A glance at the map of the region drained by the upper Columbia and by Frasers river, exhibits a considerable number of Lakes, mostly of elongated form, such as they would necessarily assume in the narrow vallies between parallel chains of mountains. But these existing lakes are the few and scattered remains of a vast system which stretched its arms into every recess, long after the general elevation of the continent, and which has in the course of time been drained by the successive breakings of the barriers which confined them. Sufficient observations have not been made to determine their exact relations to each other and to the expanse of water which seems to have occupied the country on the Columbia and Snake rivers from the Dalles upward, but the records it is believed, exist for establishing with an extraordinary degree of accuracy the limits of each. The barometrical observations of the expedition were made with a view to the more direct objects of the survey only, and do not present any connected series of results bearing upon the former hydrographical state of the country. Such facts as have been collected will at least serve to point the way for future observations.

In conducting any regular geographical survey of the country, and especially in running and marking the boundary, lines of elevation having reference to the comparative heights of these terraces would have peculiar interest.

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