

**MISSION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN
PEOPLE, GEOGRAPHICAL, SOCIAL, AND
POLITICAL: ILLUSTRATED BY SIX
CHARTS. DELINEATING THE PHYSICAL
ARCHITECTURE AND THERMAL LAWS OF
ALL THE CONTINENTS**

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Mission of the North American People, Geographical, Social, and Political: Illustrated by Six Charts. Delineating the Physical Architecture and Thermal Laws of All the Continents by William Gilpin

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WILLIAM GILPIN

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ILLUSTRATED BY SIX CHARTS

DELINEATING THE PHYSICAL ARCHITECTURE AND THERMAL LAWS
OF ALL THE CONTINENTS.

BY
WILLIAM GILPIN,
LATE GOVERNOR OF COLORADO.

PHILADELPHIA:
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1873.

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INTRODUCTION.

THIS volume is the reproduction of its predecessor, which appeared in 1860. This short interval, although checkered by war, is illuminated by stupendous achievements in the direction whither the energies of the people were invited.

The vivacity with which *labor*, intelligence, and moderation, in concert and alliance, march and expand in force and volume, is amazing and glorious. Nothing in sight predicts any serious check to this *tidal flood*, on which is borne every department and detail of PROGRESS.

The aim here is to grasp facts as they are; to reject delusions which have grown scille. No special chapter is here assigned to the *Western Cordillera* (the Sierra Nevada), because its general profile, its *thermal* features, and its continuity are everywhere referred to and described.

Much that has been proposed and asked from the people in the former volume is now fully completed and has gone into history. Everything else is coming with assured certainty and celerity.

In the former preface I have given expression fully to my faith and hopes. These I retain and repeat with fortified confidence and conviction.

DENVER, June 1, 1873.

THE
CENTRAL GOLD REGION.

THE
GRAIN, PASTORAL, AND GOLD REGIONS
OF
NORTH AMERICA.

WITH
SOME NEW VIEWS OF ITS PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY, AND OBSERVATIONS
ON THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

BY
WILLIAM GILPIN,
LATE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1860.

PREFACE.

EVERYBODY is acquainted with the history of the American people. Their commonwealth, commenced at first by a few republican families voluntarily exiled from the Old World, is now, at the end of two and a half centuries, a republican empire of established *continental* dimensions and policy.

Restricted heretofore in its development to so much of our continent as belongs to the Atlantic, a point of progress is reached, whence our energies, overflowing towards the west, expand to embrace the regions of the Pacific Ocean and establish direct and familiar relations with Asia.

This movement, long in preparation, now engages so large a force that its advance daily acquires volume and celerity. *Federal legislation*, to progress *pari passu* with the people, is demanded upon a basis to give effect to the great *central* movement resulting from their energies. A liberal understanding of the mission of our people, counsels a genial expansion of the *federal system* to the grandest dimensions which their energies may reach.

I have condensed into a small volume, the memoranda and reflections suggested by a residence of twenty years in the wilderness; and in the midst of the pioneer people who occupy the foreground of progress, and clear open the track of empire.

I distinguish, as the most essential present ground of development, the interval which separates the Mississippi Basin from the Pacific Ocean. This defines itself as the "*Mountain System*" of our geography.

The magnitude of the obstacles which it opposes to the forces of progress assembled on its two fronts, sanctions an appeal to every form of