

much greater than this old estimate. G. Leiboldt has computed the mean height of Europe to be 296·838 metres (973·628 feet).<sup>24</sup> Prof. A. De Lapparent makes the mean height of the land of the globe 2120 feet, and estimates the mean height of Europe to be 958 feet, Asia 2884, Africa 1975, North America 1952, and South America 1762.<sup>25</sup> Dr. John Murray computes these heights as follows: Europe 939, Asia 3189, Africa 2021, North America 1888, South America 2078, Australia 805 feet, general mean height of land 2252 feet.<sup>26</sup> It is of some consequence to obtain as near an approximation to the truth in this matter as may be possible, in order to furnish a means of comparison between the relative bulk of different continents, and the amount of material on which geological changes can be effected.

The highest elevation of the surface of the land is the summit of Mount Everest, in the Himalaya range (29,000 feet); the deepest depression not covered by water is that of the shores of the Dead Sea (1300 feet below sea-level). There are, however, many subaqueous portions of the land which sink to greater depths. The bottom of the Caspian Sea, for instance, lies about 3000 feet below the general sea-level. The vertical difference between the highest point of the land and the maximum known depth of the sea is 56,932 feet or nearly 11 miles.

There are two conspicuous junction-lines of the land with its overlying and surrounding envelopes. First, with

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<sup>24</sup> "Die Mittlere Höhe Europas," Leipzig, 1874. In this work the mean height of Switzerland is put down as 1299·91 metres; Spanish peninsula, 700·60; Austria, 517·87; Italy, 517·17; Scandinavia, 428·10; France, 393·84; Great Britain, 217·70; German Empire, 213·66; Russia, 167·09; Belgium, 163·36; Denmark (exclusive of Iceland), 35·20; the Netherlands (exclusive of Luxemburg and the tracts below sea-level), 9·61.

<sup>25</sup> "Traité," p. 56.

<sup>26</sup> Scottish Geog. Mag. iv. (1888), 23.