

irruption of the materials seething in the Earth's furnace; by granite, porphyries, basalts; and finally, by lavas. The Eastern Alps, for instance, have been formed, at a comparatively recent period, by the eruption of the *protogene*, of which Mont Blanc is composed, through the transition and secondary formations originally constituting the plains of the Alpine region. The Pyrenees are erupted masses of granite and serpentine, which, surging up from below, have elevated

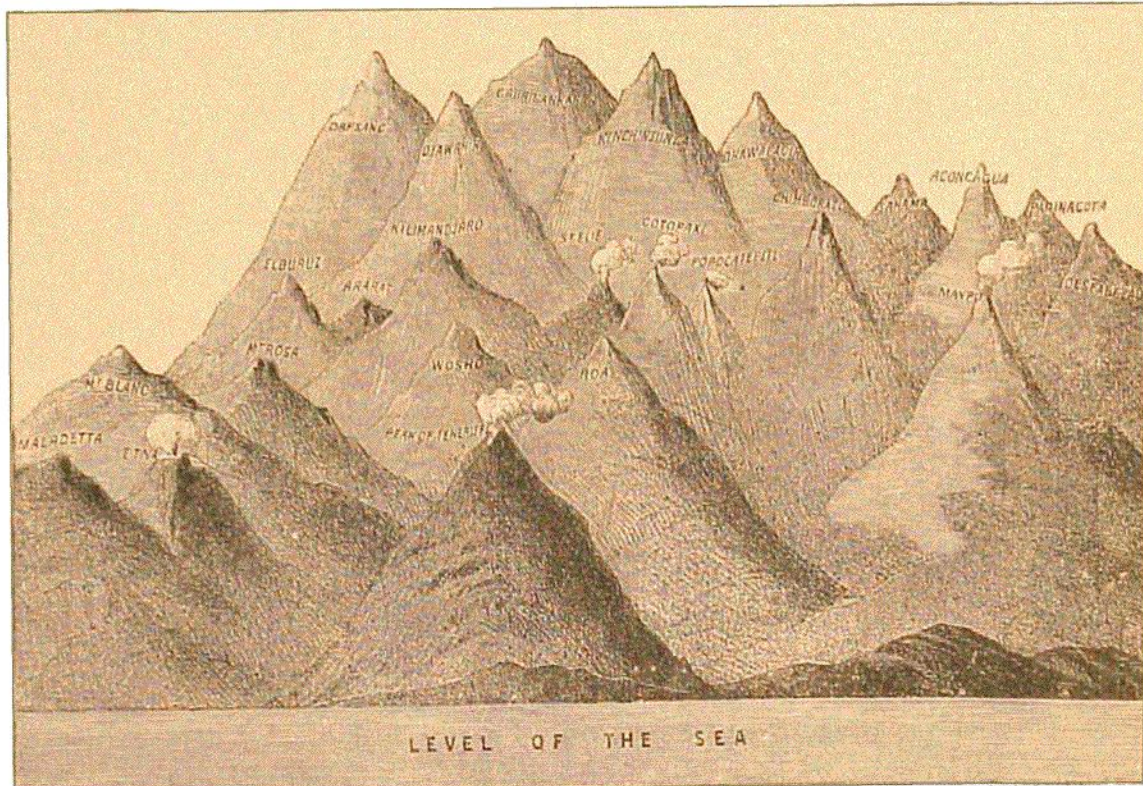


FIG. 36.—MAP SHOWING THE ELEVATION OF THE HIGHEST MOUNTAINS OF THE WORLD

and overthrown the cretaceous and tertiary rocks which formerly lay in horizontal strata in that part of the world, and have thus created the great Pyrenean chain.

Let us endeavour to form, in the first place, a general idea of the direction and relative position of all the mountain-ranges of our Earth.

Place yourself, for an instant, in the centre of the Pacific Ocean, at a great elevation above New Zealand, and direct your glances towards the northern stars. On your right lies America, on your left the coasts of Asia and Africa.