

be afterwards seen. Instead of the square rectangular mass, with perpendicular walls, as there figured, it is worn away around the base, and to a considerable height, leaving the upper portions, especially on the western side, overhanging like the projecting turrets of the mediæval castle to which it has already been compared. The arch, also, is a flat, segmental, rather than a semi-circular arch, and its side-wall are jagged and under-worn, so as greatly to add to the picturesque outline of the mass, without marring the castellated character which pertains to it as a whole.

But the most wonderful illusion of all the fantastic sports of nature in this singular scene, is what is called the "Sail Rock." Here a quantity of debris has accumulated in a sloping tail at the base of the cliff, and on this a group of huge detached slabs, dislodged from the rock above, have been thrown together so as to represent the hull, jib, and mainsail of a sloop. These large slabs, one of them measuring nearly forty feet in height, rest against the cliff with their faces nearly at right angles to it; and when I saw the group, about mid-day under a bright summer sun, the whole of the cliff was in shadow, while the sun illuminated these detached blocks, and produced an effect so complete, that had I not examined them closely before seeing them under this aspect, it would have been scarcely possible to doubt that we were looking on a sloop-rigged vessel running in-shore, in full sail, for some inlet or harbor concealed by the rocky coast.

This remarkable range of rocks lies in the centre of the long indentation, which, sweeping from Keweenaw Bay eastward to White Fish Point, forms the bay behind Grand Island, the coast most distant from the northern shores of the Lake. Here they have been exposed through unnumbered ages to the action of the northerly winds, which have materially affected the diverse characters of the northern and southern shores of the Lake, while the process of upheaval, prolonged probably through vast periods of time, has contributed no unimportant share in the operations by which their present forms have been produced.* Lying as they do in the arc of the bay,

* While the elevation of the land, as the chief cause of the more remarkable changes dependent on the relative levels of the Lake and its shores, is proved by very obvious evidences, it is well known that the level of the Great Lakes is not of that unvarying and constant character which pertains to the ocean; and as the special attention of the Institute has been directed to the "rise and fall of the Lakes," the following notice, extracted from the Lake Superior Journal of July 23, 1851, by the U. S. geologists, may be worth repeating here:—"While at Grand Island, a few days since, Mr. Williams gave us an account of a remarkable instance of the sudden rise and fall of water, at that place in 1845. On a certain day, with