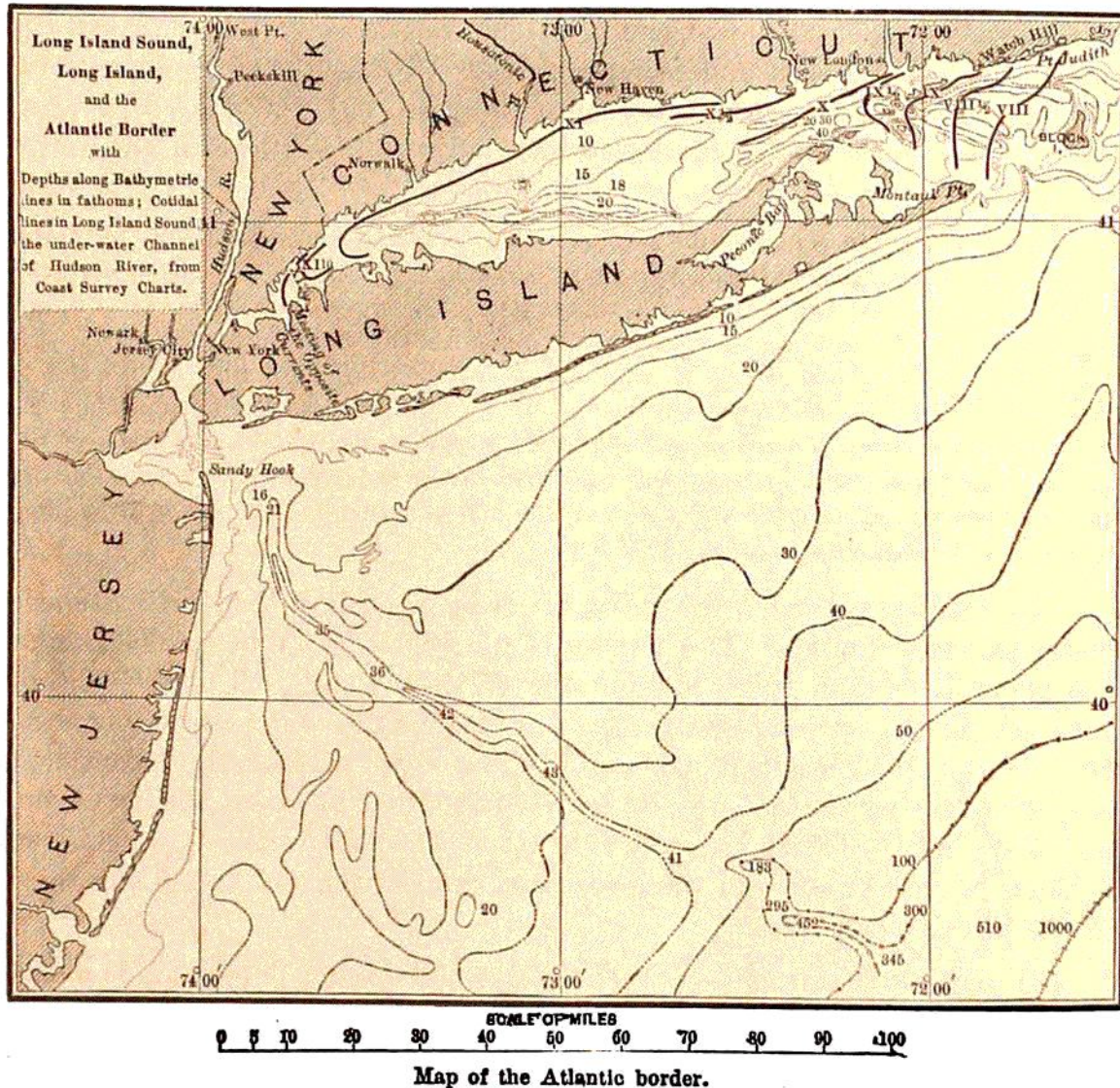


also southward to Cape Hatteras. Off the Carolinas it narrows much; but in the Gulf of Mexico it has its usual width. At times in geological history it has been part of the actual dry border of the continent. This is proved by the existence of a river-channel, that of the Hudson, over its submerged surface, as shown on the accompanying map of the Atlantic border. As here seen, the depth of water over this border is not 50 fathoms (300 feet) until within 15 miles of the 100-fathom line.

2.



On the Pacific side of both North and South America the submerged continental border is narrow. Off California, the distance to the 100-fathom line is in general only about 10 miles. There is then a sharp descent to 500 or 600 fathoms, and from this a decline of 1600 to 2400 fathoms within 40 or 50 miles. This is in great contrast with the Atlantic border. G. Davidson, of the Coast Survey, reports the existence of several deep submarine channels leading outward from the coast, which are most probably due to streams that flowed along them at some time when the land stood much above its present level.