

was alone: it was like watching a thunderstorm, or hearing in full orchestra a chorus of the Messiah.

On several patches of the snow I found the *Protococcus nivalis*, or red snow, so well known from the accounts of Arctic navigators. My attention was called to it by observing the footsteps of the mules stained a pale red, as if their hoofs had been slightly bloody. I at first thought that it was owing to dust blown from the surrounding mountains of red porphyry; for from the magnifying power of the crystals of snow the groups of these microscopical plants appeared like coarse particles. The snow was colored only where it had thawed very rapidly, or had been accidentally crushed. A little rubbed on paper gave it a faint rose tinge mingled with a little brick-red. I afterward scraped some off the paper, and found that it consisted of groups of little spheres in colorless cases, each the thousandth part of an inch in diameter.

The wind on the crest of the *Peuquenes*, as just remarked, is generally impetuous and very cold: it is said¹ to blow steadily from the westward or Pacific side. As the observations have been chiefly made in summer, this wind must be an upper and return current. The Peak of *Teneriffe*, with a less elevation, and situated in lat. 28°, in like manner falls within an upper return stream. At first it appears rather surprising that the trade wind along the northern parts of Chile and on the coast of Peru should blow in so very southerly a direction as it does; but when we reflect that the *Cordillera*, running in a north and south line, intercepts, like a great wall, the entire depth of the lower atmospheric current, we can easily see that the trade wind must be drawn northward, following the line of mountains, toward the equatorial regions, and thus lose part of that easterly movement which it otherwise would have gained from the earth's rotation. At *Mendoza*, on the eastern foot of the *Andes*, the climate is

¹ Dr. Gillies in *Journ. of Nat. and Geograph. Science*, Aug. 1830. This author gives the heights of the Passes.