

strata were more easily removed than the harder rocky portions, and the result is that over large areas, such as Marlborough Downs, great tracts of Chalk are strewn with huge blocks of tabular quartz-grit, lying so close together that some years ago, over miles of country, I could almost leap from block to block, without touching the chalk on which they lie. They are, however, in such great request for building and paving purposes, that in the long run they will probably be all broken up and carried away.

FIG. 76.



In the above figure, No. 1 represents the Chalk, and 2 the overlying Eocene clays and sands; and the isolated blocks, lying directly on the topmost beds of the Chalk, represent the thickly scattered masses of stone left on the ground *after the removal by denudation of other and softer parts of the Eocene strata*, No. 2. Frequently these masses are found scattered even on the terraces of the Lower Chalk, a remarkable example of which occurs at the Prehistoric town of Avebury, near which, the lower terrace of Chalk (as in the diagram) is strewn with 'grey wethers,' as they are termed, and immense masses of these, set on end by a vanished people, stand in the ancient enclosure. Sometimes even on the plains of Gault or Kimeridge Clay, well out to the north or west of the escarpment, as for instance at Swindon, and also in the Wealden area, blocks angular or half-rounded lie in the meadows, marking the immense waste to which the whole territory has been subjected long after the close of Eocene times. They plainly tell, that the Chalk and overlying Eocene beds once