produce the plants indigenous to the warmest regions, the mountains and high table-lands produce not only those which are related to the plants of temperate regions, but even several species which belong to the north. Among the plants peculiar to the warm regions the palms are predominant.

38. America is indebted to Europeans for the various sorts of grain so largely grown, and also for rice, sugar-cane, cotton, and many other plants and vegetables. On the other hand, America has supplied the Old World with maize, tobacco, and various other staples of great value, and also with many splendid flowering plants, as the rhododendron, alce, fuschia, magnolia, passion-flower, etc. Asia has given us but few specimens of its vegetation, but in the sorghum we possess one the value of which as a saccharine plant is now fully attested.

39. America does not contain a single species of erica (heath), nor has a peonia ever been found in it, except to the west of the Rocky Mountains. That mountain barrier, indeed, divides two classes of vegetation almost as peculiar as those of two continents. On its eastern side the forests are distinguished by the variety of their oaks and juglandes, the magnificent flowers of the rhododendron, the magnolia, the azaleas—all of which are utterly unknown on the western side of the ridge.

40. With the exception of marine animals, the fauna of North America is substantially peculiar. In the north, beyond 50° north latitude, the characteristic mammalia are the musk-ox, the black bear, the wolf and wolverine, the moose, and several species of marmot, squirrel, lemming, and other animals allied to the genus mus. The arctic fox, hare, and beaver are common to both hemispheres; and the ermine and sea-bear seem identical in both. The rapacious birds peculiar to this region are several species of hawks, owls, and bustards. Most of the swimming birds are also found within its limits.

41. The country between the 50th and 80th parallels may be characterized as the region of the grizzly bear, the bison, the wapiti, and the antelope. It possesses one marsupial animal, the Virginian opossum, a species which ranges from the great lakes to the intertropical regions. But its most distinguishing characteristic is the great number of its rodents, amounting to no less than sixty well-ascertained species, only one of which—the beaver—is found in the Old World. Among birds, the most conspicuous are the wild turkey, the eagle, many falcons and hawks, etc. The humming-birds first appear in this region, but only three species extend northward of the 38d parallel. The alligator is found in the southern swamps and morasses, and serpents, lizards, and other reptiles abound. The most remarkable of the serpents is the rattle-snake, four or five species of which are found in this region.

42. Equatorial America, or the region south of the 30th parallel, but exclusive of the Mexican table-land, is distinguished by the number of its quadrupeds, all of which are furnished with tails, and many of them have that organ prehensile. It is also the region of the jaguar and puma, but the latter ranges even as far north as Canada. This region also abounds with the tapir, the capybara, and the agouti. The rivers swarm with the manati, which wanders far from the sea. The region is also distinguished by the splendid plumage of its birds; to it belong the magnificent king-vulture and others of the same family, and the destructor and harpy eagles, the giants of their tribe. Tropical America also abounds with beautiful parrots, among which the ultramarine parrot, the scarlet and blue, and blue and yellow macaws, are the most conspicuous. Snakes are everywhere numerous; some of enormous size, as the boa-constrictor and boa-conchris; others distinguished for their colors, as the canine boa, the garden boa, etc., and still others, like the rattle-snake and bush-master, dreaded for the viru-

lence of their poison. The butterflies and moths, among its insects, are noted for the splendor of their colors, and the fire-fly for the brilliancy of its light. Scorpions, spiders, etc., many venomous, abound.

43. The Mexican table-lands are considered as a distinct zoological kingdom. It has been recognized as the point in which the fauna of North and South America meet. There the wolf of the north and the monkey of the tropics range the same forests; the bunting and the titmouse nestle near the parrot and the trogon, etc. Several species of weasels and martens are peculiar to Mexico, and the Mexican wolf is probably also a peculiar species. The lakes of the valley of Mexico contain that singular animal, the axocotl of the Mexicans, which seems to be intermediate between the fishes and reptiles.

44. At the discovery of America by Europeans the continent was without the horse, the cow, the sheep, the dog, and the common fowl; all of these are now spread over it in abundance, and in some places have relapsed into the wild state.

