

rence on the north, and a similar estuary of the embryo Connecticut on the west (Fig. 67). Toward the close of this reign the continent had assumed the similitude of its present form and extent (Fig. 77). The Atlantic coast stretched from the neighborhood of New York City to the Delaware River, and thence southwestward to South Carolina, along a line now sixty or seventy miles inland. Delaware and Chesapeake Bays were consequently out at sea, and the Delaware River emptied into the Atlantic at Trenton. From South Carolina the shore-line turned gradually westward, and crossed the States of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi at the distance of one or two hundred miles from the present gulf coast. A deep bay set northward along the future valley of the Mississippi River as far as the mouth of the Ohio, or beyond, so that at this time the confluence of those two rivers was at their mouth. West of the Missouri was a vast inland sea or elongated gulf, which stretched along the eastern flanks of the Rocky Mountains to the Arctic Ocean. This gulf was perhaps interrupted at one or two places by spurs of the mountains. Into this gulf emptied the Athabasca, Slave, and Great Bear Lakes. The upper watershed of the present Missouri was beneath the sea; and the basin of the Mississippi was more limited in extent than that of the Ohio, which probably was the larger stream. West of this Mediterranean Gulf was a broad belt of land stretching from the isthmus far to the northwest, and probably to Behring's Straits, if not across them. The Pacific coast was a hundred and fifty miles farther inland than at present. Lake Superior was the only one of the great lakes then in existence. The stream which drained it wound past the future sites of Detroit, Cleveland, and Buffalo, and, plunging over the escarpment near Lewiston, became the ancestor of the present St. Lawrence. The basins of the other lakes are the result of