

the plains through which the Parana flows are rich prairies, with timber along the streams. Here and there over the prairies, are low round hills covered with trees, looking like islands in the great sea of grass.

7. Toward the sources of the river, the woodlands increase, and there is only here and there a little, bright prairie smiling among their darker green. This is the *Gran Chaco*, or great hunting ground of the Indians; and they can be seen on their fleet horses, galloping over the prairies, gathering themselves together on the banks of the river, ready for the chase.

8. The ground here is so very level that there is scarcely a division between the tributaries of one great stream and those of another. In time of high water, it is possible to go by boat, across overflowed lands, from one to another. Thus, one may enter the La Plata, pass up the Parana and other tributaries northward, and cross over to the Madeira, the great tributary of the Amazon from the south. Near the mouth of the Madeira, a large tributary from the north enters the Amazon. By means of this, one can reach the Orinoco, and so descend to the ocean, crossing, by means of rivers, more than half the length of South America from south to north.

9. Some day we may see these streams bordered with cities, and covered with swift steamers bearing away the cotton, the coffee, and the sugar, which will then be growing where now are only forests and wild prairies. You know that it is not a great while since the cotton plantations and grain farms along the Mississippi were wild forests and prairies, with the Indians for their only inhabitants.