VII. THE FLOODS OF THE GREAT LAKES. LACUSTRINE DEPOSITS AND TERRACES.

PERSONS living along the borders of the "Great Lakes" well understand what is meant by "The Ridge Road." That road is a geological phenomenon. It is a record of high waters in the lakes. It possesses much significance, and opens an interesting vista through a chapter in the world's history.

The Ridge Road runs parallel with the lake shore for many miles at a stretch. It is almost perfectly level and serves as a ready made road-bed for country roads. It consists of gravel and sands, and presents oblique lamination or cross-bedding in its internal structure. The materials have evidently been arranged by water. It has the general characters of a beach, and like a beach retains a level nearly uniform. Generally two or more of these ancient beaches run parallel with the lake, at different altitudes. The "ridge-road" south of Lake Ontario is 190 feet above the lake. The principal terrace bordering Lake Erie is 220 feet above the lake on the south side. On the north side, near Toronto, there are terraces from 30 to 500 feet above the lake. The Davenport ridge west of Toronto is 250 to 300 feet. At the west of Lake Ontario, near Dundas, the ridge is 318 feet high. Around Lake Huron are clayey deposits up to 500 feet. North of Lake Superior the upper terrace reported is 331 feet above the Lake.

There are other indications that the Great Lakes have formerly stood much higher than at present. Mackinac Island is a monument commemorating in stone the fact of the ancient high tides of the lakes. Get into a Mackinac boat and sail around the island. On all sides a wall of limestone rises perpendicularly from the water's edge to a height of about 150 feet. Only on the south, for a narrow space, is the approach practicable. Here is the village; back of it, on the first rockterrace, is the modern fort. The old Fort Holmes, captured by the British, is on the highest dome of the island, 350 feet

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