

perished, and where they are now found. Let us examine each of these theories.

Can the coal-beds result from the transport by water, and burial

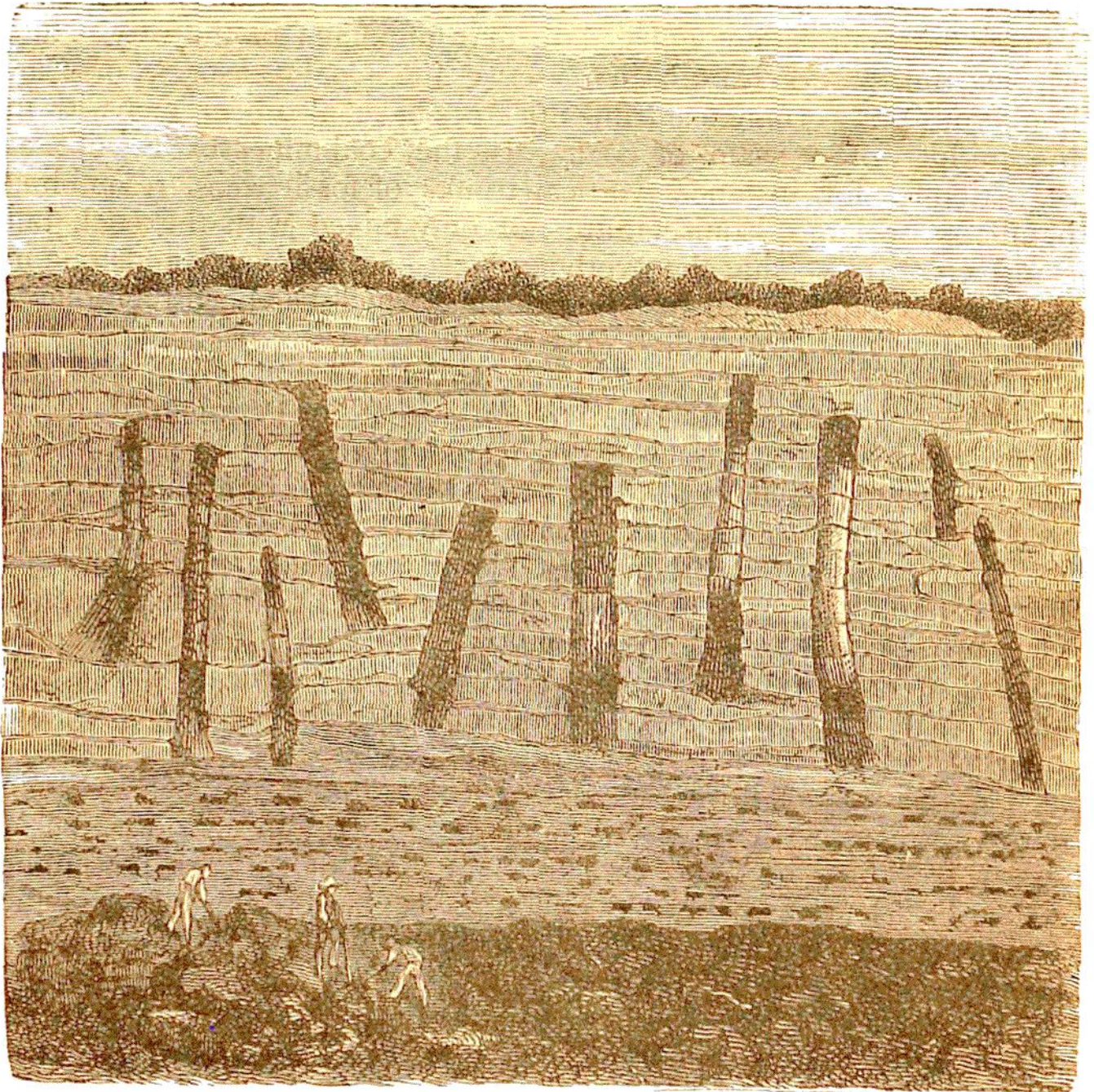


Fig. 69.—Treuil coal-mine, at St. Etienne.

underground, of immense rafts formed of the trunks of trees? The hypothesis has against it the enormous height which must be conceded to the raft, in order to form coal-seams as thick as some of those which are worked in our collieries. If we take into consideration the specific gravity of wood, and the amount of carbon it