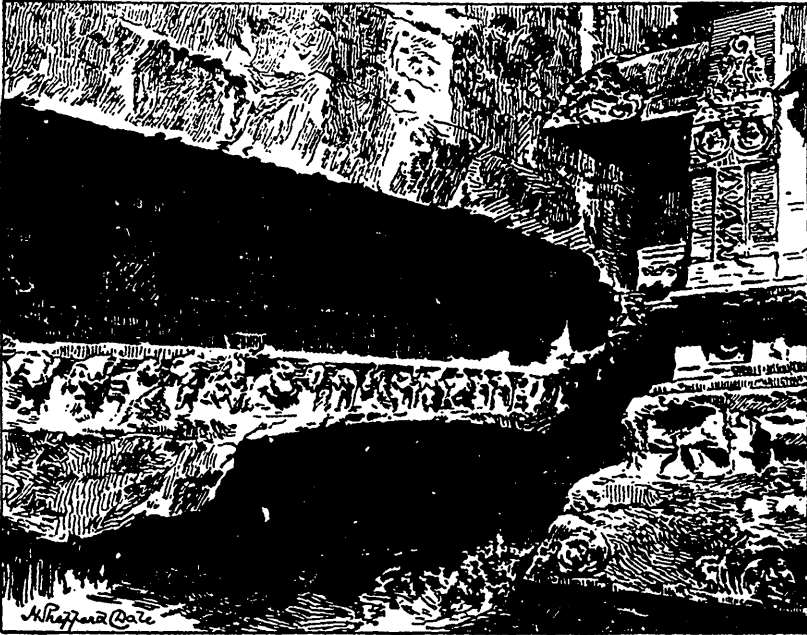


There are, at least, thirty principal temples and monasteries cut out of the sides of the hills, with short intervals between them, scattered along a distance of about two miles and a quarter, right and left of the splendid Kylas, the central wonder of the series, which was carved out by the Dravidians, A.D. 750-850. This greatest of these Titanic excavations cannot be called a cave at all. The architect has quarried a huge chunk of solid rock out of the hill-side, leaving a mass in the centre, standing out alone from the lofty cliffs from which it has been cut. He has then



PUR LANKA, KYLAS.

taken this block in hand, hollowed it out in vast chambers, left great pinnacles and pagodas on the roof, and carved the whole surface, inside and out, with reliefs illustrating the history of his gods. In shaping the floor of the wide court in which his temple stands, he has left erect lumps and columns of rock, which he has fashioned into elephants, guards, and decorated towers. Every bit of the entire fabric is a mass of sculptured figures, beautifully finished in all their details. The Kylas, standing on its site, as excavated out of the solid rock, is an absolute monolith. The whole structure (it is in no sense a *building*) is 365 feet long, 192 feet wide, and 96 feet high. It is as though a fine English