

New California, and the embouchure of the Columbia, have winters and summers almost equally temperate. The meteorological constitution of countries towards the north-west, resembles that of Europe as far as 50° or 52° of latitude. Comparing, in the two systems of climates, the concave and the convex summits of the same Isothermal lines; we find at New York, the summer of Rome, and the winter of Copenhagen; at Quebec, the summer of Paris, and the winter of St. Petersburg. At Pekin, also, where the mean temperature of the year is that of the coasts of Brittany, the scorching heats of summer are greater than at Cairo, and the winters are as rigorous as at Upsal. So also, the same summer temperature prevails at Moscow in the centre of Russia, as towards the mouths of the Loire, notwithstanding a difference of 11° of latitude; a fact that strikingly illustrates the effects of the earth's radiation, on a vast continent deprived of mountains. This analogy between the eastern coasts of Asia and America sufficiently proves," continues Humboldt, "that the inequalities of the seasons, depend on the prolongation and enlargement of continents towards the pole; on the size of seas in relation to their coasts; and on the frequency of the north-west winds; and not on the proximity of some plateau, or elevation, of the adjacent lands. The great table lands of Asia do not stretch