45. With exception, perhaps, of the Esquimaux, the Indian tribes of America have all so strong a resemblance in physical formation, and also, in a less obvious degree, in intellectual character, as to leave no doubt of their being of one family and of a common origin. They are robust and well-proportioned; of a bronze or reddish complexion; have black hair, long, coarse, and shining; thin beard; low forehead; prominent cheek-bones; nose a little flattened; and square-shaped heads, with features, viewed in profile, prominent and deeply sculptured. Their moral character has been variously represented; they are hospitable, and capable sometimes of a savage magnanimity; but are also vindictive, cruel, and treacherous. Their bravery in war is undoubted. Intellectually they are an inferior race, although many individuals have exhibited great natural talents and facility of expression. The race is constantly decreasing in numbers and being supplanted by civilized communities. In Canada and the United States the Indians form but a small remnant of once powerful nations. In Mexico and Central America, however, they form the bulk of the population, and these appear to have originally possessed a greater capacity for civilization than their brethren of the more northern parts.

46. Whatever may have been the kind and degree of aboriginal civilization, however, America was not destined to be the perpetual inheritance of the red man. New actors were to appear on the scene, before whom the old possessors were in a great measure to pass away.

47. Previous to the times of Columbus, Europeans had certainly visited America. The Scandinavians, after having colonized Iceland in 875 and Greenland in 983, had discovered the continent as far down as 41° 30', a point near to New Bedford, in Massachusetts, before the close of the eleventh century, and afterward settled in that neighborhood, the mother country holding intercourse with the colony down to the fourteenth century. But these enterprises do not appear to have left any special impress on the character or prospects of the new continent, being more akin, perhaps, to similar incidents of yet earlier ages than to the long-meditated and well-matured scheme of the illustrious Genoa.

48. Subsequently to the Scandinavian discovery and previous to that of Columbus, America is believed by some to have been visited by a Welsh prince. It is stated that Madoc, son of Owen Gwynedd, Prince of Wales, set sail westward in 1170 with a small fleet, and after a voyage of several weeks landed in a region totally different both in its inhabitants and productions from Europe. Madoc is supposed to have reached the coast of Virginia. Neither this, however, nor the earlier expeditions can be said even to have formed a connecting link between the America of the red man and the America of his white brother. Even if the Northmen had possessed resources worthy of their heroic courage, the Old World was not yet ripe for the appropriation of the New World.

49. By the end of the fifteenth century, however, science and politics were alike strengthening Europe for its task. The mariner's compass and the astrolabe had facilitated long voyages out of sight of land; and in almost every Christian country various causes were consolidating governments and promoting the growth of population.

50. Columbus set out on his great enterprise to discover America under the patronage of the crown of Spain on Friday the 3d August, 1492. It was toward the East that his hopes directed his western course; hopes whose supposed fulfillment still lives in the misapplication to the New World of the terms Indies and Indian. Much of our subsequent knowledge of America has been owing to this same desire of reaching the East Indies that led to its discovery. The gorgeous East was the aim alike of Davis, Baffin, and Hudson at the north, and of Magellan, Schouten, and Lemaire at the south, to say nothing of the earlier enterprise of Balboa on the Isthmus of Darien; and under a similar impulse the French of Canada were ascending lake after lake as nature's ready-made highway to the same goal.

51. But Columbus found something better than what he himself or his successors and imitators looked for. He discovered a land which, besides eclipsing India in the richness and variety of its commerce, was to confer on Europe a still more solid benefit. Colonization, which since the early ages of Greece had slumbered 2,000 years, received an impetus which, after building up empires in the west, was to build up others in an east richer far than that which was so long the loadstar of European navigators—an east where, almost without a metaphor, the grass was to be wool and the stones to be gold.

52. The first fruits of Columbus' enterprise were the Bahamas—Guanahani or Cat Island being the spot where he landed on the 11th October, 1492. Without attempting in this place to distinguish the results of each of his four voyages from each other, it may be sufficient to state that this great man, besides Hispaniola, Cuba, Jamaica, and others of the Antilles, discovered and explored Central America from Honduras southward along the coast of Veragua and South America, from the mouth of the Orinoco westward as far as Margarita. It was on this last-mentioned scene of his operations that he was followed by Ojeda, whose pilot, Amerigo Vesputci, has been allowed to wrest from Columbus the glory of giving his name to the New World.

53. Within twenty years after the discovery of the Bahamas, Ponce de Leon discovered Florida; and what was certainly of far more consequence, he ascertained that through the strait which separates that peninsula from the Bahamas, there constantly ran a strong current to the north-east. In 1513 again, just one year later, Vasco Nunez de Balboa crossed the Isthmus of Darien to the great South Sea, or as it was afterward named, the Pacific Ocean. About thirteen years before this last event, almost immediately after Columbus' own conti-