

escarpment and the present margin of the lake is a series of parallel terraces, each showing the altitude at which the receding waters have made a pause. These terraces along the southern shore of Lake Erie range from ninety to one hundred and twenty feet above the present level of the water. In Huron and Sandusky Counties the subsidence of the escarpment permits them to diverge a greater distance from the lake. Curving northward into Michigan, they pass through Monroe, Wayne, and Oakland Counties, and continue in that direction. They are recognized again on the shores of Lake Michigan.

At Mackinac Island are deeply engraved records of a higher level of the waters. The island itself is but a vestige of an ancient formation which once filled the straits, and joined the highlands on the west and south. It towers, a monument of the destructive agencies of geogony, three hundred and eighteen feet above the lake. The principal plateau of the island is one hundred and fifty feet above the lake. In the midst of this rises "Sugar Loaf," one

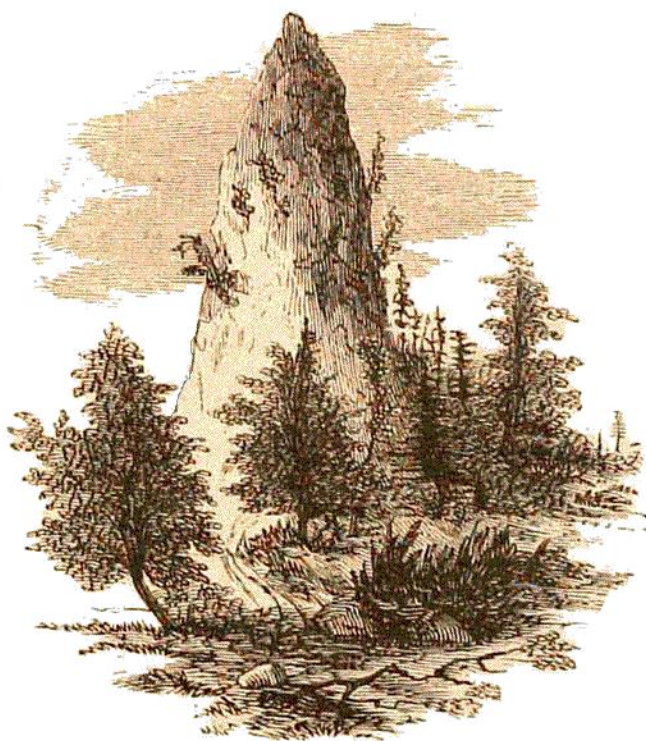


Fig. 85. View of Sugar Loaf, Mackinac Island.

hundred and thirty-four feet higher (Fig. 85). This is a remnant of the rocks forming the upper plateau which once extended over the whole island. It is a conical mass of brecciated limestone, all whose sides bear the marks of the long-continued action of the waves. On one side an ancient grotto has thus been exca-