

trine species. At its greatest development the lake must have been vastly larger than now—a huge inland sea of fresh water lying on the western side of the continent, and quite comparable with some of the great lakes on the eastern side. It measured about 300 miles from north to south, and 180 miles in extreme width from east to west. Into this great reservoir of fresh water fishes from the tributary rivers no doubt freely entered, so that, on the whole, a community of species would be established

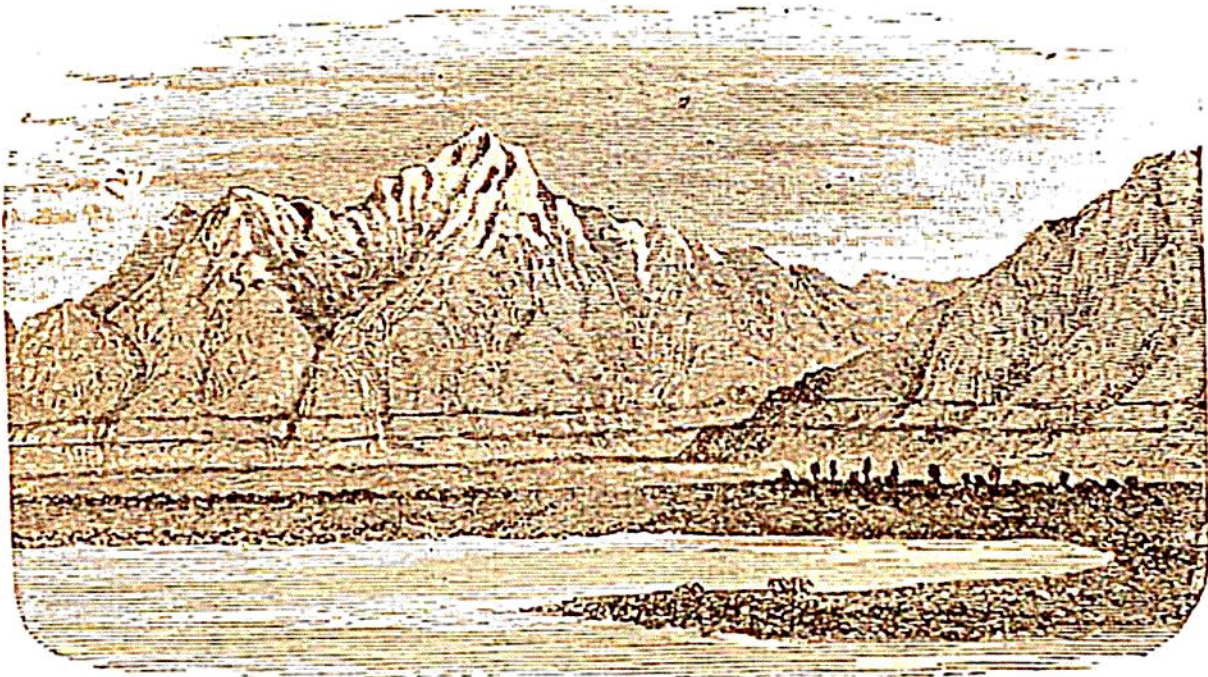


Fig. 25.—Terraces of Great Salt Lake, along the flanks of the Wahsatch Mountains, south of Salt Lake City.

throughout the basin. But when, owing to diminution of the rainfall, the lake no longer possessed an outlet, and in the course of ages grew gradually salt, it became unfit for the support of life. Ever since this degree of salinity was reached the rivers have been cut off from any communication with each other. These are precisely the conditions which the naturalist most desires in tracing the progress of change in animal forms. During a period which, in a