

in the sides of the *cup* along the Isthmus of Panama, for instance, as a depression of but four hundred and sixty feet would secure, would permit the Drift Current to flow into the Pacific. Such a wide breach in the sides of the *cup* along the Valley of the Mississippi as a depression equal to that indicated by the shells of Moel Tryfon would secure, would permit the reactionary Gulf Stream, though already formed, to escape, along what is now the lake district of America, into Hudson's Bay. In either case the Gulf Stream would be lost to Northern Europe; and the British Islands, robbed of the Gulf Stream, would possess merely the climate proper to their latitudinal position on the map;—they would possess such a climate as that of Labrador, where, beneath seas frozen over every winter many miles from the shore, exactly the same shells now live as may be found, in the sub-fossil state, in the Kyles of Bute, or underlying the pleasant town of Rothesay. A submergence of the North American continent would give to Britain and Ireland, with the countries of Northern Europe generally, what they all seem to have possessed during the protracted ages of the Pleistocene era,—a glacial climate.

If our conclusions be just,—and we see not on what grounds they are to be avoided,—our readers will, we dare say, agree with us that it would not be easy to produce a more striking illustration of the influences which are at times exerted by the conditions of one country on those of another. Our brethren of the United States are occasionally not a little jealous of the mother country; but we suspect all of them do not know how completely they could ruin her could they but succeed in keeping their great Gulf Stream to themselves. It might be unwise, however, to urge matters quite so far, lest they should provoke us, in turn, to demand back again the large brains and high-mettled blood which we have most certainly given them. Such of our readers as occasionally enjoy a summer vacation on the west coast