

while his features are much softened by the Southern sun, retains much of the grim white hoary aspect attributed to him by Longfellow. While his encroachments upon the dominion of Spring tempers him as a whole, yet the friction of opposition irritates him into sudden bursts of great severity. Today the sun is shining brightly, making the uninitiated think that he has at last found the land of perpetual spring. In a few hours a great blue hazy billow is seen to rise slowly along the northern horizon, and anon a gale bursts upon you, howling and whistling over the bleak, bare prairies, and you are in the midst of a real "Texas Norther." For a day or so it rages, chilling the land both far and near, then it gradually abates, until old Sol breaks forth, stripping this fair land of her icy mantle, and before many hours you will be led to exclaim, "Do they have any winter in Texas?" We are situated as it were, on a battle ground between Sol and Boreas, in which Sol is generally the master, but is frequently called upon to muster all his strength to repel the incursions of the fierce "North Man."

The question may be asked. "does not such a climate affect the character of her people?" It is generally supposed that climate of all kinds will finally modify the character of the inhabitants. The people of Texas are thrifty and industrious, they are noble, brave and generous; but, subjected as they are, to the extreme vicissitudes of climate, we might suppose that they in time would become a restless, impatient, unsettled race. We will acknowledge that such little shows itself at present, and will venture nothing further in prediction, but leave all to the speculation of the thoughtful reader; what we have said may serve for an analogy of the character of our hero.

In one of the villages situated in the region we have just described, Jean Sans-delai was born. So far, nothing very remarkable, as such events not unfrequently happened in the town, but if you find a hero in this story it will most assuredly be Jean. Jean's birthplace was, in many respects, a delightful spot. From the neighboring hills it appeared as a little village, situated on a gently elevated plateau, in the