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Climate and civilization! It is a known fact that civilization began in places where now only backward races live. How did this come about? Besides many accidental factors, changes in climate were also very influential. For example, the beginnings of the Neolithic civilization, which was characterized by implements of stone and bone, took place in Crete and eastern Asia about 15,000 years ago, when the climate in those places must have been more stimulating than it is now, resembling that of present northwest Europe. And this was at a time when considerable parts of Europe and America were still in the Ice Age. Europe absorbed this Neolithic culture and kept on progressing, while the change of climate to drier and warmer in eastern Asia kept the people there more or less backward. -----