

features at successive heights above the present level of the sea (p. 484). The coast of Scotland is fringed with a succession of them (Fig. 457). Those below the level of 100 feet above the sea are often remarkably fresh. The 100-foot terrace forms a wide plateau in the estuary of the Forth, and the 50-foot terrace is as conspicuous in that of the Clyde. In Scandinavia, especially in the northern parts of Norway, the successive pauses in the last uprise of the land are impressively revealed by long lines of terraces which wind around the hill-slopes that encircle the fjords (p. 487).

The records of the closing ages of the long and varied Glacial Period merge insensibly into those of later geologi

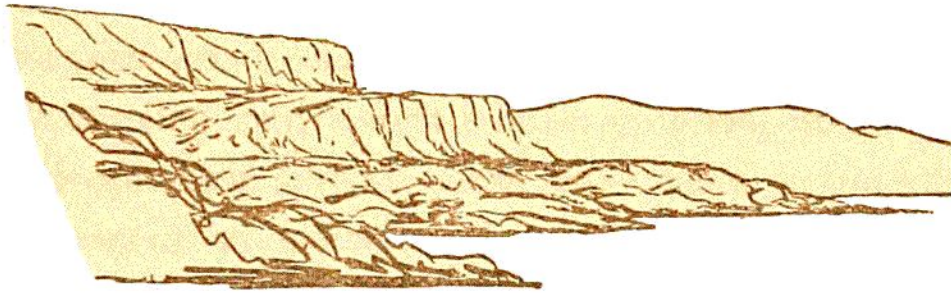


Fig. 457.—Terraces of erosion, marking ancient shore-lines. South coast of Island of Mull.

cal times. It is obvious that besides the effect of a general change of climate operating over the whole of the northern hemisphere, we must remember the influence which the natural features of different countries had upon the climate. From the plains, the ice and snow would retire sooner than from the hills. In fact, we may regard some parts of Europe as still retaining the conditions of the Glacial Period, though in diminished intensity, the present glaciers of the Alps being, as above remarked, the representatives in continuous succession of the vaster sheets that once descended into the lowlands on all sides from that central elevated region. And even where the ice has long since disappeared, there remain, in the living plants and animals of