

Cinque-Fron-di, a village situated about half a league from Polistena, was demolished. In its centre rose a square tower, which was occupied by its lord as his castle. It was an ancient monument, belonging to Saracenic days, and seemed of unassailable solidity, as much through the great thickness of its walls as through the nature of the mortar, which had cemented the whole into a mass as hard and firm as a rock. This tower was toppled headlong, and in falling split up into great blocks of astounding magnitude, one of them containing a complete staircase.

Casalnuovo was a pretty town, situated at the foot of a mountain, in a broad and agreeable plain. With its regular streets, and its low houses, each decorated by a tree, and a trellis-work of vines which afforded a pleasant shadow, and transformed the highways into blooming garden-walks, its aspect was enchantingly picturesque. From apprehensions of a possible earthquake, all reasonable precautions had long been

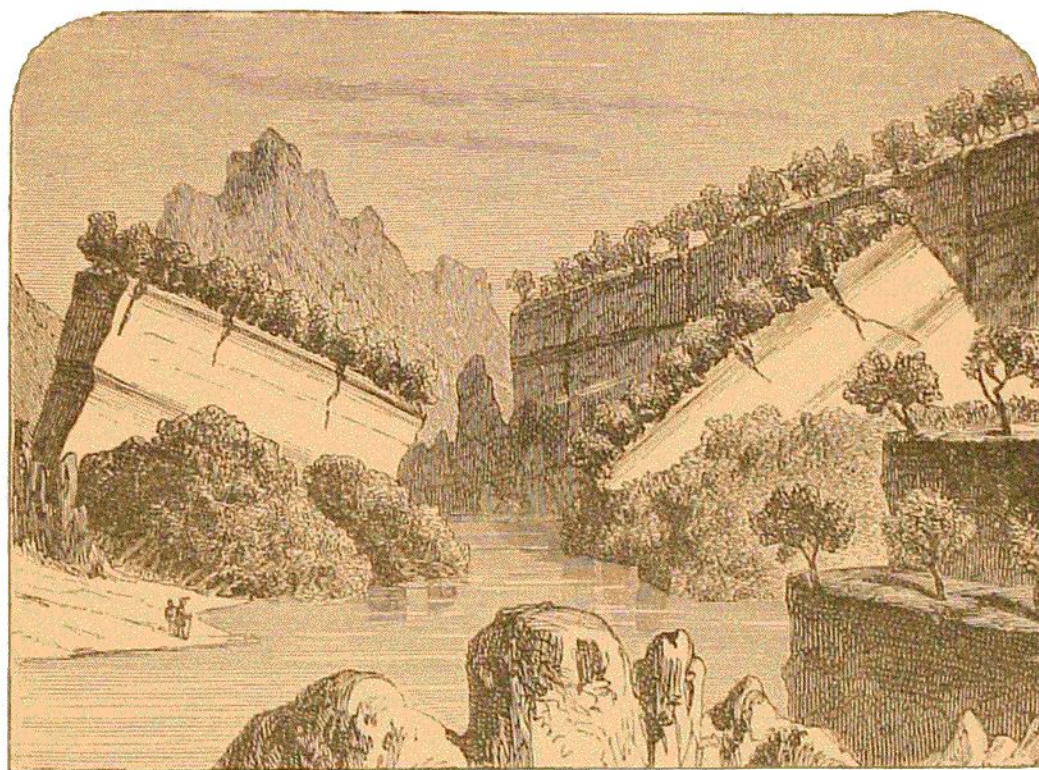


FIG. 132.—LANDSLIPS AT CASALNUOVO (CALABRIA).

taken ; the houses were built very low, and the streets were of unusual width. But all was overthrown ; all levelled to the ground. The Marquis de Gerace, a wealthy Calabrese noble, revered throughout all southern Italy, was crushed, with his family and household, under the ruins of his villa. The entire plain around Casalnuovo was considerably depressed ; the slopes stretching up towards the mountain glided lower down, leaving, between the shifting soil and the parts which remained immovable, large fissures from 16,000 to 18,000 yards in length, and upwards of three feet wide. In thus descending, some portions of soil were carried from the mountain into the plain, and deposited on far distant fields. Of this phenomenon we give a representation in Figure 132.

From Casalnuovo to Santa Cristina, a space of six leagues, the ground was so extraordinarily disturbed that it was impossible to move a step without encounter-