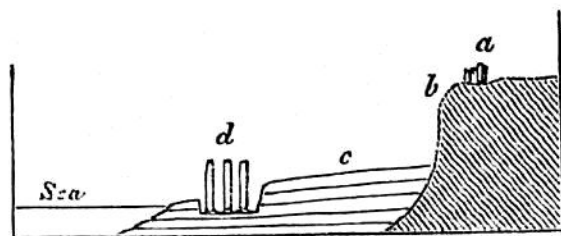


Starza, corresponding to that before described on the south-east of the town; and as the sea encroaches rapidly, fresh sections of the strata may readily be obtained, of which the annexed is an example.

Fig. 69.



a, Remains of Cicero's villa, N. side of Puzzuoli.*
c, Terrace composed of recent submarine deposits.

b, Ancient cliff now inland.
d, Temple of Serapis.

Section on the shore north of the town of Puzzuoli : —

								Ft.	In.
1.	Vegetable soil	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0
2.	Horizontal beds of pumice and scoræ, with broken fragments of unrolled bricks, bones of animals, and marine shells	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
3.	Beds of lapilli, containing abundance of marine shells, principally <i>Cardium rusticum</i> , <i>Donax trunculus</i> , Lam., <i>Ostrea edulis</i> , <i>Triton cutaceum</i> , Lam., and <i>Buccinum serratum</i> , Brocchi, the beds varying in thickness from one to eighteen inches	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	0
4.	Argillaceous tuff, containing bricks and fragments of buildings not rounded by attrition	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6

The thickness of many of these beds varies greatly as we trace them along the shore, and sometimes the whole group rises to a greater height than at the point above described. The surface of the tract which they compose appears to slope gently upwards towards the base of the old cliffs.

Now, if these appearances presented themselves on the eastern or southern coast of England, a geologist would naturally endeavour to seek an explanation in some local depression of high-water mark, in consequence of a change in the set of the tides and currents : for towns have been built, like ancient Brighton, on sandy tracts intervening between the old cliff and the sea, and, in some cases, they have been finally swept away by the return of the ocean. On the other hand, the inland cliff at Lowestoffe, in Suffolk, remains, as was before stated, at some distance from the shore, and the low green tract called the Ness may be compared to the low flat called La Starza, near Puzzuoli.† But there are scarce any tides in the Mediterranean ; and, to suppose that sea to have sunk generally from twenty to twenty-five feet since the shores of Campania were covered with sumptuous buildings, is an hypothesis obviously untenable. The observations, indeed, made during modern surveys on the moles and cothons (docks) constructed by the ancients in various ports of the Mediterranean, have proved that there has been

* The spot here indicated on the summit of the cliff is that from which Hamilton's view, plate 26., Campi Phlegæi, is taken, and on which, he observes,

Cicero's villa, called the Academia, anciently stood.

† See above, p. 296.