tered into the structure of the skeletons of animals; it is therefore easily soluble in water containing carbonic acid. When rain, which always contains a considerable quantity of carbonic acid derived from the atmosphere, falls upon the surface of the sand, it takes up a little lime in the form of bicarbonate, and then, as it sinks in, it loses the carbonic acid and itself evapo-

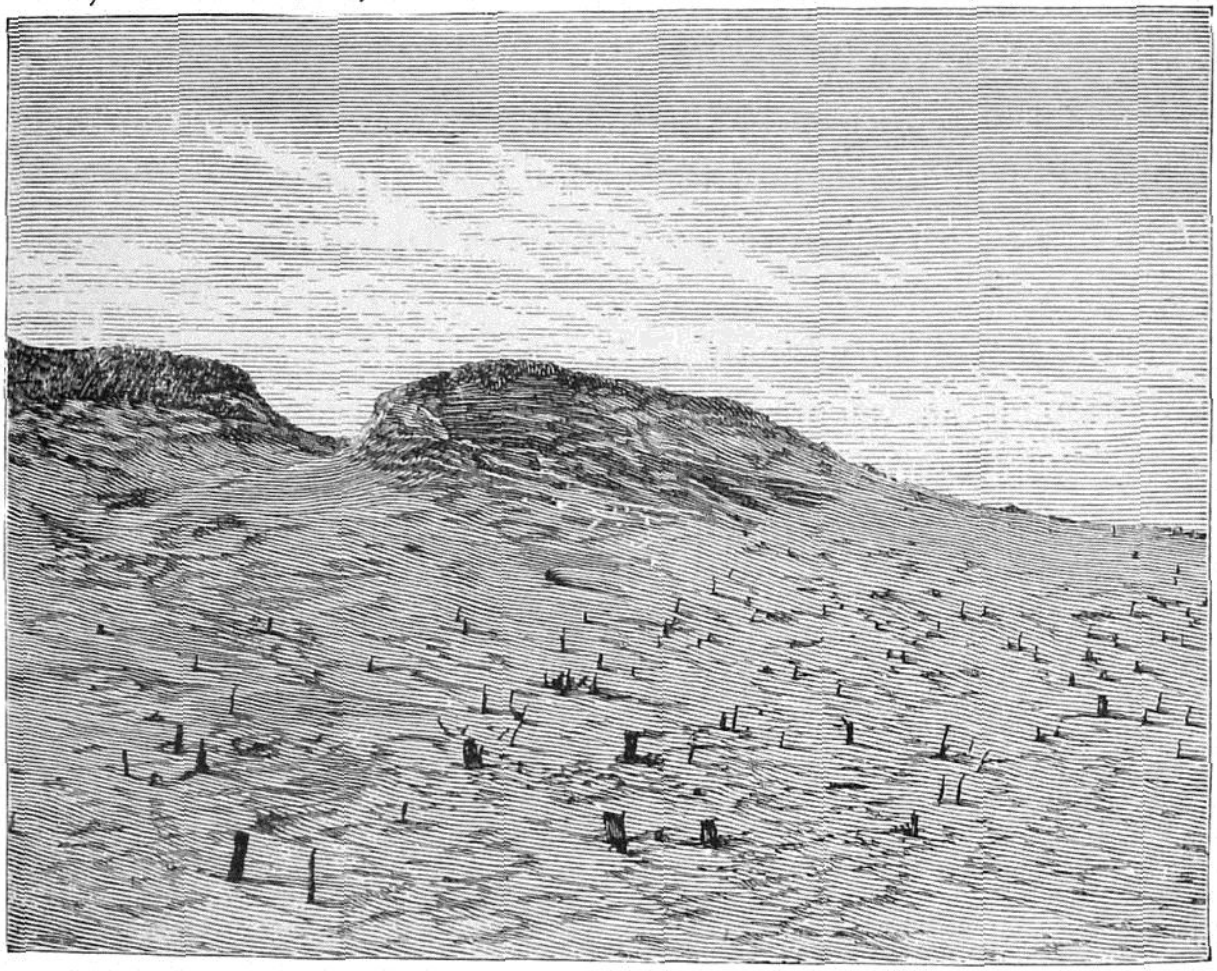

FIG. 76.—Æolian Limestone Beds in process of formation, showing Stratification, and the Remains of a Grove of Cedars which has been overwhelmed. Elbow Bay, Bermudas. (*From a photograph.*)

rates, and it leaves the previously dissolved carbonate of lime as a thin layer of cement, coating and uniting together the grains of sand. A crust is thus formed, and such successive crusts form lines of demarkation between successive layers of sand, and give the character of stratification and lamination which these wind-rocks always possess. Usually harder and softer layers alternate, indicating the greater or less degree in which the previous layer had been cemented and hardened before receiving the next addition of dry sand. The rocks