

the Ural Mountains, the main boundary between Europe and Asia, which are easily divisible into three sections ; northern, central, and southern. It is the second of these that is remarkable for apparently inexhaustible mineral treasures.

In Syria the high lands rise to an elevation of 10,000 and 11,000 feet, in the Libanus and Anti-Libanus range, which descend to the littoral of Phœnicia and Palestine in a succession of romantic and finely-wooded terraces.

The Indian peninsula is separated from the rest of Asia by the Himalayan barrier, which strikes across it on the north. Then comes a tract of low fertile plains and dense jungles, divided from the table-land of the Deccan by the Vindhya and Malwah mountain-chains. The eastern edge of this table-land is formed by the Eastern Ghauts, the western edge by the Western Ghauts ; the two chains uniting at the sources of the Cauvery, in the Neilgherry, or Blue Mountains, 8760 feet in height. Suddenly sloping to a low, narrow plain, they again re-appear in the Aligherry range, and descend below the sea-level at Cape Comorin, and rise again in the bold romantic group of Adam's Peak, in the island of Ceylon.

The mountains in the islands of the Eastern Archipelago are volcanic, and links of the great volcanic chain which stretches from the Kamtschatkan peninsula on the north, to Gilolo, in the Molucca group, on the south. Another volcanic zone extends through the Sunda group of Timor, Sumbawa, Bali, Java, and Sumatra.

Of the Altaï range, the northernmost on the great continent, a few details will suffice. They are separated from the Ural by 400 miles of low marshy land and inconsiderable mountain-chains. Rising on the north bank of the Irtysh, they extend in a serpentine course to the Pacific, south of the Gulf of Okhotsk, separating the high lands of Tartary and China from the wildernesses of Arctic Siberia. Under various names, their branches strike along the borders of the Gulf of Okhotsk to Behring's Strait, where they terminate at East Cape, the whole length of the range being 4000 miles. The breadth varies from 400 to 1000 miles, contracting to about 150 miles at