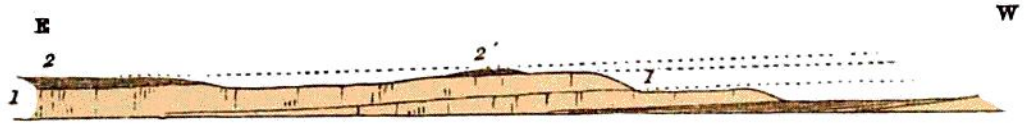
by the carbonic acid in rain-water, and thus pockets of Eocene strata have been preserved. The proof of this original extension westward is shown in the following diagram.

FIG. 61.



1. Chalk. 2. Part of the main mass of the Eocene beds. 2′. Outlying patch of the Eocene beds near the edge of the escarpment.

It is impossible that these outliers could have been originally deposited on this the edge of the Chalk, and not also on other strata that lie west of the present escarpment, and therefore it may be assumed that they originally extended further westward, and with the Chalk, have been denuded backwards till they occupy their present area. But the Eocene beds being formed of soft strata—chiefly clays and sands—though they make undulating ground, form no bold scenery. They rest in patches on the tableland, or in a large and somewhat depressed area in a manner shown at 12, fig. 57.[1] Such is the general manner in which the southern part of England has attained its present form.

Nearly the whole of the west of England, that is to say, of Devon and Cornwall, and of Wales, consists of Palæozoic strata, viz.: Devonian and Old Red Sandstone, Cambrian, and Silurian with all its igneous interstrati-

[1] Were I going into extreme details on this part of the subject, there are many distinctive features in the scenery of the Eocene formations dependent on synclinal curves in the strata, and other accidents, and the same remark may be extended to the scenery of many formations more important in a scenic point of view. The plan of this book purposely excludes such details, my object being merely to explain the connection of the greater geological features of the country with its physical geography.