

unconformably on the eroded Eozoic surface which had sunken. East of the basin continent, the new sediments were spread conformably on the last Carboniferous sheets. At the close of the Jurassic Age, these sediments had attained on the west, a thickness of twenty thousand feet. On the east, they were less than four thousand feet.

Now rose the vast crumpled folds of the Sierra Nevada, adding two hundred miles to the Basin continent on the west, and stretching southward at least to the thirty-sixth parallel, and northward to Alaska. East of the Wahsatch, however, every thing still remained quiet—save that the great orographic event of the west sent its rock-fragments, pebbles and sands eastward over the ocean's floor as far as Kansas, forming the conglomeritic Dakota Group at the base of the Cretaceous.

No further orographic disturbances took place until the close of the Cretaceous. To this epoch, the sedimentary sheets had been laid down in conformable positions continuously from the Cambrian upward. Now, however, came the turn of the region at present known as the "Plateau Province." Upward and undulatory movements were experienced from the region of the Great Plains to the base of the Wahsatch. Now rose the broad, flat, east-and-west anticlinal known as the Uinta Mountains; and the whole mass on the east was further upraised, of which the rocky Mountains are the salient ridges. The broad shallow basin of the Colorado River was now defined. On the Pacific coast, this disturbance was felt only in the defining of the position of the Coast Ranges.

The great feature of this post-Cretaceous movement was the re-emergence of that part of the ancient Cordilleran area, now called the Plateau Province. It had sunken, with the whole breadth of the Cordilleran Land, at the end of the Eozoic *Æon*. Now the two limbs of the American continent were joined together. From Middle California to Boston Bay was a continuous land connection. Only a narrow border remained to be added around the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts. Remnants, however, of the ancient mediterranean sea remained in the interior, forming lakes as large as Superior.