

from which the water had receded. There has been considerable anxiety, too, at Salt Lake City, on the subject of the diminished rainfall, which has seriously affected the supply of water for irrigation and other purposes.

That the aspect of this part at least of the Great Basin was formerly widely different is conclusively proved by some singular features, which are among the first to attract the notice even of the non-scientific traveller as he journeys round the borders of the lake. Along the flanks of the surrounding mountains there runs a group of parallel level lines, so level indeed that when first seen they suggest some extensive system of carefully-engineered waterways. On a far larger scale they are the equivalents of our well-known Parallel Roads of Glen Roy. Mile after mile they can be followed, winding in and out along the mountain declivities, here and there expanding where a streamlet has pushed out a cone of detritus, and again narrowing to hardly perceptible selvages along steeper rocky faces, but always keeping their horizontality and their proper distance from each other. That these terraces are former shore-lines of the lake admits of no doubt. The highest of them is 940 feet above the present surface of the lake, which is 4250 feet above the sea. Hence, when the lake stood at the line of that terrace, its surface was 5190 feet above sea-level. Now, it has been found that the highest terrace corresponds with a gap in the rim of the basin lying considerably to the north of the existing margin of the lake. Consequently, when the lake stood at its highest level it had an outlet northwards into the Snake River, draining into the Pacific Ocean, and must thus have been fresh. Moreover, search in the deposits of the highest terrace has brought to light convincing proof of the freshness of the water at that time, for numerous shells have been found belonging to lacus-