

The dew (almozo) of Lima is never so great as to produce running water, yet it is more like rain than a Scotch mist.

The peculiarity of there being no rain, has been accounted for in several ways, but not to me satisfactorily. The prevailing cold and dry winds from the southward sweep over the western shores of the continent; having a great capacity for moisture, they absorb it as they advance to the northward, from every thing. On reaching the latitude of 12° S., they cease, and having become saturated, now rise to a sufficient height, where they are condensed by the cold strata, and again deposited on the mountains in almost constant rains. This will account for the aridity in the high Cordilleras of Chili, as well as for the existence of the Desert of Atacama, the want of rain on the coast of Upper Peru; and at the same time, for the moisture of the high Cordilleras of Peru, which will be shortly spoken of. It will be remembered that our parties on the Cordilleras of Chili found the aridity to increase on ascending, to the very edge of the perpetual snow, and all the plants were of a thorny character.

The records of Lima mention the falling of rain only four times in the eighteenth century, and the occurrence of thunder and lightning an equal number of times. But this applies to a small part of Peru only, namely, the country bordering the coast, some fifty or sixty miles in width, around Lima. It will be seen that our party who visited the interior, when at the height of ten thousand feet, entered a region subject to rain, and on the crest of the mountains the soil was kept perfectly moist by the frequent snows and rain.

Mr. Bartlett, our Charge d'Affaires, gave me the range of the thermometer at Lima throughout the year, as being from 60° to 85° ; during our stay, which was in their winter months of May and June, the range was from 65° to 69° .

Fire is not used often, but from the continual dampness there is a cold and clammy feeling, that is exceedingly uncomfortable and prejudicial to health. Lima has certainly the reputation of being a healthy place—how obtained I know not—but it certainly does not deserve it. The interments have annually averaged over three thousand five hundred, in a population amounting by the best accounts to no more than forty-five thousand. Many of these deaths are those of strangers, and the climate has always been fatal to the Indians.

During our stay at Callao, the temperature of the air varied from 57° to 63° . On July 4th, it stood at the same point in both places. The temperature of the Rimac on the 11th of June, was 69° to 71° , on the 4th July, 64° .

The Rimac derives its waters exclusively from the snows of the