



Fig. 280. VIEW OF THE BIG HOUSE.

fectly level and horizontal ground. The two mounds and the hollow between them, as also the depressions on their outer sides, all came into existence at a subsequent date. The mortice cut (see fig. 281) on the under side of the extreme end of the cross foundation-beam proves that the longer side-beam was placed under the cross-beams, which again were likewise fitted into mortices cut in the long beam. This latter now lies in a condition such as to be hardly recognisable at the eastern base of the platform, where it has fallen since the underlying ground was excavated and blown away. At the present time the ends of the cross-beams project about 3 m. beyond the platform, and the wind is still continuing its undermining work. But the timber that still remains on the top of the platform, equally whether it belonged to the foundation-beams or to portions of the walls and roof which have fallen in, affords an efficient protection to the platform, and sufficiently neutralises the effects of the wind's erosion. It is on these platforms alone, then, that the surface remains at the same level that it stood at when these houses were built. Another proof that nothing but the wind can have carved out these platforms is to be

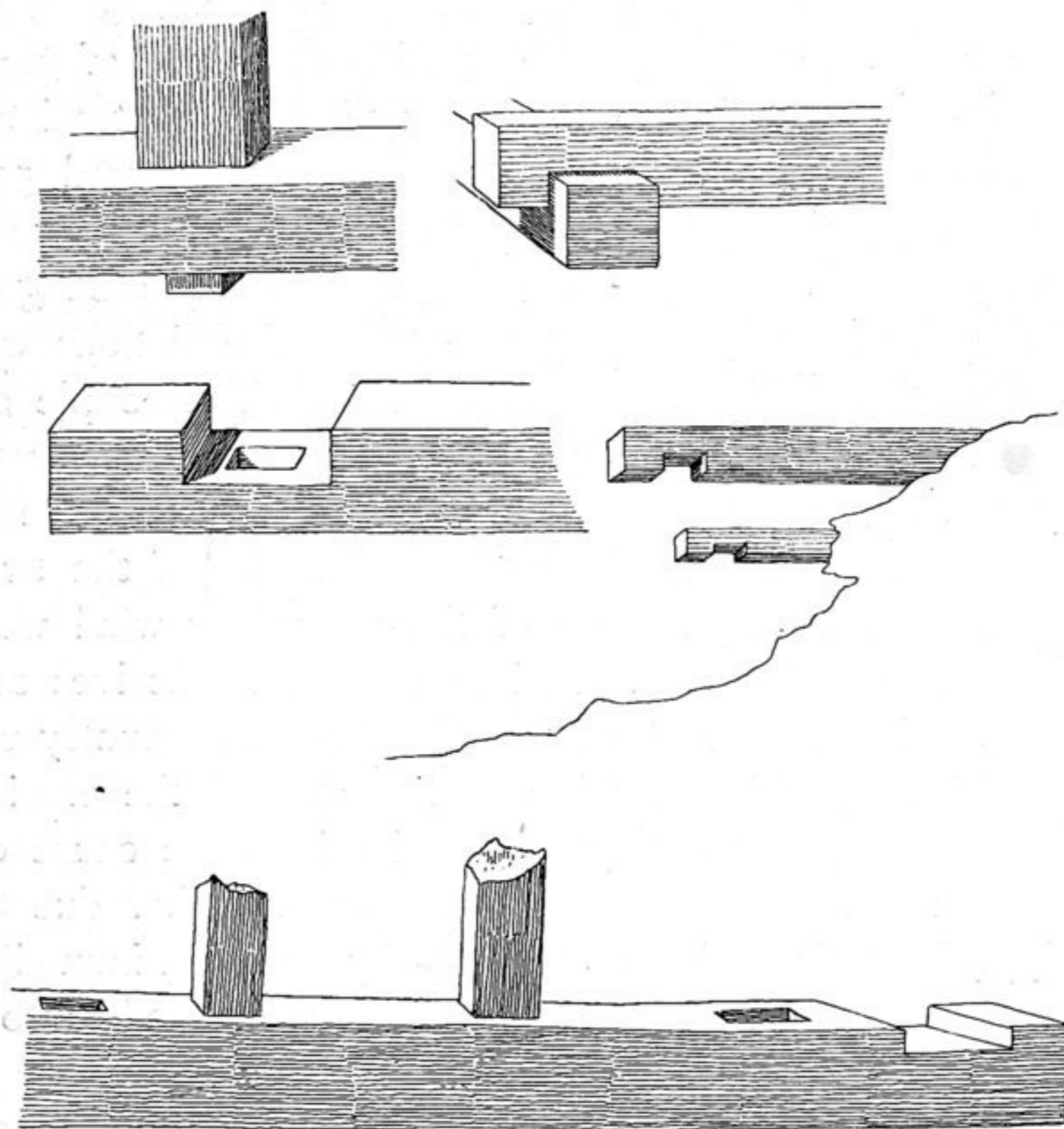


Fig. 281.