

in North America,
from higher levels.

The strata on each
side of the St.
Lawrence once
united.

The alluvial border
on the right bank
of the St. Law-
rence, the ancient
bed of the river.

Surface of the
country in the
disputed territory
modified by the
passage of powerful
currents.

Greenleaf's descrip-
tion of the elevated
district in Maine,
1816.

His description
agrees with the
Highlands of the
Treaty.

some distance below Quebec, an alluvial border of land, part of the ancient bed of the stream, in many places twenty miles broad, bounded on the south-east by a more elevated country, along the crest of which, once the right bank of the river, various hills with occasional peaks are seen, much separated from each other, but once probably more united into a continuous, irregular, curved line, trending north-easterly and south-westerly.

To the geological eye, this crest appears to have been, in remote times, united to the strata on the left bank of the St. Lawrence, the beds there following the same magnetic direction, and having the same mineralogical connection, until they reach the 48th parallel of north latitude at Chicoutami, in the vicinity of Lake St. John. This break in the continuity of the strata probably occurred on the retreat of the waters from their higher levels, leaving the great western lakes to discharge their surplus waters by the valley of the St. Lawrence. As the volume of water to be discharged diminished in quantity, the drainage would necessarily be carried on in the lowest level of the valley, and thus leave the broad alluvial border which has been before noticed.

On advancing in a north-westerly direction into the interior, from the mouth of the Bay of Fundy, we find a strong correspondence with the physical geography of the more southern portion of the American continent; here also the country rises in elevation, the strata follow the north-easterly and south-westerly direction, the ridges hold the same course, and are usually parallel to each other, but very much broken down and separated into detached parts by the action of powerful currents, which seem to have passed across this part of the continent, contemporaneously with the formation of the valley of the St. Lawrence.

The remains of these abraded ridges are found strewed and deposited in every part of the country, and the banks of the River Saint John, and those of its tributary, the Roostuc, often consist of a depth of from twenty to thirty feet of the comminuted ruins of the older rocks. This state of things is most obvious between the parallels of west longitude $67^{\circ} 50'$ and $69^{\circ} 30'$, the ridges having an uninterrupted continuation east and west of those points*. Reverting to the gradual rising of the country from the Atlantic Coast, we find that we cannot give a more accurate description of it, than that which is contained in an American work before alluded to, the "Statistical View of the District of Maine," published by Mr. Greenleaf, in 1816. That Author thus describes it:—

"With the exception of a small tract at the eastern extremity, and some detached elevations along the central part of the north-western boundary, the *mountainous part* of the district may be included within an irregular line drawn from the line of New Hampshire, not far from the Saco River, thence proceeding north-easterly, and crossing Androscoggin River near Dixfield, Sandy River above Farmington, Kennebec River above Bangham, the west branch of the Penobscot at the Lake Pemmidumpcok, and to the *east branch of the Penobscot*, near the mouth of the Wassataquoick; thence north, so far as to include the heads of the Aroostook; thence, south-westerly to the head of the Moosehead Lake, and thence westerly to the boundary of the district, near the *sources of the Du Loup*. The greatest length of this section is from south-west to north-east about 160 miles, its greatest breadth about sixty miles, and it comprises about one-seventh part of the district. No observations have been made to ascertain and compare the height of the different elevations in this section, but from estimates which have been made on the falls of the rivers, proceeding from different parts of it, and from the much greater distance at which the mountains in the western parts are visible, it is evident that the western, and particularly the north-western part is much higher than the eastern, and the *section in its whole extent* may be considered as *presenting the highest points of land* between the Atlantic and the St. Lawrence."

By reference to the map it will be seen that the southern edge of this section of elevated land, thus described, runs north-easterly from about $43^{\circ} 20'$ to 46° north latitude; and that if it were further protracted easterly, it

* This is shown by the section from the Bay of Chaleurs to the south-eastern sources of St. John's River, traced on the margin of the map.