

water stands at least fifteen degrees above the mean temperature of the year in the same latitude. But, even without this warming influence, the mean of the climate is considerably above the freezing point, and the cold of winter does not suffice to depress so large a body of water to thirty-two degrees. The lake, therefore, never sinks below thirty-eight or forty degrees. The bitter westerly winds, consequently, in sweeping across the lake, experience a material softening before they strike the Michigan side. It is worthy of note that, throughout the Northwest, the severest winter winds come from the west and southwest. It is for this reason that the eastern shores of the great lakes are more benefited than the western. As the bitterest winds of all are from the southwest, it follows that a situation which, like the Grand Traverse region, can receive the winds that have traveled the longest distance over the lake, will be best protected from the frosts of winter.

It is probable that the Canadian region, along the eastern shore of Lake Huron, enjoys a winter climate similarly exempt from destructive extremes. The influence of these lakes is sensibly felt even along their northern shores. The region south of Lake Ontario has long been celebrated for its fruits, while the southern shore of Lake Erie has been proven one of the best grape-producing districts of the world.

Such, then, are some of the beneficent results of an incident of the epoch of the dissolution of the glacier. The ice was rapidly melted; torrents sprang into existence, and scooped out lake basins; these became filled with waters which, besides subserving the interests of navigation, exert, perhaps, a more beneficial influence in ameliorating the condition of man in the centre of the continent.

A different ordeal still awaited the destined dwelling-