

volcanoes of the Virgins.* If it were certain that the mountains of California belong to the western branch of the Andes of Anahuac, it might be said that the volcanic fire, still burning, abandons the central Cordillera when it recedes from the coast, that is, from the volcano of Colima; and that the fire is borne on the north-west by the peninsula of Old California, Mount Saint Elias, and the peninsula of Alaska, towards the Aleutian Islands and Kamschatka.

I shall terminate this sketch of the structure of the Andes by recapitulating the principal features that characterize the Cordilleras, north-west of Darien.

Lat. 8° - 11° . Mountains of the isthmus of Panama, Veragua, and Costa Rica, slightly linked to the western chain of New Grenada, which is that of Choco.

Lat. 11° - 16° . Mountains of Nicaragua and Guatemala; line of volcanoes N. 50° W., for the most part still burning, from the gulf of Nicoya to the volcano of Soconusco.

Lat. 16° 18° . Mountains of gneiss-granite in the province of Oaxaca.

Lat. $18\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ - $19\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$. Trachytic knot of Anahuac, parallel with the Nevados and the burning volcanoes of Mexico.

Lat. $19\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ - 20° . Knot of the metaliferous mountains of Guanajuato and Zacatecas.

Lat. $21\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ - 22° . Division of the Andes of Anahuac into three chains:

Eastern chain (that of Potosi and Texas), continued by the Ozark and Winconsin mountains, as far as Lake Superior.

Central chain (of Durango, New Mexico, and the Rocky Mountains), sending on the north of the source of the river Platte (lat. 42°), a branch (the Black Hills) to N.E., widening greatly between the parallels 46° and 50° , and lowering progressively as it approaches the mouth of Mackenzie River (lat. 68°).

Western chain (of Cinaloa and Sonora). Linked by spurs to the maritime Alps, or mountains of California.

We have yet no means of judging with precision the elevation of the Andes south of the knot of the mountains

* Volcanes de las Virgenes. The highest summit of Old California, the Cerro de la Giganta (700 toises), appears to be also an extinguished volcano.