and in the Alto de los Robles (lat. 2° 20′ north), on the west. The ridge that separates the Rocky Mountains extends from west to east, towards Lake Superior, between the basins of the Missouri and those of Lake Winnipeg and the Slave Lake. The central Cordillera of Mexico and the Rocky Mountains follow the direction N. 10° W., from lat. 25° to 38°; the chain from that point to the Polar Sea prolongs in the direction N. 24° W., and ends in the parallel 69°, at the mouth of the Mackenzie River.*

In thus developing the structure of the Cordilleras of the Andes from 56° south to beyond the Arctic circle, we see that its northern extremity (long. 130° 30′), is nearly 61° of longitude west of its southern extremity (long. 60° 40′); this is the effect of the long-continued direction from S.E. to N.W. north of the isthmus of Panama. By the extraordinary breadth of the New Continent, in the 30° and 60° north lat., the Cordillera of the Andes, continually approaching nearer to the western coast in the southern hemisphere, is removed 400 leagues on the north from the source of the Rio de la Paz. The Andes of Chile may be considered as maritime Alps,† while, in their most northern continuation, the Rocky Mountains are a chain in the interior of a continent. There is, no doubt, between latitude 23° and 60°, from Cape Saint Lucas in California, to Alaska on the western coast of the Sea of Kamschatka, a real littoral Cordillera; but it forms a system of mountains almost entirely distinct from the Andes of Mexico and Canada. This system, which we shall call the Cordillera of California, or of New Albion, is linked between lat. 33° and 34° with the Pimeria alta, and the western branch of the Cordilleras of Anahuac; and between lat. 45° and 53°, with the Rocky Mountains, by transversal ridges

* The eastern boundary of the Rocky Mountains lies—

In 38° latitude	107° 20′ longitude.
40°	108° 30′
63°	124° 40′
68°	130° 30′

† Geognostically speaking, a littoral chain is not a range of mountains forming of itself the coast; this name is extended to a chain separated from the coast by a narrow plain.