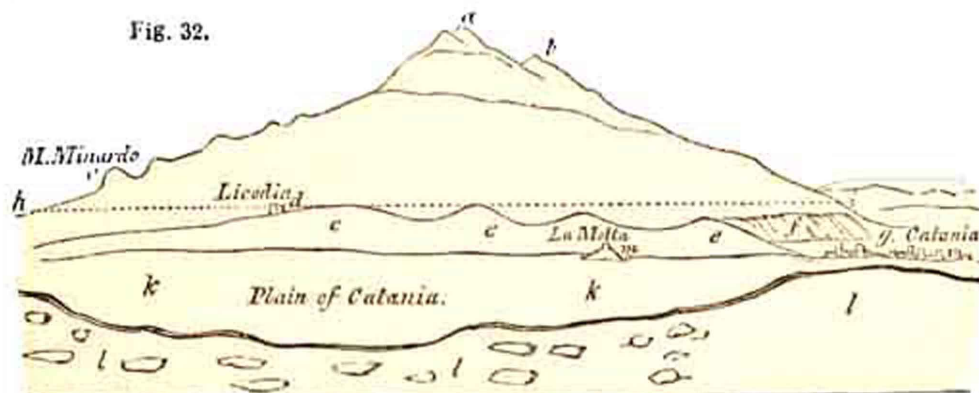


all of them, or nearly all, identical with species now inhabiting the Mediterranean; and as they appear at the height of from 600 to 800 feet above the sea, near Catania, they clearly prove that there has been in this region, as in other parts of Sicily farther to the south, an upward movement of the ancient bed of the sea. It is fair, therefore, to infer that the whole mountain, with the exception of those parts which are of very modern origin, has participated in this upheaval.

If we view Etna from the south, we see the marine deposits above alluded to, forming a low line of hills (*e, e*, fig. 32.) or a steep inland slope or cliff (*f*), as in the annexed drawing taken from the limestone platform of Primosole. It should be observed, however, in reference to this view, that the height of the volcanic cone is ten times greater than the hills at its base (*e, e*), although it appears less elevated, because the summit of the cone is ten or twelve times more distant from the plain of Catania than is Licodia.



View of Etna from the summit of the limestone platform of Primosole.

- a*, Highest cone.
- b*, Montagnuola.
- c*, Monte Minardo, with smaller lateral cones above.
- d*, Town of Licodia dei Monaci.
- e*, Marine formation called creta, argillaceous and sandy beds with a few shells, and associated volcanic rocks.
- f*, Escarpment of stratified subaqueous volcanic tuff, &c., north-west of Catania.
- g*, Town of Catania.
- h, i*, Dotted line expressing the highest boundary along which the marine strata are occasionally seen.
- k*, Plain of Catania.
- l*, Limestone platform of Primosole of the Newer Pliocene period.
- m*, La Motta di Catania.

The mountain is in general of a very symmetrical form, a flattened cone broken on its eastern side, by a deep valley called the Val del Bove, or in the provincial dialect of the peasants, "Val di Bué," for here the herdsman

— "in reducta valle mugientium  
Prospectat errantes greges."

Dr. Buckland was, I believe, the first English geologist who examined this valley with attention, and I am indebted to him for having described it to me, before I visited Sicily, as more worthy of attention than any single spot in that island, or perhaps in Europe.

The Val del Bove commences near the summit of Etna, and descending into the woody region, is farther continued on one side by a second and narrower valley, called the Val di Calanna. Below this another, named the Val di St. Giacomo, begins,—a long nar-