



Fig. 55. What the North American Continent had become at the end of the Silurian Age. (The modern Continent is indicated by dotted lines; the rivers by broken lines.)

during the Lower Silurian Age will answer for a representation of the nature of the events which followed during the Upper Silurian and Devonian ages. Successive extinctions, wrought by the lapse of time, or by violent geological revolutions, followed by successive creations of higher and higher forms, and the annexation of successive belts to the pre-existing land—these constituted the great secular features of the world's history down to the dawn of the period when air-breathing animals were to have birth (Fig. 56).

The first period of the Upper Silurian was that during which the Niagara limestone was accumulated—a forma-