ing over Bath on the south, forms a long insulated range, capped with the great oolite, advanced on the north of this platform, encircled along its scarped sides by successive zones of the inferior beds; and the ridge north of Wellow, between the above and the Hinton platform, is similarly situated.†

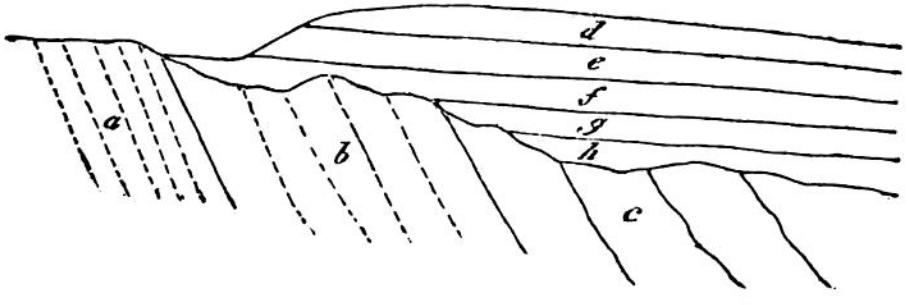
Most of the rivulets which in this part join the Avon, rise beyond the escarpment of the whole oolitic series, and flow through vallies which traverse the chain and divide it into many insulated groupes: the fact is similar to that which was formerly noticed with regard to many portions of the chalk range, and the whole configuration of these vallies bears the same evidence that it involves an absolute physical impossibility to attribute their formation to the streams which now employ them as a channel.

The junction of the great oolite and fullers' earth may be most distinctly traced through the whole of this district. But near Froome, the horizontal beds of the oolitic series abut abruptly* against the inclined strata of the mountain limestone connected with the lofty chain of Mendip, which here begins to rise, although as yet its peculiar strata are only exposed by denudation in the lower part of the vallies between Froome and Mells. It is the inferior oolite which is generally in contact with the mountain limestone, and therefore these vallies will

many of the adjacent downs, warranting the same geological inferences which were formerly drawn from the accumulation of transported pebbles on the top of the coral rag hills near Oxford. See note, p. 190.

† There are other smaller insulated summits of the great oolite resting on the platforms of the inferior oolite near the above ridges; such is Duncorn hill north of Dunkerton, and Newbury hill above Mells.

* In order to explain how beds of such distant geological ages as the mountain limestone and oolite, come into immediate contact, in consequence of the difference of inclination through which their planes cut each other, we subjoin the following diagram.



a. Old red sandstone. *b.* Mountain limestone. *c.* Coal measures. *d.* Great oolite. *e.* Fullers's earth. *f.* Inferior oolite. *g.* Lias. *h.* Red marle.

All these circumstances are illustrated in the district of the east end of the Mendips between Froome and Mells.