

**THE MAN OF THE NORTH
AND THE MAN OF
THE SOUTH; OR THE
INFLUENCE OF CLIMATE**

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The man of the North and the man of the South; or The influence of climate by Ch-Victor de Bonstetten

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CH-VICTOR DE BONSTETTEN

**THE MAN OF THE NORTH
AND THE MAN OF
THE SOUTH; OR THE
INFLUENCE OF CLIMATE**

MAN OF
CALIFORNIA

THE MAN OF THE NORTH,

AND

THE MAN OF THE SOUTH ;

OR

THE INFLUENCE OF CLIMATE.

Translated from the French of
CH-VICTOR DE BONSTETTEN.

Ce serait à tort que l'on voudrait séparer la Politique des circonstances générales de race, de climat, de configuration géographique, de traditions historiques de toute nature dont elle est à beaucoup d'égards une résultante.

BAUDRILLART.

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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

THE author, M. de Bonstetten, whose work, *L'Homme du Midi et L'Homme du Nord*, is now given to the public in an English translation, was born in 1745 at Berne, of an ancient and noble Swiss family. Having lived eighty-seven years, he died in 1832 at Geneva. He was not without political experience, having undergone some of the sad reverses of the political treadmill. He was a friend and disciple of the celebrated Charles Bonnet, and had much intercourse and correspondence with other distinguished men of his time. Acute in his observations, cultivated in his tastes, familiar through travel with the men and the society of many climes, and casting over all the mellow hues of a highly-wrought imagination, there are few works more fascinating than the one now translated. Published thirty-seven years ago, if it has any application to our own great national crisis it will be without any party spirit, and wholly on impersonal and philosophical grounds.

Like all political prophets, M. de Bonstetten was greatly mistaken with regard to this country. The perpetuity of its unbroken unity was too dazzling to his eyes not to delude him. Any prophecy based on the institutions of a country, and not on the moral and intel-

lectual condition of its people, is likely to be purblind. It is necessary to have a great mastery over the past and present condition of things to have much keen insight into the future. Our imagination travels much faster than our civilizing tendencies, and the real ever lags behind the ideal.

Our author attaches much importance to the modifications which climate superinduces upon our inborn faculties, and not, it would seem, without reason. But whether men are sufficiently sober in their judgments to make allowances for such things is an open question. The perusal, however, of our author's work will prove highly instructive and suggestive, and may lead to a more liberal view of the differences which exist between masses of men apparently of the same race. As there are different avenues that lead to heaven, there may be different means of arriving at political perfection. The attempt to cast everything through the same mould, to force all through the same orbit, may serve conventional purposes, but is not very descriptive of the real lines of motion peculiar to humanity. The standard of human judgment must advance with the growth of society if we would avoid the dead level of Chinese immobility.

If the work now translated will in any way aid to this end, the labor of the translator will be more than compensated.

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THE
MAN OF THE NORTH
AND
THE MAN OF THE SOUTH.



Introduction.

THE TWO CLIMATES.

THE effect of climate on man has often struck me as a subject imperfectly comprehended. Climate is but one of the many causes that affect man; its influence, though always operative, is felt but gradually through effects which sometimes would appear to be foreign to it. To all the regulations made to guard against it, it occasionally yields; religious enthusiasm, attaining to a certain degree, modifies its influence; even opinions

purely philosophical, like those of the Stoics, may override it. Moreover, what is North and South when the question of climate occurs? A polar altitude is but one element of climate, and a vertical altitude another. Both Greenland and Lapland may be found among the Swiss Alps, and if Northern people prized sheltered localities more, we would sometimes encounter in the North the climate of Italy. Has not the Reformation appeared here and there in Southern mountains, and do we not find despotism existing in the North?

Man's history is like a piece of tapestry on which diverse colored threads appear and disappear as they traverse the meshes of its woof. Climate is a thread of this description, appearing and disappearing at the bidding of the great disposer of all things.

In discussing facts due to a multiplicity of causes, it sometimes happens that one cause becomes isolated, which, in the nature of things, cannot act independently. Human actions never being wholly traceable to climatic agency, we must possess full knowledge of every cause affecting them before we can assign to any a special influence. Until this knowledge is obtained abstractions are pointless; it is neces-