

rine plateau, such as now exists in the North Atlantic, upon which the telegraphic cable has been laid. The outline of the continent was consequently marked out while yet in embryo. The foundation of the Alleghanies was laid ages before the superstructure rose above the waves, and exposed to the light of day the predestined trend of the Atlantic coast of our country. But we trace the development of this idea back to a still remoter period. Note the trends of the primeval ridge (Figs. 19 and 39) which still lies thrusting its angle down into the northern notch of the "great lakes." "Northeast and northwest" was the language of that early-uttered decree which foredetermined the shape of the continent which was destined to become the "land of the free." That primal ridge was its earliest germ. Successive annexations to this germinal continent have been uniformly toward the southeast and southwest. This primitive ridge was not alone an early prophecy of the trends of our present coast

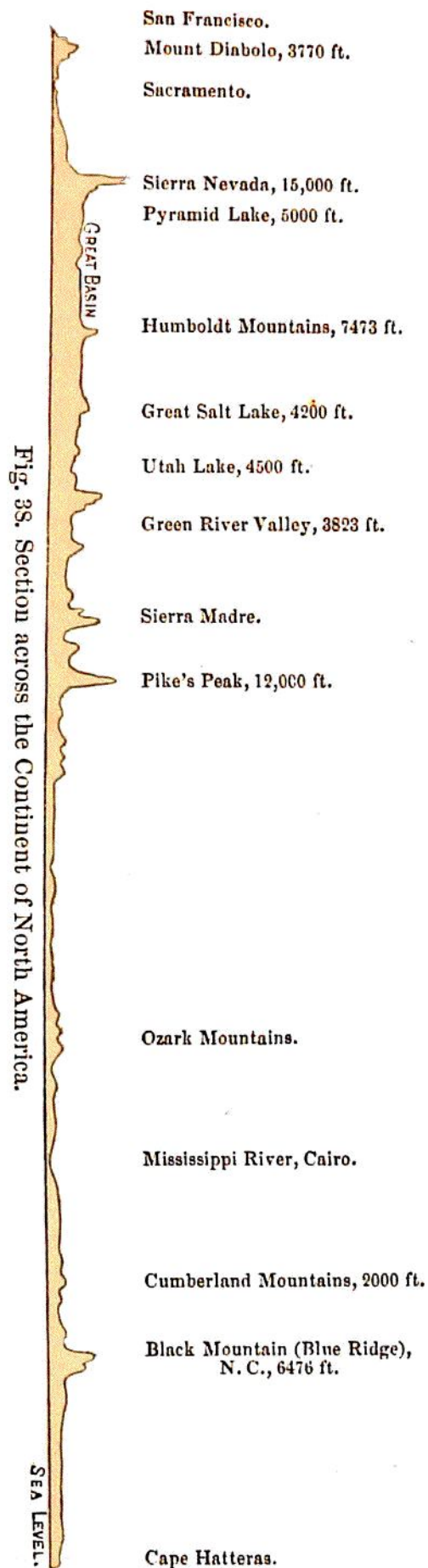


Fig. 38. Section across the Continent of North America.