

THE PHYSIOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF THE COASTAL PLAIN OF NORTH CAROLINA.

BY

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CHAPTER I.

THE PHYSIOGRAPHY OF THE COASTAL PLAIN OF NORTH CAROLINA.

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THE STATE.

Location and Extent.—The State of North Carolina is situated on the Atlantic seaboard between $33^{\circ} 50'$ and $36^{\circ} 33'$ north latitude and between $75^{\circ} 27'$ and $84^{\circ} 26'$ west longitude, thus having a total width from north to south of nearly 200 miles and from east to west of over 500 miles. Its eastern and western boundaries conform largely to the great natural confines of sea and mountains, the former with its curving shore line being more than 300 miles in length, while the latter trends northeast to southwest along the crest of the Appalachian Mountain system for over 200 miles. The northern and southern boundaries, on the other hand, are mainly conventional lines, the former a due east and west line about 325 miles in length and the southern a broken line about 375 miles in length. The total area of the State is 52,286 square miles, of which 3,620 square miles are water.

PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCES.

The State of North Carolina constitutes a part of the Atlantic border region stretching from the crest of the Appalachian Mountain system to the sea, and is divided into three more or less sharply defined districts, known as the Coastal Plain, the Piedmont Plateau, and the Appalachian Region. These three districts follow the Atlantic border of the United States in three belts of varying width from New England to the Gulf.