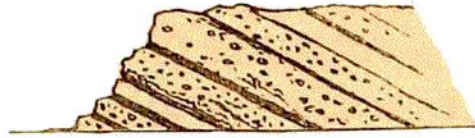


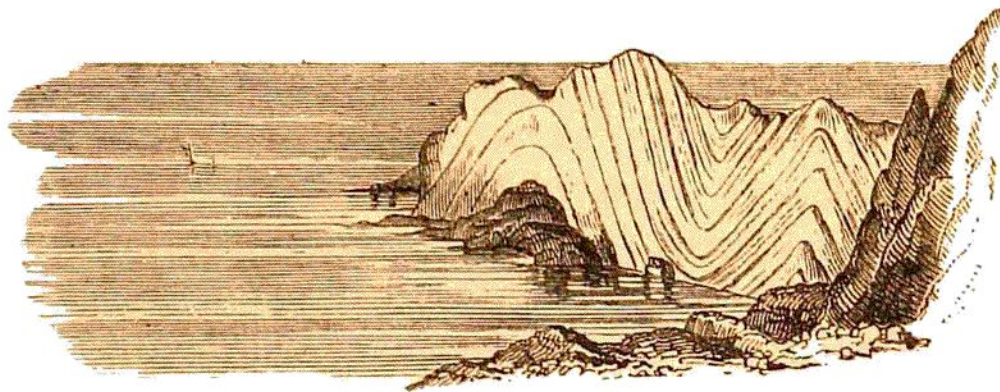
by the sea-shore, and we shall perhaps find that it is made of strata, which may be horizontal, as in fig. 1,

FIG. 2.



or inclined, as in fig. 2, or even bent and contorted into every conceivable variety of form, as in fig. 3. If, as in the diagram, fig. 1, we take a particular bed, No. 1, we may find that it consists of strata of lime-

FIG. 3.



stone lying one upon the top of another. Bed No. 2 may be of shale, arranged in thin layers, more regularly than in No. 1. No. 3 may consist of pebbly materials, arranged in ruder layers, for, the material being coarse, the bedding may be irregular, or even quite indistinct. Then in No. 4, the next and highest deposit, we may have a mass of sandstone, arranged in definite beds. The whole of these various strata in the aggregate form one cliff. Rocks, more or less of these kinds, compose the bulk of the strata of the British Islands; and it must be remembered that these were originally loose stratified sediments, piled on each other often to enormous thicknesses, and subsequently consolidated by pressure and chemical action. In some