

those of a purely physical nature, since it exercises no inconsiderable degree of influence on the mode of life of numerous tribes—the meteorological processes of the atmosphere being the controlling causes on which depend the agricultural or pastoral pursuits of the inhabitants of extensive tracts of continents.

As the quantity of moisture in the atmosphere increases with the temperature, this element, which is so important for the whole organic creation, must vary with the hours of the day, the seasons of the year, and the differences in latitude and elevation. Our knowledge of the hygrometric relations of the Earth's surface has been very materially augmented of late years by the general application of August's psychrometer, framed in accordance with the views of Dalton and Daniell, for determining the relative quantity of vapor, or the

and, moving eastward, the sources of the Kalee or Mundaknee branch of the Ganges at Kadarnath; of the Vishnoo Gunga, or Aluknunda, at Buddrinath and Mana; of the Pindur at the foot of the Great Peak Nundidevi; of the Dhoulee branch of the Ganges, beyond Neetee, crossing and recrossing the pass of that name into Thibet; of the Goree or great branch of the Sardah, or Kalee, near Oonta Dhoora, beyond Melum. I have also, in my official capacity, made the settlement of the Bhote Mehals of this province. My residence of more than six years in the hills has thrown me constantly in the way of European and native travelers, nor have I neglected to acquire information from the recorded labors of others. Yet, with all this experience, I am prepared to affirm that *the perpetual snow-line is at a higher elevation on the northern slope of 'the Himalaya' than on the southern slope.*

“The facts mentioned by Captain Hutton appear to me only to refer to the northern sides of all mountains in these regions, and not to affect, in any way, the reports of Captain Webb and others, on which Humboldt formed his theory. Indeed, how can any facts of one observer in one place falsify the facts of another observer in another place? I willingly allow that the north side of a hill retains the snow longer and deeper than the south side, and this observation applies equally to heights in Bhote; but Humboldt's theory is on the question of the perpetual snow-line, and Captain Hutton's references to Simla and Mussooree, and other mountain sites, are out of place in this question, or else he fights against a shadow, or an objection of his own creation. In no part of his paper does he quote accurately the dictum which he wishes to oppose.”

If the mean altitude of the Thibetian highlands be 11,510 feet, they admit of comparison with the lovely and fruitful plateau of Caxamarca in Peru. But at this estimate they would still be 1300 feet lower than the plateau of Bolivia at the Lake of Titicaca, and the causeway of the town of Potosi. Ladak, as appears from Vigne's measurement, by determining the boiling-point, is 9994 feet high. This is probably also the altitude of H'Lassa (Yul-sung), a monastic city, which Chinese writers describe as the *realm of pleasure*, and which is surrounded by vineyards. Must not these lie in deep valleys?