

throughout the region over which this pressure was exerted seems certain, and I am inclined to suppose that it may have had much to do with the great later Pliocene uplift and subsequent depression to which the British Columbian region appears to have been subjected.*

One of the most remarkable features connected with the Bering sea region is the entire absence of any traces of a general glaciation. Statements to the effect that Alaska, as a whole, showed no such traces were early made by Dall † and concurred in by Whitney. The result of my later investigations in British Columbia and along the adjacent coasts have been to show that such original statements were altogether too wide; that a great Cordilleran glacier did exist in the western part of the continent, but that it formed no part of any hypothetical polar ice-cap, and that large portions of northwest America lay beyond its borders.‡

Statements made by Mr John Muir, in which he not only attributed every physical feature noted by him in Bering sea to the action of glaciation, but even expressed the opinion that Bering sea and strait represented a hollow produced by glaciation, § remain altogether unsupported. It might be unnecessary even to refer to them but for the fact that they relate to a region for which the data on this subject from other sources are so small. No traces have been found of general glaciation by land ice in the region surrounding Bering sea, while the absence of erratics above the actual sealine show that it was never submerged for any length of time below ice-encumbered waters.

These facts, moreover, connect themselves with similar ones relating to the northern parts of Siberia in a manner which will be at once obvious to any student of the glacial period.

Respecting the latest changes in elevation of the land, it may be stated that in several widely separated places there is evidence of a recent slight general uplift. This was noted at Unalaska, Attu, Bering island, Saint Paul island and Saint Matthew island, but the amount of elevation indicated is small, being in fact from 10 to 30 feet only.

* Trans. Royal Soc. Canada, vol. vii, sec. iv, p. 54.

† Alaska Coast Pilot, 1869, pp. 195, 196; Alaska and its Resources, pp. 460, 461.

‡ Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., vol. xxxiv, p. 119; vol. xxxvii, p. 283; Report of Progress, Geol. Surv. Can., 1877-78, pp. 136 B, 151 B; Trans. Royal Soc. Canada, vol. vii, sec. iv, plate ii, map 4.

§ Report of the Cruise of the Corwin, 1881, p. 147.