of negociation between the British and American govern­ments. On the west coast the Americans have an unques­tioned claim to the country, between the 42d and 47th parallels ; but Russia disputes the right of possession with them to the tract of country between the 49th and 60th parallels. As the admitted boundaries are in general very distinctly marked, on the common maps, we shall not de­scribe them in detail.

Two chains of mountains separate this extensive terri­tory into three great natural divisions. 1. The Atlantic region, or the country lying east of the Alleghany Moun­tains. 2. The valley of the Mississippi, or the country watered by the Mississippi, Missouri, and their numerous branches. 3. The Pacific region, or the country lying west of the Rocky Mountains.

The Alleghany Mountains commence in Lower Canada, below Quebec ; and passing along the northern boundary of Maine, and through New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the two Carolinas, they termi­nate in the upper parts of Georgia and Alabama, preserving a south-west direction throughout. They consist of three, four, five, or more distinct ridges, with wide and fertile valleys interposed. Their entire length is 1100 miles, their breadth varies from 110 to 150. In the northern half their height is greatest, but most unequal ; detached peaks are numerous, and the ridges indistinctly marked. In the south, the ridges are lower, but better defined, and their summits are often distinguished by a very uniform continu­ous level. They attain their greatest height in New Hamp­shire, where Mount Washington has an elevation of 6600 feet. Their greatest height in New York is 3800, in Penn­sylvania 2500, in Virginia 3900, in South Carolina 4000. The mean height is said by Mr Mellish to be from 1000 to 1800 feet, but his average is undoubtedly formed on wrong principles. That of the highest chain cannot be less than from 2000 to 2500 feet.@@1

The Rocky Mountains, known but imperfectly, are a continuation of the Mexican Cordilleras, and extend to the Polar Ocean. They pass through the territory of the United States, at the distance of 500 miles from the Paci­fic Ocean, and consist of several elevated chains, occupying a breadth of 300 miles, with deep valleys between them. They rise abruptly from their base, and are supposed to reach the elevation of 12,000 feet in their highest summits, many of which are covered with perpetual snow. There are, however, several passes through them, which, with a little improvement, might be traversed by loaded waggons.@@2

The *Atlantic Region* was the first settled, and is the most populous and improved portion of the United States, but not the most favoured as to soil and climate. It may be considered as the eastern slope of the Alleghanies. In­cluding all the countries watered by rivers flowing into the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico, east of the Mississippi, it is about 1700 miles in length, with an average breadth of 250, and embraces an area of 400,000 square miles. It includes three well-marked varieties of soil and surface. 1. The alluvial district, consisting of sand, gravel, and clay, comprising a stripe of level land, extending along the coast from New York southward, with a breadth varying from twenty miles to 100. The surface is level or slightly un­dulating, and it embraces large tracts of marsh near the coast. The soil is poor and sandy, producing almost no­thing but pines, except in the alluvial tracts which skirt the rivers. About one half of the surface of New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, one fifth of Virginia, one third of the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama, fall under this description. 2. The upland country, extending from the alluvial tract to the foot of the mountains, with a breadth varying from twenty to 200 miles. Here the soil is chiefly formed from the detritus of the primitive rocks, and is generally fertile, and well adapted for tillage. 3. The ridges of the Alleghanies, and the valleys between them, which bear a strong growth of natural wood, have generally a rich soil, capable of tillage, wherever the sur­face is not rocky or too steep ; and are almost free from marshes. In part of Pennsylvania, New York, and in the six New England States,@@3 where the Alleghanies spread out into an irregular broken surface, the soil possesses a mixed character. The northern parts of New England are mountainous, the southern hilly or uneven. The soil, com­paratively speaking, is rocky, has little depth, and is better adapted for pasture than tillage, and improves generally as we advance inwards from the coast. The south-east sec­tion of New York corresponds in character with New Eng­land. But, of all the old states, Pennsylvania contains the largest portion of good soil on the east side of the moun­tains. The woods originally covered all this Atlantic re­gion, except some tracts called the American *prairies,* on which, from causes not well explained, no natural growth of timber exists. These are not meadows or wet grounds, as the French term might be supposed to indicate ; but lands bare of wood, whether wet or dry, level or uneven. As the population thickens, the forests disappear ; but even in the most densely peopled parts, the woodlands occupy so large a proportion of the surface, that the country gene­rally presents, to the eye of a Europcan, the aspect of a natural wilderness, broken by patches of cultivation, which are numerous round the great cities, but grow less fre­quent as we recede from the shore, till they terminate in the boundless forests of the Alleghanies.

The basin or *Valley of the Mississippi,* which extends from the Alleghanies to the Rocky Mountains, is not so large by one third as the basin of the Amazon, but being situated in the best part of the temperate zone, it may be pronounced the finest valley in the world. Its breadth east and west is 1400 miles ; its length in the opposite direction 1200, and its area 1,400,000 square miles. It comprehends a great diversity of soil, surface, and climate. 1. The basin of the Ohio, including the Cumberland, 700 miles long and 300 broad, is a rich and beautiful country, the garden of the United States. The lower parts of the surface are from 500 to 800 feet above the level of the sea, and are finely diversified with round-topped arable hills, rising 400 or 500 feet above their base. The rivers generally run in deep hollows, sometimes mere ravines, but often spread­ing out into valleys, which include lands of exuberant ferti­lity. This district includes Kentucky, Tennessee, with part of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio. Indiana, and Illinois. 2. The territory extending from the basin of the Ohio north-west­ward to Lake Superior, including the country between the Missouri and Upper Mississippi. The surface is sometimes undulating, sometimes so level that the waters stagnate on it, till carried off by evaporation; nor is it broken by any notable elevations, except one long ridge extending between the Missouri and Mississippi, and two low eminences called the Ocooch and Smoky Mountains. The soil is naturally rich, and covered with luxuriant herbage ; but the climate is severe, and the woods so thin that the bare ground or prairies occupy three fourths of the surface on the east side of the Mississippi, and nineteen twentieths on the west.

@@@, Mellish’s Geographical Description of United States, Philadelphia, 1822, p. 20. Warden’s Statistical, Political, and Historical Account of United States, 1819. Introduction.

@@@i Mellish, p. 21. James’s Account of an Expedition from Pittsburg to the Rocky Mountains in 1819, 1820, vol. iii. p. 238. Warden, iii. 161.

@@@i As the name of New England occurs often in American books. it may bu proper to mention, that the appellation is applied to the six states east of the Hudson,—Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.