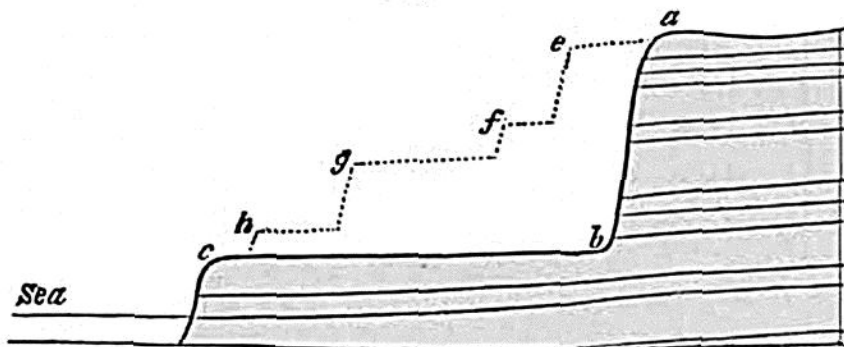


face of the terrace *c b* must have been covered by the Mediterranean. There was a pause, therefore, in the upward movement, when the waves

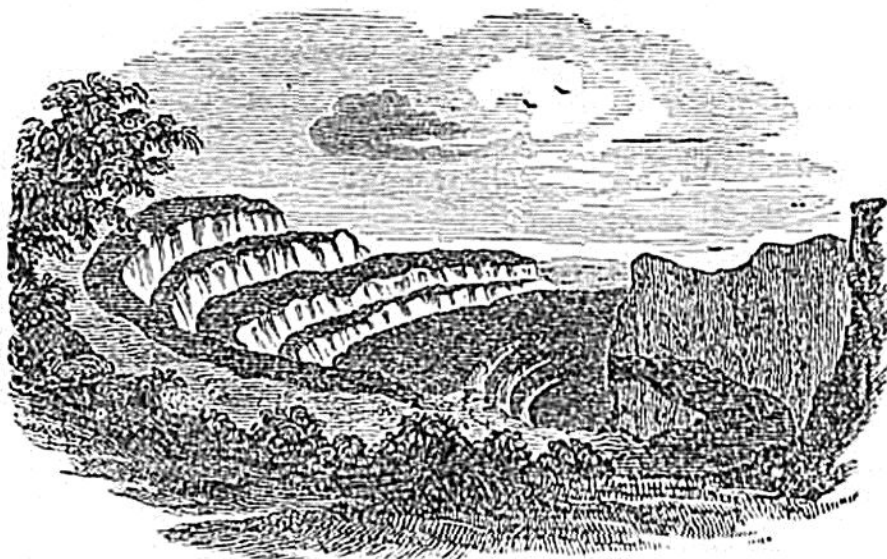
Fig. 94.



of the sea had time to carve out the platform *c b*; but there may have been many other stationary periods of minor duration. Suppose, for example, that a series of escarpments *e, f, g, h*, once existed, and that the sea, during a long interval free from subterranean movements, advances along the line *c b*, all preceding cliffs must have been swept away one after the other, and reduced to the single precipice *a b*.

That such a series of smaller cliffs, as those represented at *c, f, g, h*, fig. 94, did really once exist at intermediate heights in place of the single precipice *a b*, is rendered highly probable by the fact, that in certain bays and inland valleys opening towards the east coast of Sicily, and not far from the section given in fig. 94, the solid limestone is shaped out into a great succession of ledges, separated from each other by small vertical cliffs. These are sometimes so numerous, one above the other,

Fig. 95.



Valley called Gozzo degli Martiri, below Mellini, Val di Noto.

that where there is a bend at the head of a valley, they produce an effect singularly resembling the seats of a Roman amphitheatre. A good