

present level at Montreal. At lower levels, down to twenty-five or thirty feet, the traces of standing waters have been observed about New England and Long Island. At one time the Atlantic flowed up the valley of the St. Lawrence to Montreal, and whales sported in an arm of the sea which reached over the valley of Lake Champlain. The ancient beaches have been traced all around those earlier borders of the land.

The last portion of this upward movement has been in times comparatively recent. We are neither to suppose that the work was suddenly and violently performed, nor that it is even yet complete. The secular elevations now known to be progressing at various points along our coast are but a continuation of the action which rescued our continent from the jaws of the ocean, and which may be farther continued for many centuries. Who knows how much land may yet be added to the northeastern border of America? Who can say that Newfoundland may not yet become a peninsula joined to the main land, or that the ancient submerged prolongation of our continent may not be again resurrected? New England may cease to be "little New England," and may boast of as many acres as the "Great West"—or at least that portion of it covered by the organized states. However, New Englanders ought not to indulge too sanguine expectations in this respect.

Around the Gulf-border of our country the indications of future extension are of a more reliable character. In one region the delta of the Mississippi is continuing to push itself seaward. Materials are being transferred from the Rocky Mountains to Louisiana. The Mississippi is annually building out into the Gulf. From the same source arises another and an unexpected development of land upon another portion of the Gulf-border. Vast quantities of the finer sediments of the Mississippi are floated out into