

and rivers, under conditions which have been already discussed in Book III., are disposed in layers or strata, an arrangement characteristic of them alike in hand-specimens and in cliffs and mountains (Figs. 190, 191, 252 and 253). Not that every morsel of aqueous rock exhibits evidence of stratification. But it is this feature which in a sufficiently large mass of material is least frequently absent. The gen-

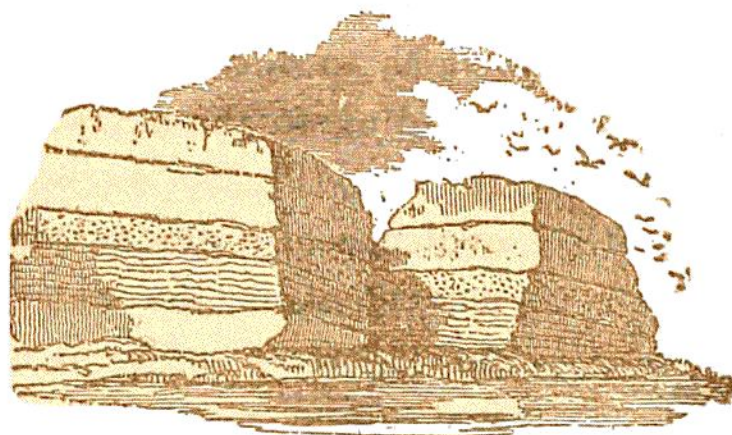


Fig. 190.—Sea-cliff showing a series of Stratified Rocks (*B.*).

eral characters of stratification will be best understood from an explanation of the terms by which they are expressed.

**Forms of Bedding.**—Laminæ are the thinnest paper-like layers in the planes of deposit of a stratified rock. Such fine layers only occur where the material is fine-grained, as in mud or shale, or where fine scales of some mineral have been plentifully deposited, as in micaceous sandstone. In some laminated rocks, the laminæ cohere so firmly that they can hardly be split open, and the rock will break more readily across them than in their direction. More usually, however, the planes of lamination serve as convenient divisional surfaces by means of which the rock can be split open.<sup>1</sup> The cause of this structure has been generally assigned to

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<sup>1</sup> M. Daubr e has proposed the term "diastrome" to express the splitting of rocks along their bedding planes. Bull. Soc. Geol. France (3), x. p. 137.