

Fig. 130 illustrates these different laws. The straight or curved lines represent the parts of the ranges; that is, successive peaks of mountains, or islands in the ocean; and the general direction of the smaller lines shows the course of the ranges. If one examines the latest and most accurate maps, he will find all these ranges illustrated in the great mountain ranges of the globe, and especially in the islands and coasts of the Pacific Ocean. For example, the system of curves in *e* may be seen by observing the curves along the Asiatic coast from Alaska, in Russian America, to Siam. *f* may be illustrated by the Azores or Western Islands.

We may conclude from these laws that there is a system in the grand outlines of the earth, although we may not as yet be familiar with all its details; that all over the globe, northwest and northeast lines prevail, corresponding to the general cleavage structure of the crust; and that these lines or ranges do not conform to the great circles of the earth, but are often quite irregular, and even intersect one another.

*Typical Form of Continents.*—The simplest continental feature is that of a great basin, bordered by mountain ranges, and having a general triangular shape. Sections across all the continents illustrate this feature. Fig. 131 shows a section across North America, having the Appalachian ranges upon the eastern border, the Rocky Mountain ranges upon the western border, and the great plains of the western and southern United States for the interior and depressed portion of the basin. Figs. 132, 133, 134, 135, show the same features in South America, Africa, (as ascertained by Dr. Livingstone), Europe, and Asia.

We will state a few particulars respecting the continental features of North America, which will apply in general to all continents.

The general outline of North America is triangular, and in this respect it is a type of all continents. All the shore lines correspond with the northeast or northwest trend. They may be observed upon both shores of Greenland, the northeast coast of Labrador, and the Atlantic coast, from Labrador to Panama. The western coast has the northwesterly trend throughout.

The prominent mountain ranges are situated upon the borders of the continent, parallel to the coast lines. The Laurentian mountains in Labrador and Canada have the same trend with the Green Mountains in New England, and the Appalachian ranges of the Middle and Southern States. The great ranges of the Pacific coast are continuous from Russian America through the Rocky