

The whole is kept quite clean, and has a pretty effect. Fruit and vegetables are abundant and cheap. They are of excellent quality. The grapes and peaches are of the finest kind; apples are also plenty, but no care appears to have been taken to secure the best kinds. Cabbages, beets, potatoes, cauliflower, &c., are all large and good.

Beef is proverbially fine, and also the mutton; the prices are six and a quarter cents for the former, the latter three cents per pound.

The average price of a horse is twelve dollars, but some that are well broken are valued as high as those in the United States.

The climate of Chili is justly celebrated throughout the world, and that of Santiago is deemed delightful even in Chili; the temperature is usually between 60° and 75°. Notwithstanding this, it has its faults. It is extremely arid, and were it not for its mountain streams, which afford the means of irrigation, the country would be a barren waste for two-thirds of the year. Rains fall only during the winter months, (June to September,) and after they have occurred, the whole country is decked with flowers. The rains often last several days, are excessively heavy, and during their continuance the rivers become impassable torrents. The temperature near the coast does not descend below 58°. The mean temperature, deduced from the register kept at Valparaiso, gave 63°. At Santiago, the climate is drier and colder, but snow rarely falls. On the ascent of the Cordilleras, the aridity increases with the cold. The snow was found much in the same state as at Terra del Fuego, lying in patches about the summits. Even the high peak of Tupongati was bare in places, and to judge from appearances, it seldom rains in the highest regions of the Cordilleras, to which cause may be imputed the absence of glaciers.

Several of our gentlemen made an excursion to the Cordilleras, in order to get information in their various departments. I regretted they were not provided with the necessary instruments for ascertaining heights. The party left Santiago in biloches, and travelled to the eastward five leagues, to the "Snow Bank" from which the city is supplied. The ascent was gradual, but quite constant, as no intervening ravines occurred. They then took horses, leaving their biloches to return. Their route after this lay up a valley. On the surrounding heights the guanacoës were seen in great numbers. On reaching the head of the valley, one of the party became so unwell that he was unable to proceed, and was obliged to return.

Dr. Pickering, Messrs. Dana, Peale, and Drayton, went on. As they proceeded they found the middle region was marked by spiny plants, principally *Burnadesia*. The soil was found to be a mixture of loose earth and pieces of rock. On rising higher, the vegetation