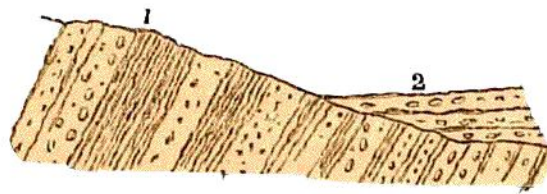


strata wherever they occur, were often beaches of the period; and this is further proved by the fact that they are often conglomeratic, containing rounded pebbles derived from the rocks on which they rest, while, as at May Hill and Woolhope, they are coarsely sandy.

From these facts we arrive at the conclusion that during the beginning of Upper Silurian times, part of

FIG. 20.



1. Cambrian rocks.
2. Pentamerus limestone and conglomerate.

the area now called Wales consisted of islands formed of Lower Silurian strata and volcanic rocks, round which the occasional consolidated beaches are still visible.

Going further into the physical geology of this epoch, we find that in South Wales the Upper Llandovery beds lie unconformably on a large scale on the Llandeilo and Caradoc series, a fact proved by the conflicting dips and strikes of the two sets of strata; while in North Wales, similar conflicting strikes, and the steady overlapping of the Upper on the Lower Silurian beds, proves the same fact, for east of Bala the base of the Upper Silurian beds lies about 2,000 feet above the Bala Limestone, while in the neighbourhood of Conway they almost touch that horizon.

Another important point connected with the physical geography of the period is that, after a time, the Lower Silurian islands and other areas began to undergo a process of slow depression beneath the sea. If we