

Mountain ranges to Central America, there uniting with the prolongations of the Andes ranges of South America.

It will be observed that the smallest of these ranges face the smallest oceans; and that the greatest elevations are opposite to the largest oceans—the low Appalachians facing the *small* Atlantic, and the lofty Rocky Mountains, a double line of heights, facing the *broad* Pacific. By referring to Figs. 131 to 135, it will be seen that everywhere the highest mountains stand fronting the largest and deepest oceans.

Fig. 131.

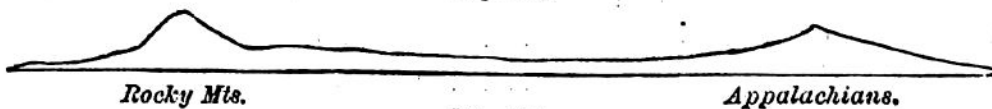


Fig. 132.

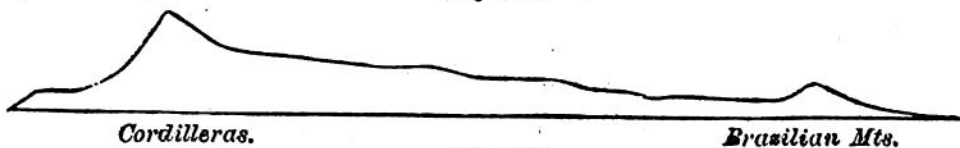


Fig. 133.

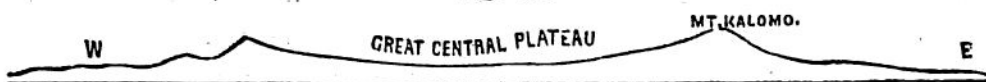


Fig. 134.

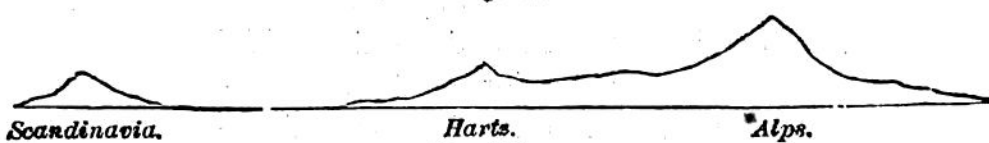
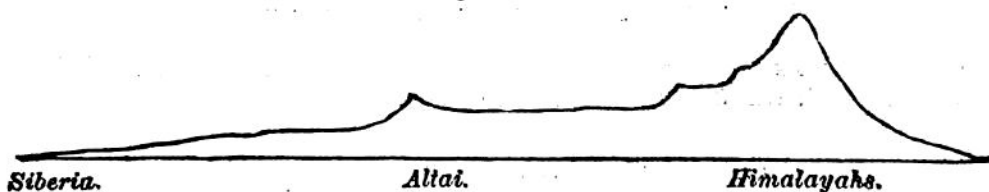


Fig. 135.



The coasts of North America in general are so turned as to face the widest range of ocean. The Appalachian coast does not face Europe, but southeast, towards the great opening of the Atlantic ocean, between America and Africa. So the western coast does not face Asia, but the broadest range of the Pacific ocean. This is a principle of universal application.

In North America the larger ranges show greater action of heat. The volcanoes are found only upon the Pacific slope: and the effects of heat are mostly confined to the borders. There are no volcanoes and scarcely any metamorphic rocks in the great interior basin, while the effects of heat are everywhere seen near