

are in almost entire ignorance. Nor is there any evidence as to the altitude above sea level given to the region. Subsequent depression and deposit on the southern flanks of the region indicate that much of it had slopes to the south and southwest. How much effect the Taconic uplift may have had on the eastern border is a question, but the possibility of a sagging along the line of the Champlain valley, implying an easterly slope to the eastern part of the region, must be kept in mind. It seems therefore likely that the original character of the region, that is a low, domelike elevation, which slowly sank beneath the encroaching waters of the various early Paleozoic marine invasions, till it was finally overtopped, was renewed by this Postutica uplift, and that the elevation was of the low dome type. Its apex, however, was likely shifted from its former position in the southwest and moved northeastward. The effect of such an uplift would be to increase somewhat the slight initial dip of the sediments outward from the dome in all directions. An alternative view is that the region was merely an extension of the land areas which certainly existed to the north, and to the east during this time, and that it thus sloped, as a whole, to the southwest. In either case drainage would set up on the new surface, and would consist at first principally of streams which flowed down the sloping surfaces, or across the strike of the underlying rock beds. As they cut valleys, tributaries would commence to form, and these would adjust themselves to the rock beds, developing mainly on the weakest and flowing along their strike. With further uplifts, if such occurred, these would tend to extend themselves at the expense of the smaller original streams and lead them off as tributaries to the larger ones.

The Paleozoic cover on the old Precambrian floor could not have been thick over the central portion of the region, and would likely have been first cut through there, reaching the resistant Precambrian beneath. The area thus exposed would slowly increase in size, faced constantly on all sides by the retreating margins of the overlying rocks. These not only were of unequal resistance, but progressively increase in resistance downwards. Thus the Utica is weaker than the Trenton, that than the Beekmantown, while the Potsdam is most resistant of all to wear.