under the 34th parallel of south latitude, and at an elevation of nearly 13,000 feet above the sea, they fill up the broad and deep ravines which furrow the summits of phonolite. Composed of white ice—bluish in the escarpments—and dragging onward in their triumphal course the huge blocks which have fallen from the overhanging peaks, these glaciers in every respect resemble the *secondary* Alpine glaciers, which, suspended on the flanks of the Wetterhorn and the Schreckhorn, do not descend into the inferior valleys.

The few isolated glaciers of South America are the last vestiges of the immense icy shroud or curtain which covered a great portion of the continent during the Quaternary epoch. And, indeed, numerous erratic blocks which have been detached from the Cordilleras, and drifted as far as the Equator, bear witness to the existence of immense glaciers in the New World long before the days of man had a beginning.

No glaciers are known to exist in the Rocky Mountains of North America; but they are found among the wonders of the Arctic region. Dr. Kane, the intrepid American explorer, discovered that Europe was united, as it were, to North America by a colossal glacier, which, after the illustrious author of "Kosmos," he named the Humboldt Glacier. The chasm between the Old World and the New is thus bridged over by the Almighty Hand, forming a scene of such awful grandeur that the most indifferent could not gaze upon it without emotion. The Humboldt Glacier is, probably, the largest in the world, and forms an impregnable barrier to Arctic explorations in that direction. It is situated in about lat. 79° 30′ N.]

The glaciers of Norway do not derive their origin from those grand amphitheatres in which the snow accumulates on the flank of the Alps. They issue from immense plains or *fields of snow*, in the sub-polar regions, and extend over an area of several square leagues, covering the rugged and unequal soil with a thick white pall, through which, here and there, a mass of black rock protrudes.