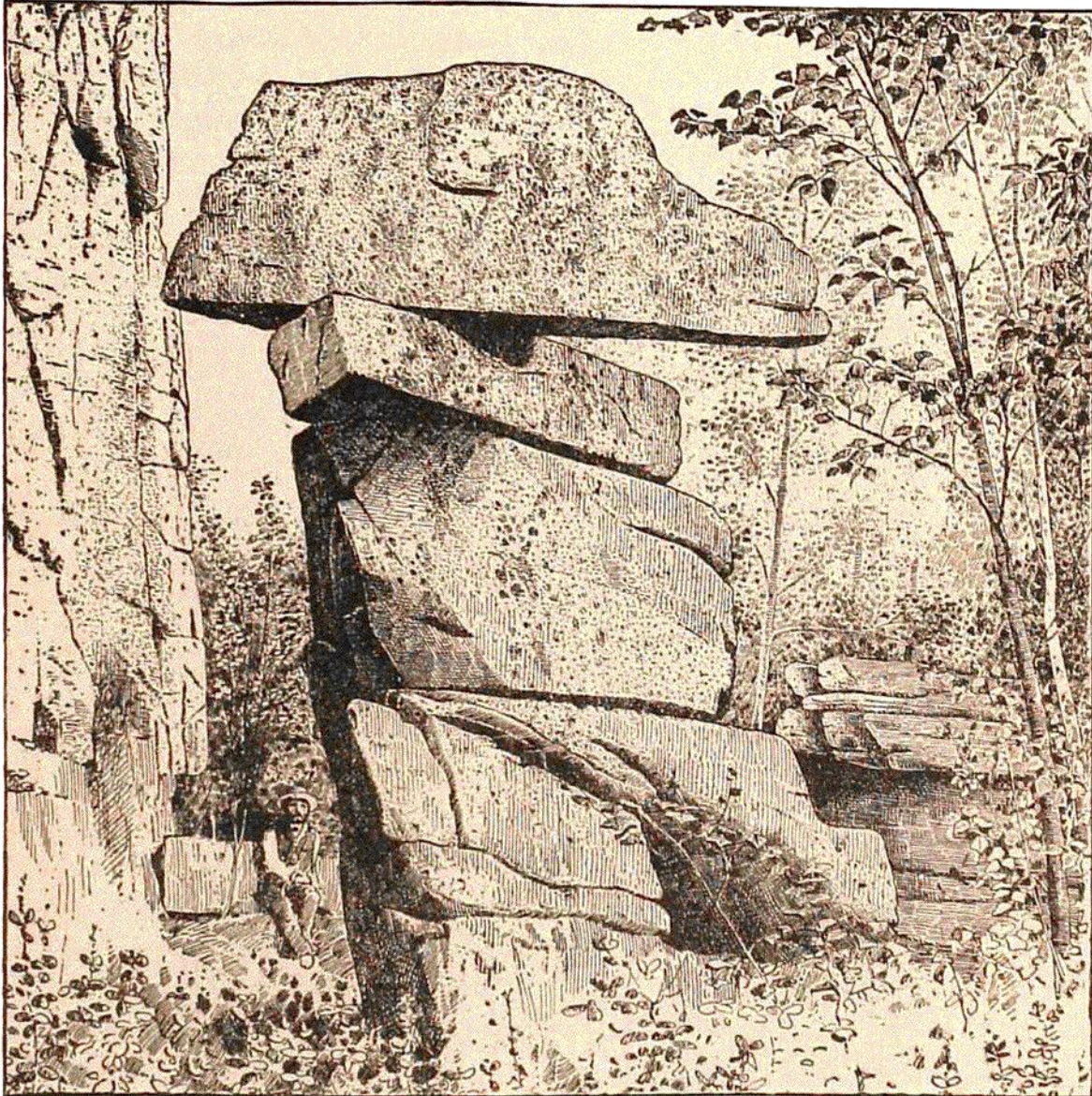


ing cliffs, wave-action makes shore-platforms, by shearing away the rocks of coasts down to a horizontal surface near low-tide level, and in the process cliffs are undermined and set back. These effects are produced where the rocks are of moderate firmness,—where they are not too hard to yield rather easily to the waves, and not so weak as to be torn up by the gentler attack of low-tide movements. As the tide rises, the earlier waters quietly cover

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Rocks detached by wave-action, Mount Desert, on an old beach at a height above the sea of 220 feet.
Shaler, '80.

the rocks. Then the waves move in; but the rocks below are under protection, and only those of the cliff or wall take the force of the blow. There is hence, in such cases, a *level of no wear* near low-tide level. The level of greatest wear is that of the stroke of the breaker at or above high tide.