

form, to the Sierra Parime; the latter, to the Brazil chains, running also from S.W. to N.E. The culminant points of those two systems rise to 1138 and 1040 toises. Such are the elements of this curve, of which the convex summit is in the littoral chain of Venezuela:

AMERICA, EAST OF THE ANDES.

SYSTEMS OF MOUNTAINS.	MAXIMA OF HEIGHTS.
Brazil Group	Itacolumi..... 900 t. (south lat. $20\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$).
Parime Group.....	Duida 1300 (north lat. $3\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$).
Littoral Chain of Venezuela	Silla of Caracas..... 1350 (north lat. $10\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$).
Group of the West Indies	Blue Mountains 1138 (north lat. $18\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$).
Chain of the Alleghanies.....	Mount Washington 1040 (north lat. $44\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$).

I have preferred indicating in this table the culminant points of each system, to the mean height of the line of elevation; the culminant points are the results of direct measures, while the mean height is an abstract idea somewhat vague, particularly when there is only one group of mountains, as in Brazil, Parime, and the West Indies, and not a continued chain. Although it cannot be doubted that, among the five systems of mountains on the east of the Andes, of which one only belongs to the southern hemisphere, the littoral chain of Venezuela is the most elevated (having a culminant point of 1350 toises, and a mean height from the line of elevation of 750), we yet recognise with surprise, that the mountains of eastern America (whether continental or insular) differ very inconsiderably in their height above the level of the sea. The