

California. The continent eastward became an archipelago. Cambrian sediments were deposited over all its scarred and broken surface. One ocean stretched from western Nevada to New England. Whether the Atlantic Seaboard Land rose or subsided, we are unable to say. Probably it sank, and its original extent became concealed by overlapping Cambrian sediments. The Great Northern Land, however, began a slow upward movement, which was destined to continue through all Palæozoic time.

In the progress of the Palæozoic ages, the tenor of continental history was an almost continuous emergence of the Laurentian portion of the Northern Land, and a continuous sinking of the Cordilleran Land. The Laurentian, accordingly, continued to broaden its base as the remnants of the Cordilleran continued to grow less. The Cordilleran subsidence was greatest toward the shore of the Nevada continent, which was undergoing vast wastage in supplying the sediments which overspread the surface of the sunken Cordilleran region. Coarse and thick toward the west, they became finer and thinner eastward. By the close of Palæozoic time, the sediments accumulated over the Cordilleran Land were one thousand feet thick in the Rocky Mountains, thirty-two thousand feet in the Wahsatch region, and forty thousand feet at the extreme western Palæozoic limit, longitude $117^{\circ} 30'$ west. Only a few granitic islands interrupted the continuity of the uppermost Carboniferous sheets, from Nevada to the Great Plains. The ancient Eozoic topography was buried irretrievably out of sight—save where, in later times, local uplifts brought it again up to observation. The Appalachian region, meanwhile, underwent a similar subsidence. There are some reasons for supposing this region was, at the beginning of Palæozoic time, annexed to the western border of the Seaboard land. If so, the conditions here were a sinking land loaded with sediments derived from a wasting stationary land on the east; as in the west, the situation was the same, but with the wasting land on the west. West and east the fixed and wasting land was oceanward from the sinking area.