NAMES OF THE CHAINS OF MOUNTAINS.	The highest summits.	Mean height of the ridge.	Proportion of the mean height of the ridges to that of the highest summits.
Himalayas (between N. lat. 30° 18′ and 31° 53′, and long. 75° 23′ and 77° 38′)	4026 t.	2450 t.	1 : 1·6
Cordillera of the Andes (between lat. 5° and 2° S.	3350 t.	1850 t.	1 : 1·8
Alps of Switzerland	2450 t.	1150 t.	1 : 2·1
Pyrenees...	1787 t.	1150 t.	1 : 1·5
Littoral Chain of Venezuela	1350 t.	750 t.	1 : 1·8
Group of the Mountains of the Parime	1300 t.	500 t.	1 : 2·6
Group of the Mountains of Brazil ..	900 t.	500 t.	1 : 2·3

If we distinguish among the mountains those which rise sporadically, and form small insulated systems,* and those that mke part of a continued chain,† we find that, notwithstanding the immense height‡ of the summits of some insulated systems, the culminant points of the whole globe belong to continuous chains,—to the Cordilleras of Central Asia, and South America.

In that part of the Andes with which I am best acquainted, between 8° south lat., and 21° north lat., all the

* As the groups of the Canaries, the Azores, the Sandwich Islands, the Monts-Dorés, and the Euganean mountains.

† The Himalayas, the Alps, and the Andes.

‡ Among the insulated systems, or sporadic mountains, Mowna-Roa is generally regarded as the most elevated summit of the Sandwich Islands. Its height is computed at 2500 toises, and yet at some seasons it is entirely free from snow. An exact measure of this summit, situated in very frequented latitudes, has for 25 years, been desired in vain by naturalists and geologists.