

hard, they resist the erosive action and screen the earth below them. On a larger scale the same kind of operation may be noticed in districts of conglomerate, where the larger blocks, serving as a protection to the rock underneath, come to form, as it were, the capitals of slowly deepening columns of rock (Fig. 101). In certain valleys of the Alps a stony clay is cut by the rain into pillars,

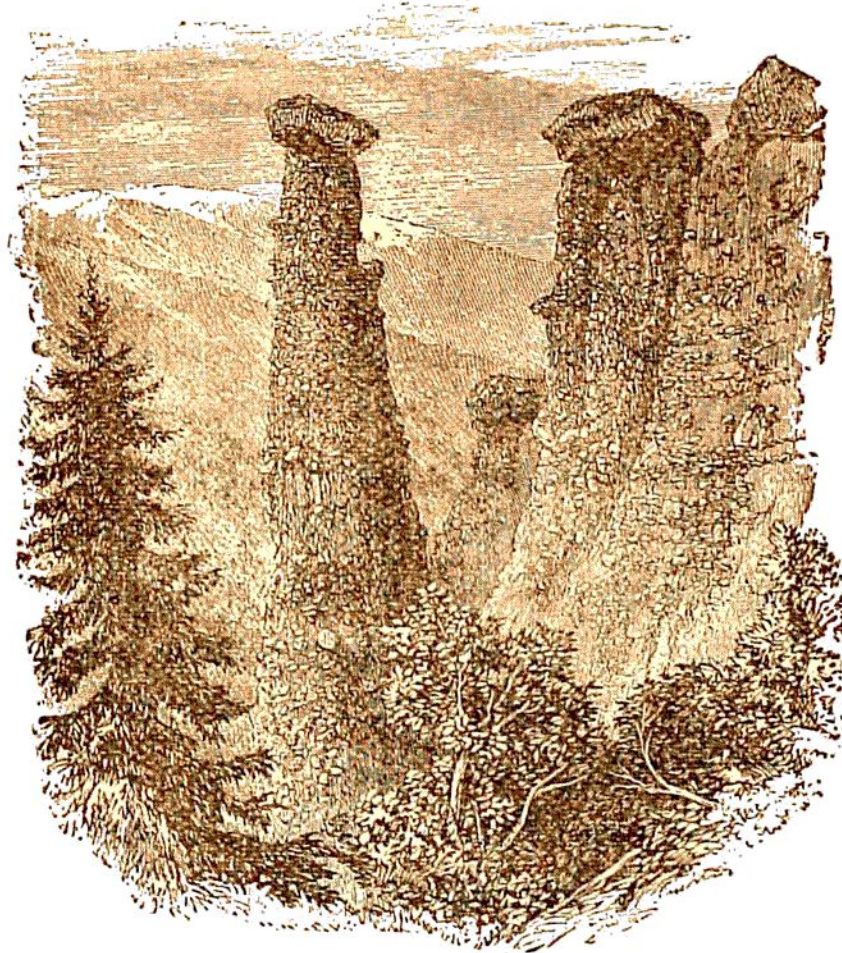


Fig. 102.—Earth-pillars left by the weathering of moraine-stuff, Tyrol.

each of which is protected by, and indeed owes its existence to, a large block of stone which lay originally in the heart of the mass (Fig. 102). These columns, or "earth-pillars," are of all heights, according to the original positions of the stones. More colossal examples have been described by Hayden from the conglomerates of Colorado.

There are instances, however, where the disintegration