

condition upward with it to the new level, where it will persist for a considerable time and furnish evidence of a former graded condition at the lower level, as well as that the level has since been uplifted; its altitude above the new grade which the streams reach will also give the vertical amount of the uplift for the locality.

Prepotdam topography

During the long existence of the Adirondack region as a land area, it has twice remained at a given level for a sufficient length of time to permit the reduction of almost its entire surface to the graded condition. The first occasion was in Prepotdam times, and the comparatively smooth surface on which that and the succeeding deposits were laid down, as shown on all sides of the region wherever this surface can be seen passing beneath the Paleozoic rocks, is the result. At the beginning of Potsdam time the district seems to have presented the aspect of a low, irregular dome, whose slopes were the gentle ones of the stream grades, and whose longer axis, or main watershed, extended across the region in a southeasterly direction, along a line running from a little north of Watertown to a little south of Albany, and also extended northwesterly into Canada. The streams drained away from it in all directions, but principally to the northeast and southwest. This axis does not divide the present Adirondack region into halves, but lies well toward its southwestern border, so that, at the commencement of Potsdam time, the sea was close at hand on the northeast Adirondack margin, but was many miles distant from that on the southwest; consequently the depression carried the one area below sea level, while the other still continued as a land area. This effect was accentuated by the more rapid subsidence on the northeast. Thus the sands, carried down by the streams and washed about by the waves, are now found only on one side of the district; on the other they did not reach the region, and now lie miles away from its margin, buried deep under newer deposits.

The surface covered by the Potsdam deposits on the north and east sides of the district, is found to be much rougher than that on the southwest, which remained unsubmerged during this time and was not reached by the sea till the following Beekmantown, or Trenton; and it is thought reasonable to suppose that this