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Mountains and climate! Everyone knows that climate varies from the equator towards either pole. Superimposed on that gradual change of climate due to latitude are other changes due to several causes. The most important of these are mountains, which divert the wind upwards causing the air to cool, moisture to condense to clouds, and rain to follow. In certain places of the earth this condition is so pronounced as to give those places a kind of oceanic climate. On the other hand, on the leeward side of the mountain, the descending air becomes warmer and drier, resulting in much less rainfall and clearer skies, but with greater temperature variation.