

## CHAPTER XVII.

*Alluvial Terraces at Cincinnati, and their Origin.—Bones of the Elephant and Mastodon.—Excursion to the Swamps of Big Bone Lick, in Kentucky.—Noble Forest.—Salt Springs.—Buffalo Trails.—Numerous Bones of extinct Animals.—Associated Freshwater and Land Shells.—Relative Age of Northern Drift, and Deposits with Bones of Mastodon on the Ohio*

THE Ohio river at Cincinnati, and immediately above and below it, is bounded on its right bank by two terraces, on which the city is built; the streets in the upper and lower part of it standing on different levels. These terraces are composed of sand, gravel, and loam, such as the river, if blocked up by some barrier, might now be supposed to sweep down in its current, and deposit in a lake. The upper terrace, *b* (fig. 9), is bounded by steep hills of ancient fossiliferous rocks. *A*, the blue, Lower Silurian limestone, mentioned in the last chapter, in horizontal stratification. The higher terrace, *b*, is about 60 feet above the lower, *a*, and this again about 60 feet above low water in the Ohio, *d*. The geologists here are convinced that the inferior terrace, *c*, is of newer origin than *b*, as shown in the section (fig. 9), and proved by excavations, not exposed at the time of my visit.

In sinking a well through *c*, at the distance of 300 yards from the Ohio, and at the depth of 50 feet from the surface, they found, at *e*, pieces of wood and many walnuts in a bed of silt.

Near the edge of the higher terrace, in digging a gravel-pit, which I saw open at the end of Sixth