This is no longer the grade of the region, a comparatively recent movement having elevated it, and the streams are now busily engaged in the task of getting their beds down to the new grade and of widening their valleys. They are yet far from being thoroughly adjusted to the new conditions.

Peneplains

It would seem inherently probable that the Adirondack region participated in the actions outlined, but several causes conspire to make the evidence less clear than in the other districts mentioned. In the southern and western portions of the region, however, the hilltops do, in general, rise to quite concordant levels, which are wholly independent of the rock attitude and structure, and the inference is irresistible that they rise to the level of an old and comparatively even erosion surface, quite likely a product of the same great erosion period which elsewhere developed the Cretaceous peneplain. The probability is heightened when it is seen that the prolongation of this surface southward, above the Mohawk lowland, to the plateau of southern New York, finds it in close correspondence with the upland levels there, as if the two were developments of the same great surface [fig.8]. In both districts, too, this surface is now tipped to the west.

This old peneplain is best preserved in Hamilton county, though well marked also in Herkimer and St. Lawrence. On the west and south margins of the region it is replaced by another