

tion of Asia. There is a tendency to a triangular form in the subdivisions of the land, as in Africa and the two Americas. Encircling the earth in the tropics, there is a nearly continuous, though irregular belt of water.

An order of arrangement may be seen more clearly in the *trends* or directions of islands, coast lines, and mountains. The islands in the Pacific Ocean, which are properly the peaks of submerged mountain ranges, have a prevalent northwesterly trend, and there are several systems of islands nearly parallel to one another. The coast lines have mostly a northwesterly or northeasterly direction; and it is the constancy of these two directions which has given to so many of the continental subdivisions a triangular form. All the shores of the Americas and Africa, the western of Europe, and the southeastern of Asia, have one of these courses. And as in all these continents there are great ranges of mountains parallel to these shores, it will be observed that these two general directions belong to them also.

A careful examination of all the trends of island groups, mountains and coast-lines, results in the following laws:

(a.) The ranges are made up of shorter consecutive and sometimes parallel lines, instead of being uninterrupted for long distances. All the parts of Fig. 130 illustrate this law.



(b.) The ranges are more commonly curved, than straight or corresponding to a great circle of the earth, as in *b*, *c*, *d*, and *f*.

(c.) The straight ranges may have either straight or curved constituent lines, as *a* and *e*.

(d.) Curved ranges may arise from a general curvature in the whole, as is represented by the dotted lines in *b* and *d*, or from the positions of the constituent parts.

(e.) The same range may vary greatly in its course in different

portions of the whole.

(f.) When two courses intersect each other, they meet nearly at right angles, but they may directly unite by a curve.