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Mountains and climate! Of course, the distance of a place north or south of the Equator is the main climate control, but mountain heights are a powerful factor in making local or regional variations. Mountains may make a place wet or dry. A famous example is on the Hawaiian island of Kanai, where Mount Waialeale breasts the wet northeast trades, causing the air to rise rapidly, cool and precipitate copiously. On the west coast of North America the moist winds of the Pacific climb the Coast Range, depositing their moisture, while east of these mountains the climate is much drier.
