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Deserts and people! The way people live, the extent and kind of culture in any place, is largely determined by the climate. In desert and semi-desert regions the people lead a nomadic life because native plants do not grow abundantly enough to feed them or their herds. Consequently they travel from place to place as the native food becomes exhausted. They have practically no furniture and few personal possessions. A high civilization under such conditions is impossible. But where water is found, as in oases, the population is settled, and large towns and villages grow up; the cultivation of the soil is carried on and the cultivable fields are extended by irrigation.
