

the North—is its counterpart, holding possession of the northward prolongation of the same depression. Or, to present the generalization in another form, the primordial ridge, with its northeast and northwest branches, holds Hudson's Bay in its embrace. The Appalachians and the Rocky Mountains constitute the two branches of a secondary ridge, which do not meet toward the south. One of these branches points toward the prolongation of Florida and the peninsula of Yucatan, and the other toward the prolongation of Mexico and Central America, with the Gulf of Mexico—the Hudson's Bay of the South—occupying a depression between them. The space between the primary and secondary ridges has two systems of drainage—one toward the north, and one toward the south. Each system has two branches. In the northern system the branches diverge from the lake region toward the northeast through the St. Lawrence, and the northwest through the McKenzie. In the southern system the branches converge through the Ohio and the Missouri, and discharge themselves by one outlet through the Mississippi. Thus the whole hydrographic and orographic system of North America has been determined by the location of these skeleton ridges—pieces of the framework which, though for unnumbered ages they were yet unborn from the deep, were nevertheless working out the configuration and the topography of a continent. Indeed, as the secondary pair of ridges was but a reduplication of the first, or Laurentian pair, we find that the innumerable hydrographical and topographical features of our continent have taken their point of departure from the Laurentian ridge as an initial and germinal area. Finally, the trend and conformation of our eastern coast are what has turned our "Gulf Stream" to the northern shores of Europe, to mitigate the climate of a little inhospitable island in the latitude of