

rather to favor a belief in continuous sedimentation. Further, that while the base of the Comanche is described as equivalent to the Purbeck and Wealden, or lowest beds of the European Cretaceous, Mr. Whiteaves finds no evidence in the mollusks of even the lowest beds of the Kootanie and Queen Charlotte Islands formations of a horizon below that represented by the Gault in Europe. This can scarcely be regarded as divergent from the previous definition of the age of the same formations by their contained fossil plants, as the lower Cretaceous flora may be expected, from European and Asiatic analogies, to extend upward to the top of the Neocomian, between which and the Cenomanian the Gault may be said to be a transitional formation. The question, however, of the precise systematic position of these representatives of the earlier Cretaceous of the northwestern province of the continent, is one apart from that of their interrelation and general correspondence, which alone it is at present intended to point out. Finally, it may be noted, that while these formations mark the occurrence of a first Cretaceous subsidence in the northwestern portion of the continent, this subsidence has there been neither so great nor so continuous as in the case of the Comanche, a fact shown by the generally coarse, elastic character of the rocks, the comparative absence of limestones and the occurrence of beds of coal.

In this note it has been possible merely to outline the more interesting general results so far arrived at with respect to that part of the Cretaceous which underlies the Dakota horizon in British Columbia and in the western portion of the Northwest Territory. For details, some of which have important bearings on the general question, reference must be made to the various publications which have been cited and to forthcoming reports of the Geological Survey of Canada in which the facts more recently obtained will appear at length. The subjoined table presents in a diagrammatic form the relations of the various formations above referred to, together with that of some overlying portions of the Cretaceous, not here specially alluded to, but which occur in the same region.

Geological Survey of Canada, April 20, 1889.

EXPLANATION OF MAP, p. 121.

The principal known localities of occurrence of the Earlier Cretaceous rocks, are indicated by the black dots. Nearly all of these represent places from which characteristic fossils have been obtained.

The eastern extension of the Pacific Ocean in the earlier part of the Cretaceous period is approximately shown by that of the unshaded part of the map.