

CHAPTER XXI.

THE ORIGIN OF ESCARPMENTS, AND THE DENUDATION OF
THE WEALD—GREY WETHERS AND THE DENUDATION OF
THE EOCENE STRATA.

IN the foregoing pages much has been said about *escarpments*. The origin of all escarpments, excepting modern sea cliffs, is generally the same, and they are nearly all marked by this peculiarity, that the strata dip at low angles in a direction opposite to the slope of the scarp, thus:—

FIG. 70.



1. Strata with a low dip, *e* escarpment. 2. Detritus slipped from the escarpment down towards the plain *p*.

The Weald of Kent and Sussex and the surrounding Chalk hills form excellent examples of what I wish to explain, and I therefore return to the south-east of England. In the Wealden area we generally find a plain, bounded by hills of Lower Greensand and Chalk, on the north, south, and west, while the clayey plain itself surrounds a nucleus of undulating sandy hills in the centre. The whole of this Wealden area forms a great amphitheatre, on the outermost rim of which the