

unequalled in any other part of the globe ; but it is sparsely inhabited by an indolent, unenterprising population, that is content to pick up a scanty livelihood from the natural products of the forest with the minimum amount of labour. Fortunately the land rises here and there into mountain chains that enclose high tablelands, whose altitude renders the climate temperate and fosters the growth of pasture and corn. These grass lands, often as beautiful as English parks, are known as savanas. Such districts lie between the Amazon and Orinocco in the highlands of Guiana, on the plateau of Brazil and in the narrower valleys of Peru.

Below the Tropic of Capricorn is the Argentine Republic, a country of grassy plains, known as the Pampas, and comparable with the prairies of North America. These plains are well watered by the rivers Parana and Uruguay that combine to form the Rio-de-la-Plata, and provide pasturage for large herds of sheep and cattle. The southern extremity of the continent, which narrows almost to a point, consists of a shingle desert and the cold, inhospitable region of Tierra-del-Fuego, the extreme southerly point being the dreaded Cape Horn.

THE YOSEMITÉ VALLEY.

SEE Yosemite and die ! I shall not attempt to describe it ; the subject is too large, and my capacity too small. Here might the author of the *Divine Comedy*, whose troubled brow and yearning eyes appeal to us through