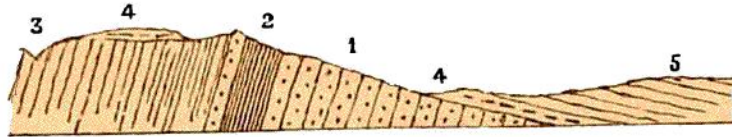


turn to the Shropshire area between Church Stretton and Chirbury, including the Cambrian rocks of the Longmynd, this is what we find. On the vertical and highly inclined strata of the Cambrian and Lower Silurian rocks, the conglomerates and limestones of the Upper Llandovery beds form in the lower country a kind of narrow fringe, surrounding great part of the area, and lying from 500 to 900 feet lower than the broad, flat-topped, and gently undulating hills of the Longmynd and Shelve. Almost on the highest level of one of these flats, at the well known Bog-mine, there is a small outlying patch of Upper Llandovery beds, formed of hard quartzose sandstone, at a height of 1,150 feet above the sea, as roughly indicated in the following diagram.

FIG. 21.



1. Cambrian grits, &c.
2. Lingula flags.
3. Tremadoc and Llandeilo beds.
4. Pentamerus beds.
5. Wenlock shale.

The inference is obvious, that these Pentamerus-bearing strata began to be deposited at the bases of the hills, and that by degrees, during a process of slow submersion, the sea crept on and on inland, accompanied by the deposition of marginal Upper Llandovery beds, till at length, like an island in the coral seas of the Pacific (but without the corals), this old Silurian Isle was entirely swallowed up and buried, deep beneath the succeeding great accumulations of Upper Silurian strata, which in the adjoining area of Wenlock and