from being capable of saturating the air with moisture up to the dew point, has even the power of abstracting a portion of the moisture from an atmosphere so saturated, and of thus, to a certain extent, drying the air.

Evaporation on land is precisely similar to evaporation from sea-water; since the various rocks and soils may be considered as so many saline matters, diminishing, in their several degrees, the tendency to become vapour possessed by the water united with them. Hence, under like circumstances, some rocks and soils are dry, while others are moist; so that, in proportion to the evaporating powers of the rocks and soil of a country, will that country be liable to all the consequences of dryness or of dampness of soil. Plants also seem to differ much in their capacity for retaining water. The dryness of a country will, therefore, be considerably affected by the nature of its vegetation; and the predominance of certain plants or trees in a district may thus increase the dampness of its soil.

Regarding the effect which *foreign matters in the atmosphere* have in influencing evaporation from the subjacent land or water; we are unable to speak with as much confidence, as we have spoken of the controlling power of the foreign matters in the water itself. There is, however, reason to believe that certain constituent prin-