border, and Mono Lake in California, at the foot of the lofty Sierra, is another on the western border. The eastern half of the plateau south of the Colorado River extends south into Mexico, and there has similar arid features, with saline lakes and inside drainage.

The plateau of Tibet is an intermont plateau between the main range of the Himalayas and the Kuen-Lun Mountains. It is about 13,000 feet in altitude, but is overlooked by mountains having an altitude of 25,000 to 29,000 feet, and has its own ridge of 20,000 feet. It is 1200 miles from east to west, and half this in mean breadth; but its eastern half is much encumbered by ridges.

The plateau of Quito, about 300 miles long, 40 miles wide, and 10,000 feet above tide level, is situated between two parallel cordilleras of the Andes, the eastern of which contains among its snow-capped cones or domes, Cayambe (19,535, and on the equator), Antisana, Cotopaxi (19,613), Sangay; and the western, including Chimborazo (20,498 feet), Pichincha (15,924 feet), and others. The plateau of Bolivia has an elevation of 12,900 feet, with Lake Titicaca at 12,830 feet, and the city of Potosi at 13,330 feet.

In Europe, Spain is for the most part a plateau about 2250 feet in average elevation; Auvergne, in France, another, of about 1100 feet; Bavaria, another, of 1600 feet. Persia is a plateau varying in elevation between 2000 and 4000 feet, with high ridges in many parts. The Abyssinian plateau, in Africa, has an average elevation of more than 7000 feet; the region of Sahara about 1500 feet, except the southern part, which lies mostly at a greater altitude than 650 feet; that of southern Africa south of the parallel of 10° S. from 3000 to 4000 feet in mean altitude, and rising into many high summits, with the elevation least to the west.

MOUNTAINS. — (*a*) *Slopes of mountains.* — *The mountain mass.* — The slopes of the larger mountains and mountain chains are generally very gradual. Some of the largest volcanoes of the globe, as Etna (Sicily) and Loa (Hawaii), have a slope of only six to eight degrees: such mountains are broad cones, having a base of 40 miles or more. The higher volcanic cones of western America are mostly 25° to 35° in angle of slope.

The average eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains seldom exceeds 10 feet a mile, which is about one foot in 500, equal to an angle of only 7′. On the west the average slope is but little less gradual. The rise on the east continues for 600 miles, and the fall on the other side for 400 to 500 miles; the passes at the summit have a height of 4944 to 10,000 feet; and above them, as well as over different parts of the slopes (especially on the west), there are ridges carrying the altitude above 14,000 feet. The highest part of the range is in Colorado, where the passes are 11,000 to 13,000 feet high; while in latitude 32° the passes are about 5200 feet; on the Central Pacific Railroad, 6184 feet high; in Canada, 5264 to 7100 feet high; and on the Canadian Pacific (the Kicking Horse Pass) 5300 feet high. The mountain mass, therefore, is not a narrow barrier between the east and west, as might be inferred from the ordinary maps, but a vast yet gentle swell of the surface, having a base 1000 miles in breadth, and the slopes diversified with various mountain ridges, or spreading out in plateaus at different levels.