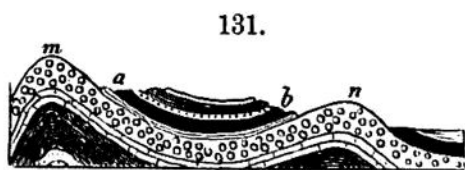


*Through an interim of erosion.* — Between the time of making two successive horizontal strata there is sometimes an interval of exposure to marine or fluvial erosion, which the worn upper surface of the lower stratum indicates. This, also, is unconformability in geology, and as the interim of erosion may be long, it is of importance. Yet in all periods, as in that of existing time, the deposits made during a period may be extensively worn away in some large regions before the period has closed; partly worn away in many places it is sure to be. An uplift of 600 feet in the present era, putting a coral reef rock this much above the sea, is followed by cave-making and extensive removals. The amount of erosion is no certain evidence as to the length of time during its progress.

Deposits are sometimes formed in basins or depressions of the surface. Such deposits may, in general, be distinguished by their thinning out toward



the sides of the basin. Yet, when synclinal valleys are shallow, it is easy, and not uncommon, to mistake beds that are conformable with the strata below for such basin formations. The beds *ab* (Fig. 131) lie in the synclinal valley *mn*, like a basin deposit; but they were formed *before* the folding of the beds, and not *after* it.

#### UNSTRATIFIED TERRANES.

The unstratified terranes comprise (1) the great unstratified masses of granite and other related crystalline rocks; (2) the various masses of ejected igneous rocks that lie in piles, not having the bedding due to successive flows, and not making part of any stratified series; (3) masses occupying fissures in the earth's crust or supercrust, and having thereby the nature either of dikes or veins.

The facts connected with unstratified terranes are necessarily considered in Part III. on Dynamical Geology, and remarks here are therefore unnecessary.