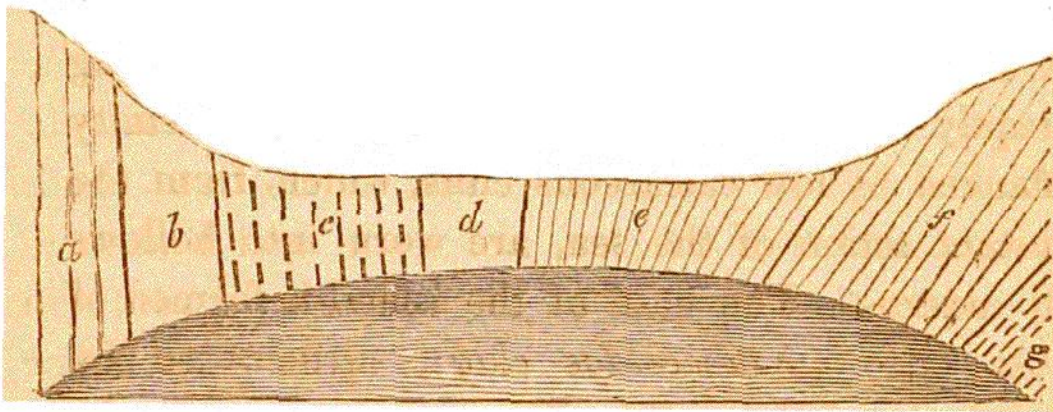


compact varieties of limestone, which bear a good polish, having, under the name of Purbeck marble, been in great request for the religious edifices of that period; and there is scarcely a cathedral, or ancient church in the kingdom, that is not ornamented with columns, pavements, or sepulchral monuments, constructed of this material. The Purbeck limestone abounds in organic remains; and the marble is a congeries of small fresh-water snail-shells (*paludina*), intermixed with the minute crustaceous coverings of a species of *cypris*. How interesting is the reflection, that the beautiful cluster-columns, the richest ornaments of Chichester cathedral, are entirely composed of the shelly coverings of snails and crustacea which lived in the river of a country inhabited by extinct colossal reptiles!



TAB. 68.—SECTION IN ONE OF THE COVES ON THE WEST OF THE ISLE OF PURBECK.

*a*, Chalk; *b*, Chalk-marl; *c*, Firestone; *d*, Galt; *e*, Shanklin sand; *f*, Purbeck beds; *g*, Portland stone.

The vertical position into which so considerable a portion of the strata has been thrown, gives rise to interesting sections in the coves on the western